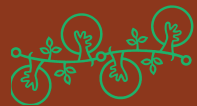




★ Fellows inducted in January 2006

Jamsetji TATA National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity (NVA)

Fellows inducted in January 2006



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Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre

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Foreword

Addressing the First Convocation of the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity at New Delhi on 11 July 2005, H E The President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam made the following observations about the Fellows of NVA

“I have seen the composition of NVA Fellows 2005. It is indeed a celebration of our rural core competence. They can become the forerunners in transforming the rural areas.”

The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the National Commission on Farmers that knowledge connectivity should become an integral part of the Bharat Nirman (ie., New Deal for Rural India) programme. The Bharat Nirman document (November 2005) contains the following commitment.

“The Government is committed to expanding rural connectivity through a slew of measures, so that rural users can access information of value and transact business. This will include connecting block headquarters with fiber optic network, using wireless technology to achieve last mile connectivity and operating information kiosks through a partnership of Citizens, Panchayats, Civil Society Organisations, the Private Sector and Government”. The stage is thus set for ushering in a knowledge revolution in rural India. The Green Revolution helped to improve the production of wheat, rice and other crops, but a Knowledge Revolution can lead to the enhancement of human productivity and creativity in every area of human endeavor.

While equipment like computers and innovations like the Internet are important for facilitating the rural knowledge revolution, only rural women and men can help to shape the direction and relevance of this revolution. This is where the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity is playing such a critical role. NVA is the largest capacity

building and human resource development organisation in the area of ICT in the country. Its Fellows are grassroot workers in villages who have mastered modern ICT procedures and are devoting their time and talent to training rural women, men and children in the use of the new tools of knowledge and skill empowerment.

This publication contains information on the second batch of 155 Fellows drawn for fourteen States and Union Territories, who will be inducted by H E The President of India on 5 January 2006, at Hyderabad on the occasion of the 93rd Indian Science Congress. On that occasion, NVA is organizing the first National Virtual Congress of Farmers in association with ISRO, ICRISAT and other partners.

I am grateful to Mr Senthilkumaran, Executive Secretary of NVA and his colleagues for their dedicated work which has been responsible for the rapid development of NVA. I am also indebted to Smt Tara Gandhi, Advisor, NVA, for the time she has so generously spared for screening the over 800 nominations received and for helping to select the Fellows based on a peer review process.

Above all, our thanks go to Shri Ratan Tata, Shri S N Batliwalla and the Tata Social Welfare Trust for their financial and intellectual support for establishing and developing the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, on the occasion of the death centenary of Shri Jamsetji Tata.



M S Swaminathan
President, Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy

Preface

The second convocation of the Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity(NVA), in Hyderabad on 5th Jan 2006 marks the induction of one hundred and fifty five Fellows from the villages of fourteen States and Union Territories. One hundred and forty three fellows were inducted at the first Convocation held in New Delhi on 11 July 2005. These remarkable men and women will be the torchbearers of the Rural Knowledge Revolution, serving as trainers for capacity building in villages and as conduits for conveying the benefits of science and technology to rural areas.

The process of identifying these valuable resource persons was through nominations from a large number of institutions and organizations. Partners of the NVA, Alliance of Mission 2007 partners, academic and scientific institutions, Government agencies, private sector companies as well as NGOs working in the field of sustainable development participated in a nation-wide search for such grass-root academicians. A special effort was made to establish contact with people living and working in farmers' distress hotspots, drought or flood-prone areas and geographically remote regions. Over 800 nominations were received and 155 have been selected.

The brief profiles of the NVA Fellows outlined in this publication, reveals the wide range of competencies and expertise they represent. Yet, however diverse their interests may be – agriculture, education, micro-finance, environment, health , or any other field, the common link among them is the special spirit of service that each Fellow possesses, and the quality of leadership to bring about rural transformation.

One hundred and fifty five grass root workers from across fourteen States and Union Territories of India are being inducted as Fellows at the Second Convocation of the NVA in Hyderabad on 5th January 2006.

Tara Gandhi
Advisor, Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy



Andra Pradesh

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Ms M Apsar | 17 |
| Ms K Chandrakala | 18 |
| Mr Doddaka Mastanaiah | 20 |
| Mr M Jai Ganesh | 21 |
| Mr U Ramakrishna Charyulu | 22 |
| Ms J Vimalamma | 23 |

Assam

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Mr Abdul Mokit | 24 |
| Mr Amitt Attreya | 25 |
| Mr Arnab Gogoi | 26 |
| Mr Arup Goswami | 27 |
| Mr Ashok Kumar Nath | 28 |
| Mr Atul Chutia | 29 |
| Mr Bimal Pradhan | 30 |
| Ms Deepanjali Brahma | 31 |
| Mr Dhruva Jyoti Sarmah | 32 |
| Mr Gobin Saikia | 33 |
| Mr Golam Mohammed Choudury | 34 |
| Mr Jadumani Borah | 35 |
| Ms Jesminara Begum | 36 |
| Ms Jhuma Neog | 37 |
| Ms Jinti Deka | 38 |
| Mr Jyoti Gogoi | 39 |
| Ms Kabita Saikia | 40 |
| Ms Kakoli Nath | 41 |
| Mr Khaybor Ali Ahmed | 42 |
| Ms Manikha Gogoi | 43 |
| Mr Manish Sil | 44 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Ms Manjeeta Kashyap | 45 |
| Mr Mintu Mahanta | 46 |
| Mr Nikhilesh Das | 47 |
| Ms Papori Kumai | 48 |
| Mr Phanidhar Gogoi | 49 |
| Ms Pinaki Doss | 50 |
| Mr Pranab Kumar Choudry | 51 |
| Mr Pranab Saikia | 52 |
| Mr Rabizul Haque Laskar | 53 |
| Mr Rajib Lochan Borah | 54 |
| Ms Rajoshree Das | 55 |
| Mr Raju Teron | 56 |
| Mr Randip Gogoi | 57 |
| Ms Ruli Buragohain | 58 |
| Mr Tankeswer Saikia | 59 |
| Ms Tutumoni Gam | 60 |
| Mr Open Horo | 61 |
| Mr Vaskar Narayan Misra | 62 |
| Gujarat | |
| Mr Amitkumar N Suthar | 63 |
| Mr Kanubhai M Chaudhari | 64 |
| Mr Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman | 65 |
| Mr Rajubhai Patel | 66 |
| Mr Rakesh Jayantibhai Suthar | 67 |
| Ms Ushmaben Mevada | 68 |
| Mr Yagnesh Kishorchandra Rindani | 69 |
| Mr Zala Rajnisingh | 70 |
| Himachal Pradesh | |
| Mr Dheeraj Arora | 71 |
| Karnataka | |
| Ms P G Juliet | 72 |

Madhya Pradesh

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Mr Hemchand Kashyap | 74 |
| Mr Kalyan Singh Lodha | 75 |
| Mr Pratap Singh Rajpoot | 76 |
| Mr Ramsingh Rai | 77 |
| Mr RatanLal Patidar | 78 |
| Mr Ravi Malviya | 79 |
| Mr Rishi Chaturvedi | 80 |
| Mr Sadasukh Bisnoi | 81 |
| Mr Satyanarayan Upadhyay | 82 |
| Mr Suresh Jain | 83 |
| Mr Virendra Singh Jat | 84 |

Maharashtra

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Mr Dipak Vithalrao Shinde | 85 |
| Mr Indrajit Shine | 86 |
| Mr Jagdish Madhukar Janorkar | 87 |
| Mr Prabhu Wakade | 88 |
| Mr Prashant Khanorkar | 89 |
| Mr Rajendra V Salave | 90 |
| Mr Rohidas Vishnu Vasave | 91 |
| Mr Santosh Pusaram Dhoot | 92 |
| Mr Shivaji Mane | 93 |
| Ms Shobha Umesh Wani | 94 |
| Mr Subhash Sharma | 95 |
| Mr Sudhakar Shinde | 96 |
| Mr Shivaji Dagadappa Torkad | 97 |
| Mr Vikas Giri | 98 |

Orissa

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Ms Anupama Mohanta | 99 |
| Mr Jagdish Das | 100 |
| Mr Kanhei Charan Naik | 101 |

Pondicherry

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Ms Amirtham Dharmalingam | 102 |
| MrM Arulselvam | 103 |
| Mr N Gnanasekar | 104 |
| Ms Janaki Vinayagam | 105 |
| Ms Jayanthi Janakiraman | 106 |
| MrK Munian | 107 |
| Mr K Murgan | 108 |
| Mr K Raja | 110 |
| Ms Rajalakshumi Manickavel | 111 |
| Ms Rukmani Thangarasu | 112 |
| Ms Selvarani Kandiban | 113 |
| Ms Sumathi Govindarasu | 114 |
| Mr M Suresh | 115 |

Punjab

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Ms Karamjit Kaur | 116 |
|------------------------|-----|

Rajasthan

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Mr Bhagirath Saran | 117 |
| Mr Habib Khan | 118 |
| Mr Harchand Legha | 119 |
| Mr Hari Singh Gurjar | 120 |
| Mr Jayanti Lal Sutar | 121 |
| Mr Mangej Kumar | 122 |
| Mr Mohan Patidar | 123 |
| Mr Narayan Ram | 124 |
| Mr Pira Ram Dehati | 125 |
| Ms Pushpa Vishnoi | 126 |
| Mr Rambaksh Bhakar | 127 |
| Mr Ramnivash Prajapat | 128 |
| Mr Rau Ram Meghwal | 129 |
| Mr Santosh Kumar Tyagi | 130 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Mr Tarachand Malav | 131 |
| Tamil Nadu | |
| Mr E Altrin | 132 |
| Mr N Arun | 133 |
| Ms Bagavathi Ammal | 134 |
| Ms M Banumathi | 135 |
| Ms M Jeya | 136 |
| Ms Kasthuri Chandrasekaran | 137 |
| Mr B Logidasan | 138 |
| Mr Manimaran | 139 |
| Mr R Murugan | 140 |
| Mr K P Murugesu | 141 |
| Ms K Parameswari | 142 |
| Mr S Rajkumar | 143 |
| Ms Revathi Selvaraj | 144 |
| Mr R V Sampath Kumar | 145 |
| Ms M Shanthi | 146 |
| Mr C Sivakumar | 147 |
| Ms K Suguna | 148 |
| Mr P Suresh Babu | 149 |
| Ms V Tamil Selvi | 150 |
| Mr G Thiyagarajan | 151 |
| Ms V Vijayalakshmi | 152 |
| Uttar Pradesh | |
| Mr Ajit Singh | 153 |
| Mr Akhilesh Kumar Singh | 154 |
| Mr Devendra Dutt Mishra | 155 |
| Mr Jay Singh | 156 |
| Mr Jitendra Singh | 157 |
| Mr Manoj Kumarr Tripathi | 158 |
| Mr Manoj Kumar Dixit | 159 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Mr Pradeep Singh | 160 |
| Mr Rajendra Mishra | 161 |
| Mr Ramdayal Verma | 162 |
| Mr Ravindra Pal Singh | 163 |
| Mr Ritesh Katiyar | 164 |
| Mr Sanjay Dubey | 165 |
| Mr Sanjay Kumar Pandey | 166 |
| Mr Sunil Kumar Rai | 167 |
| Mr Vijay Bahadur Singh | 168 |
| Mr Yogendra Rai | 169 |
| West Bengal | |
| Mr Apurba Saha | 170 |
| Ms Pinki Chakraborty | 171 |
| Ms Ranu Saha | 172 |
| Mr Samarendra Nath Bhattacharjee | 173 |
| Mr Soumen Middey | 174 |





NVA Fellows

Fellows inducted in January 2008



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OBAR
BLANDS





NVA Fellows

Fellows inducted in January 2008





Ms M Apsar

Mogal Apsar (23), is a graduate in computer sciences from Kodavakur in Andhra Pradesh. A member of the NGO, Health Educational Awareness of Rural Area Development (HEAR), she runs a free HEAR computer education centre in Vidavalur Mandal for poor people to develop their livelihood skills. She gives training in computers and subsequently highlights the placement opportunities, which in turn helps improve their economic status.

She conducts IT awareness programmes at her center to emphasise the importance of computer education through which the participants can benefit both socially and economically in future. She throws light on the internet boom in the present era, which acts as a boon for information assimilation. She collects information on self-employment activities from the Internet and trains and builds the capacity of women to implement them in their respective villages.



Ms K Chandrakala

Ms. K. Chandrakala (28), hails from a small village, Kommireddy Palem of Mehabubnagar District in Andhra Pradesh. She is an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed social worker involved in many community development activities in and around her village.

Her keen interest to serve her village community started in 1995 when after completing her 10th class she donned the mantle to successfully run a local society called "Dhanalaxmi". After undergoing the required training, she taught illiterate adults of the village to read and write in the local language Telugu, from 1997 to 1999. She was elected as Executive Member of a women's federation called Adarsha Mahila Samaikhya (AMS) at Mandal level and is currently on its Board. Her persuasive management skills helped to take up responsibilities of managing a popular restaurant run by AMS.

She has been successfully mobilizing women in social welfare programs of A P Government such as "Akshara Kiranam", " Akshara Bharathi", "Indira Kranthi Pathakam" etc. She acquired skills by attending training programs like co-operative "Sangham Dairy" training and "Velugu" community training program. Now she is a resource person committed to organize and train self-help groups. She also actively participated in the "Pulse Polio drops" drive, the largest immunization programme of the Government of India.

As a Village Network Assistant (VNA) at Kommireddy Palem Knowledge Center, she facilitates daily educational training programs for children and basic computer training programme for children, youth and adults of the village. With the knowledge and skills acquired during her training in livestock rearing and dairy development, she provides guidelines to the villagers in improving the milk production,

animal healthcare and management, improved compost making from farm waste etc.

Being trained in computer skills, she manages an Agro-Advisory system through IT for community development with the help of experts from the International Crops Research Institute For The Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). She is also helping farmers increase the yields of castor, a major crop in the region through field demonstrations on the use of micronutrients. She also provides services like informing local weather forecast, comprehensive information in agricultural practices and market prices using Pilot Information Hub of ICRISAT.

Ms. Chandrakala's tremendous energy, self-confidence and sincere commitment makes her a role model of highly respected in her society.



Mr Doddaka Mastanaiah

Doddaka Mastanaiah (30), from Mudivarthi Palem, Nalgonda Dist, Andhra Pradesh is a B.Com graduate with knowledge of computer operations. He is employed as an accountant in a private company and joined a voluntary organization HEAR, in the year 2002.

He has been actively involved in educational training activities for the underprivileged in rural area as a HEAR member. He started a free Computer Training Programme in Mudivarthi Palem and the surrounding villages with the objective of training youth from poor and lower middle class families in computer software and hardware. He is imparting information to all the people in his community about agriculture, aquaculture, cropping, seeding, various saving schemes and self-employment. He has a special inclination to work for the poor and is a prime motivator in spearheading projects that would directly benefit the deprived and underprivileged sections of the society.

Mr M Jai Ganesh

M.Jai Ganesh (26), a native of Kadepalli village, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, migrated with his family to Kuppam in 1995. Currently an undergraduate student, he is a dedicated youth, committed to the cause of rural development. He has participated in various welfare activities in the villages of Gudipalle Mandal and in many development projects of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on a voluntary basis. As a supervisor in “Akashra Tapasman” the Government of Andhra Pradesh programme for addressing illiteracy, Jai Ganesh was personally responsible for motivating and bringing several dropouts of schools back to the mainstream. He worked as volunteer for the eradication of child labour programme initiated by local NGOs and Government departments. He joined World Corps India, a non-profit and NGO working on ICT in Kuppam Constituency in 2002 and is playing an effective role in guiding and counselling the rural entrepreneurs.

Jai Ganesh has very strong communication skills and has been responsible for motivating and guiding women groups and youth group members to take up sustainable livelihood activities in both Chittoor and Cuddapah districts. He has helped in an intervention programme for more than 600 women in Kuppam to take up incense stick making as a livelihood and 100 women in Pulivendla in Cuddapah to take up papad making. He is currently involved in projects wherein he assists in social mobilization, SHG formation, capacity building of groups, conducting motivational training programmes, problem solving, liaising with coordinating organizations, and monitoring of the livelihood activities to ensure sustainability.



Mr U Ramakrishna Charyulu

Mr. U.Ramakrishna Charyulu (34), a native of Purini village of Indupur, Andhra Pradesh, is a postgraduate in Computer Application. Professionally a teacher, he has also been a community worker for the last 10 years. After joining HEAR 3 years ago, he started a free computer education centre in Purini to educate poor and lower middle class people in computer software and hardware. He provides information about agriculture, aqua culture, cropping, seeding, saving schemes, self-employment etc.



Ms J Vimalamma

Ms. J.Vimalamma (34), belongs to a small village called Janampeta in Addakal Mandal of Mehabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh. She is a dynamic and active social worker, having been part and parcel of all village community development activities from an early age. Her zeal and zest towards village development activities has elevated her from a humble member to the President of a women's federation called Adrsha Mahila Samaikhya (AMS) and recognition as a respectable and knowledgeable person. Her keen participation in various developmental programs of A P Government such as "Akshara Kiranam", "Akshra Bharathi", "Indira Kranthi Pathakam" has resulted in improving the literacy level of the members of AMS.

Her training in MACS (Multiple Added Commercial Services) at Tirupathi has helped her to promote micro credit banking accounts in AMS and has enabled many villagers get the benefit of loans for improving their agricultural and dairy production activities. As a Village Network Assistant (VNA) of Janmpete Village Knowledge Center, Vimalamma underwent training at the Virtual Academy of Semi-Arid Tropics (VASAT), ICRISAT, for acquiring online knowledge on improved agricultural and livestock practices, weather forecasting and market prices for crop produce. Her improved skills in operating the new IT system enabled her to facilitate in finding solutions to farmers' queries on production /storage/marketing issues (livestock/crop) by getting feedback from experts in ICRISAT. Being a farmer herself, she understands the importance of improved high yielding crop varieties and thus procures and distributes crops like castor and pigeon pea seeds to farmers through the AMS.

Additionally, she has been providing services such as daily educational programs for children, basic computer literacy training to youth and adults, especially for women of the surrounding villages and thus helping towards empowerment of rural women and youth.

Mr Abdul Mokit

Abdul Mokit (30), from Manashpara village, Goalpara district, Assam is a postgraduate with a Diploma in Computer Application. A good worker with competency in agriculture, he is associated with the CIC and is involved in community work for the past one year.

Mr Amitt Attreya

Amitt Attreya (25), belongs to Akajan village, Dhemaji district, Assam, located in foothills region crisscrossed by numerous turbulent rivers and frequently prone to devastating floods, erosion and sand deposition over cultivable areas. Scheduled tribes and Schedule Castes comprise the major population of the area.

A graduate, Amitt Attreya has a Diploma in Computer Applications and three years work experience as a computer operator in Community Information Centre. He has competency in agriculture, health, micro finance and computer literacy. He served as a community mobiliser to make people aware of the benefits of IT and held 20 awareness camps for village students and teachers, training 260 students in computer applications and information technology.

He is hard working, and sincere and a competent worker having positive attitude to provide service to the people. During the floods in Sisiborgaon block, Amitt volunteered as an emergency control room operator.

Mr Arnab Gogoi

Arnab Gogoi (24), graduate comes from Naali Majgaon, Kadom, Assam. He is Secretary ,People Advance and Rural Technology, a Society working for the upliftment of the rural area, and has competency in EDP Water management.

He established e – service centre in the rural area and formed around 24 rural SHGs. He participated in the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2004 promoting organic tea and organic rice. Arnab is a good organiser with leadership qualities.



Mr Arup Goswami

Arup Goswami (29), is from Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon district, Assam. A Fishery Science graduate, he is a District Co – ordinator in Assam Agriculture Competitiveness project, incharge of Micro Finance Programme and Fishery.

Arup is a good worker with previous experience working in a hatchery, and has been a Junior Research fellow under a World Bank Project Propagation & Culture of Indigenous Fish species of Assam.

Mr Ashok Kumar Nath

Ashok Kumar Nath (26), a maths graduate lives in Berabak village, Cachar district, Assam. He has undergone different types of training including computer science, typing and weaving and has competency in agriculture and functional literacy. Ashok Kumar has been assisting the local people by serving as a Community Information Centre operator since 2003 .

Mr Atul Chutia

Atul Chutia (29), is H.S educated and comes from Kakaiyal village, Dhemaji district, Assam. Involved with community activities since 2002, he is currently working as a volunteer in connection with formation of SHG and health and sanitation campaign.

Atul has 3 years experience in SHG formation and one year's experience in the work cum training programme of UNDP. He is interested in helping rural flood affected people and ST/ SC communities and wishes to dedicate himself for the welfare of poor and destitute people.



Mr Bimal Pradhan

Bimal Pradhan (29), a postgraduate in science, resides Mugasong village, in Karbi Anglong district, Assam, located in a hill range, bordered by River Kopili.

Working with Community Information Centre since 2002, Bimal Pradhan has given computer training to more than 60 rural people including youth, children, ladies, and Govt. employees. He has conducted computer awareness camps in more than 10 High Schools. He also promotes self help groups for handloom products, and gives information on Govt. policies and schemes, assists NGOs and promotes Social Forestry.



Ms Deepanjali Brahma

Deepanjali Brahma (26), a postgraduate in agriculture, belongs to Gosaigaon village, Kokrajhar district, Assam.

An industrious and innovative young woman, Deepanjali has rural agricultural work experience, experience as a Spot Journalist in a Local TV Channel for Gosaigaon, and is presently a District Coordinator of Discovery Club, Nodal NGO for Assam Agricultural Competitiveness programme. She is also involved in Micro finance and functional literacy.



Mr Dhruba Jyoti Sarmah

Dhruba Jyoti Sarmah (31), from Ghanhi village, Nagaon district, Assam, a graduate, competent in functional literacy and agriculture.

He has been a computer teacher at a Computer Education Centre for two years now, giving training in computer applications, personnel administration, manpower development training , marketing and administration, for the benefit of the local community.

Mr Gobin Saikia

Gobin Saikia (35), a graduate, is from Komalaboria, Lakhimpur, Assam, a low lying flood affected area. He has expertise in Traditional Medicine and alternative medicine. For 15 years, he has been involved with community activities in the field of rural technology.

Gobin Saikia is a Master trainer in mushroom production, vermi-compost, organic farming and orchid cultivation. A good organizer, he regularly arranges training for SHGs and seminars on food preservation and other topics.



Mr Golam Mohammed Choudury

Golam Mohammed Choudury (32), a graduate, comes from Hasanpur Karimkanji , Assam.

A dynamic, sincere and able man with outstanding integrity. He is involved in the development of coconut and spices and various socio economic activities since last five years At present he is associated with theNGO Borak Vision.

Mr Jadumani Borah

Jadumani Borah (37), a graduate, lives in Borpathari Bhutaigaon village, Nagaon district, Assam. Since the year 1997, he has completely devoted himself to social service and acts as a mediator between the poor farmer and the banks for micro finance.

Jadumani Borah shows the benefits of the formation of SHG to village youth and has participated in many training programmes such as self–employment training for educated youth. He is also creating awareness among the farmers through Pathar Pariechalana Samity, Rupaleem Krishak Sanga and Dairy Co-Operative society.

Ms Jesminara Begum

Jesminara Begum (27), is from Jajanai village, Nagaon district, Assam. She is a graduate with qualification in computer software and Internet applications.

Since 2002, Jesminara Begum has been working with community activities providing information to the rural community, organising camps and seminars for the local people, as well as facilitating farmers' motivation camps and Himalaya Bigyan Chetana Yatra.

Ms Jhuma Neog

Jhuma Neog (29), from Nakari village in Lakhimpur district, Assam, is a graduate with competency in agriculture, livestock, EDP, water management, health and micro finance . She has been involved with community activities since 10 years.

Jhuma is a CIC operator, and conducts training for SHGs on agriculture, vermicompost and other techniques.

Ms Jinti Deka

Jinti Deka (25), a graduate from Rowta Chariali, Darrang district, Assam, has been working with an NGO since the last 5 years. A sincere and dedicated worker, her areas of competency are agriculture and micro finance, which she applies for the purpose of rural area development .



Mr Jyoti Gogoi

Jyoti Gogoi (40), from Chettia gaon, Lakhimpur, Assam is a graduate with expertise on agriculture, livestock, EDP water management, health and Micro finance. A good organiser with leadership qualities, he is involved in community activities since 10 years.

Jyoti Gogoi has assisted to constitute rural SHGs, organised awareness camps on Jatropa, sativa and bamboo cultivation, and orchid cultivation and marketing. He promotes organic tea and organic rice and has prepared an eco – tourism project.

Ms Kabita Saikia

Kabita Saikia (27), B.Sc, B.Ed ., hails from Daragia Chuk village, situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra in Sonitpur district, Assam.

Involved with community activities since 2002, she has competency in agriculture, livestock and in Information Technology. She takes interest in handloom and textile development for the benefit of the local community.

Ms Kakoli Nath

Kakoli Nath (26), lives in Inathpur village, Karimganj district, Assam. Higher secondary educated, she is member of the Nabarun Sanga Community Centre and involved in different activities like training of the village women in handicrafts like stitching of cloth bags, jute ladies purses and many another such items. A dynamic persona, she shows outstanding ability in all kinds of activities.



Mr Khaybor Ali Ahmed

Khaybor Ali Ahmed (37), hails from Gutipara Part III, in Dhubsi district, Assam. He is a graduate and field coordinator for SHG, micro-finance and AACP programme since 3 years. He has competency in agriculture, livestock and micro finance.

Khaybor Ali Ahmed is very hard working and committed, and can communicate easily with a wide range of stake holders.

Ms Manikha Gogoi

Manikha Gogoi (25), is H.S. educated and comes from Machkhowa village Dhemaji district, Assam. Involved with community activities since 2004, she is an animator in Sabugram Sewa Sangha (NGO) in the village.

As an animator, Manikha Gogoi works to uplift the local downtrodden by enabling them to take up income generating activities and also economic development through small enterprises with the help of local raw materials.

She helps to form Self Help Groups, gives orientation training along with help to get bank loans and assists with management of projects.



Mr Manish Sil

Manish Sil (30), belongs to Dharamnala village, in the hill Area of Karbi Anglong district, Assam. He has B.Com, PGDCA education and has been involved with micro-finance through the Rural Development Society (RDS).

Manish is a CIC Operator and has been associated with the organization for 3 years. He provides computer training and Internet facility to the communities Below Poverty Line computerization and agri- business service for the local village people.



Ms Manjeeta Kashyap

MANJEETA KASHYAP (26), is from Aulachowka village, Darrang district, Assam where the main economic activity is agriculture. A graduate, she has been working in the CIC for the past 3 years. Manjeeta provides computer education for villagers as well as information regarding Govt. schemes and policies and agriculture related information. She facilitates self - help groups, tele - health programmes and is a good community.

Mr Mintu Mahanta

Mintu Mahanta (35), hails from Barangabari, Sonitpur district, Assam. She is a graduate with competency in the areas of micro finance, agriculture and health. A dynamic worker, he is serving as coordinator of SHGs since 2002. He has also received an award as a volunteer in rural areas, and as an effective coordinator between Government and the Community.



Mr Nikhilesh Das

Nikhilesh Das (26), belongs to Uttar Ganak gari village in Barpeta district, Assam. A post-graduate with a diploma in computer application, Nikhilesh has been working as a Community Information Centre (CIC) operator for the last 3 years and has good technical knowledge as well as competency in agriculture, livestock & micro finance. A sincere and hard worker his previous community work experience includes involvement with SEWA, a registered NGO, as well as serving as the Gen. Secretary of a registered Self Help Group.



Ms Paporì Kumai

Paporì Kumai (22) a graduate from Chakuripara village, in a hilly area of Kamrup (Metro) district, Assam, is actively working with "ASSAM Gandhi Smarak Nithi" a N.G.O in the district since 2004 . Her areas of competency are functional literacy, micro finance and craft training.

Paporì Kumai has basic computer knowledge and has previous work experience in private companies in Guwahati.

Mr Phanidhar Gogoi

Phanidhar Gogoi (41), a graduate, lives in Bangaon Vill. 2 No, Golaghat district, Assam.

He is general secretary in an N.G.O. since 1993, participating in all its activities like micro watershed management, environment education, biodiversity conservation, rural development, education for sustainable future and capacity building, vermi composting training etc.

Phanidhar Gogoi also takes interest in people's participation in natural resource management , bird conservation , capacity building of farmers, and National Green Corps self help group.

Ms Pinaki Doss

Pinaki Doss (31), comes from Upper Pathori village, Nagaon district, Assam. She holds a BA degree with Diploma in Computer Application and is a dynamic and active person.

Pinaki is playing a very important role in her village in the formation of SHGs among the people who are below the poverty line, with an effort to promote income generating programmes. She is involved in various awareness generation programmes, capacity building and training of SHG groups in micro finance, health and craft training.

Mr Pranab Kumar Choudry.

Pranab Kumar Choudry (28), is from Burkibari , Kamrup Dt, Assam. He is H.S educated and is actively associated with PRAGATHI SANGA (NGO). A good grassroot worker, he is efficient in carrying out rural development work like organising health camps and spreading awareness on various health related problems. He is also competent in agriculture , livestock and micro finance.



Mr Pranab Saikia

Pranab Saikia (31), from Solal village, Sonipur district, Assam, is a graduate, involved in community activities since 2002. He works at the Community Information Centre and is responsible for spreading Information technology in the rural areas. His other fields of competency are agriculture and livestock.

Mr Rabizul Haque Laskar

Rabizul Haque Laskar (30), from Matijuri, Hailakandi district, Assam, is B.A., CCC (DOEACC) and currently doing LLB. He has been involved for the past 11 years with the NGO Purbha Hailakandi Development Council (PHDC) working with community convergence action (CCA), community based convergent services (CBCS), and promotion of SHGs.

Rabizul Haque Laskar works for upliftment of rural people, and holds training programmes for youth and SHG groups for socio economic development.

Mr Rajib Lochan Borah

Rajib Lochan Borah (28), lives in Saikhowa village, Tisukia district –, on the bank of River Brahmaputra in Assam.

He has a postgraduate degree and works in the Community Information Centre (CIC) located in Saikhowa which is in a remote part of Assam. The only means of communication there is by road, so it takes time for the students to get their examination results and access to job vacancies.

Rajib Lochan Borah's work with the CIC makes access easy for them, and also provides computer literacy and basic computer training . Since people in the area are very poor and it is a flood prone area, weather information and agriculture, sericulture & livestock related information that he gives through the CIC is helpful. Using the Internet facility, he also helps with tenders and getting proper market and price for products.

Ms Rajoshree Das

Rajoshree Das (22), is a resident of Moidoma, Lakhimpur, Assam. A graduate with Diploma in Computers, she is the President of Priya SHG. She is a good worker, having initiated computer training course, participated in the Horticulture and Medical plants displays where she got the best prize for mushroom. She is also involved in Land Record Computerisation and organises the Bihu festival in her area.



Mr Raju Teron

Raju Teron (30), hailing from Rongnihong , Karbi Anglong , in the hill area of Assam, has BSc, DTPM education. Employed with Rural Deveoplement Society (RDS) since 1999, he is a Supervising Officer with RDS since 2001 to implement Community Resource Management Projects (CRMP) in 20 villages in Karbi Anglong District of Assam .

Raju has worked with the Taleem Research Foundation's Reproductive and Child Health Project sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India. He implemented the Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme, co-ordinated the Family Counselling Centre , and was involved in promoting Agri- Business Services.

His areas of competency include Medicinal and Aromatic Plants , Rural Insurance, Micro finance and Functional Literacy .



Mr Randip Gogoi

Randip Gogoi (27), belonging to Borpathar Ramji Gaon , Dibrugarh Dt., Assam, is a B.Com, working with the NGO SEWA (Soil Educational Welfare Association) for the past 7 years. His areas of competency are agriculture and livestock.

Ms Ruli Buragohain

Ruli Buragohain (23), comes from Parakata Gohaim Gaon village, Jorhat district, Assam. She is a graduate with competency in agriculture and SHG formation.

Ruli has been involved in community activities and voluntary work since 3 years, Associated with an NGO Samanay Atmasahyak.

Mr Tankeswer Saikia

Tankeswer Saikia (28), a graduate in Economics with diplomas in computer and English type writing, lives in Kothara village, Kamrup district, Assam. He is involved with a self help group named Lahari, working in the field of agriculture, horticulture, nursery, fishery development since 2003. With an interest in the field of scientific agriculture system, Tankeswer Saikia has dedicated himself to work for the prosperity of rural economy in Assam.

Ms Tutumoni Gam

Tutumoni Gam (22), from Chuklibhoria, Lakhmipur, Assam is a graduate with Computer Diploma. An active young woman with leadership qualities, she is the president of a Self Help Group, through which she has started computer training for functional literacy.

She also has competency in horticulture, medical plants, mushroom cultivation and vermi-compost.

Mr Upen Horo

Upen Horo (23), from Bor Patgaon village, Sonitpur, Assam has completed High School education and is an enthusiastic singer and sportsman.

He is one of the staff of Gana Chetana Samji an NGO, working as an animator. His areas of competency include micro finance, livestock, agriculture and functional literacy.

Mr Vaskar Narayan Misra

VASKAR NARAYAN MISRA (31), comes from Pailapool village, Cachar district, Assam.

Involved in community activities since 1996, Vaskar Narayan has a Diploma in Computer Applications and works in the Community Information Centre as an operator. He has conducted several awareness programmes and community based programmes related to Agriculture, AIDS and other topics relevant for the local people.

Mr Amitkumar N Suthar

Mr. Amit Suthar (28), lives in Sonasan village, an agricultural area in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He completed D.C.A from the nearest city Himatnagar and has knowledge of basic computer operations. He was unemployed and having a keen interest in starting Internet services and computer education in his village, he started a Chiraag Internet Center in his village in October 2004.

He concentrates primarily only on computer education courses for children. Nearly 50 students have got computer and Internet training in last 6 months. No one can believe that the small village has so many computer literate students. He also offers DTP services, photography, graphics and typewriting for generating income. By using Agri service of Chiraag, he finds solutions for agriculture related doubts and questions of farmers.

The Internet Center has changed Amit's life. He is happy with the service and encourages people to join in the process.



Mr Kanubhai M Chaudhari

Kanubhai M. Chaudhari (30), a graduate, lives in Unchamala village located near the Atomic Power Station in Surat district, Gujarat.

He is a farmer who has been involved with n-logue and community activities for the past one and a half years. He has set up a Chiraag Mahithi Kendra in his village where many students come to learn Computer operations. They are happy with his teaching at the computer learning center in the village. He offers photography, browsing, drafting, astrology and printing services for a fee and also charges for computer games, to generate income.



Mr Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman

Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman (22), comes from Vadani village, a farming area in Patan district, Gujarat, and has passed 12th std. He has been involved with n-logue and community activities for the last 6 months through the Chiraage Internet Centre. He provides services like photography, education, internet surfing, astrological services, etc. in the village itself. He also teaches the children computer education and raises their awareness through the internet. His centre is also a place where children can gather to play computer games.

Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman is a very hard working person and is ready to help the village people whenever they need assistance.



Mr Rajubhai Patel

Rajubhai Patel (30), a Science graduate, hails from Majra village, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He has cable network in his village, is familiar with computers and Internet and also aware of the advantages of their use.

Wanting to provide hi-tech services in his village, he started the Chiraag centre in February, 2005. He is using I-see services in his village to get medical advices from doctors, which the village people find very helpful. He also provides computer education which is much in demand among all students. He offers astrology services, which is very popular in the village scenario, and earns through browsing, games. He is very happy to provide the services which is making a difference in the lives of the villagers.



Mr Rakesh Jayantibhai Suthar

Rakesh Jayantibhai Suthar (21), comes from Kimbuva, a farming village in Patan district, Gujarat. He is 12th Pass from Patan with I.T.I diploma from Amirghadh and Mehsana. He has been involved with the N-logue Communications Pvt Limited for the last 6 months.

He offers the Chiraag services like astrology services, photography, education, surfing, games etc. in the village itself, facilitating easy access. He also teaches the children computer education which raises their awareness of the outside world through the internet. The children also come to his centre to play games on the computer.

He is very hard working, diligent and ready to help the people any time when needed.

Ms Ushmaben Mevada

Ushmaben Mevada (31), is a resident of Fatepur village in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat.

Ushmaben and her husband Prakashbhai are Ayurvedic doctors by profession. This couple is very much interested to know about advanced research happening in the medical field. As Internet is a good source to develop better knowledge in any field, they decided to set up a Chiraag Internet Centre in their village. Their main objective was to provide good services of computer education and better medical and other services in the village. They are running the Chiraag Internet Centre and providing medical consultancy to other kiosk operators through I-see software. As a result, many villagers are getting primary treatment in their Chiraag Internet Centre.

Ushmaben gets earnings from DDTP, typewriting, education, spoken English course, browsing, games and astrology services. Chiraag Internet Centre has changed her life, and she encourages people to join in the process.

Mr Yagnesh Kishorchandra Rindani

Yagnesh (36), is a B. Com graduate working in coastal villages in Jamnagar district of Gujarat. He has been involved in community development activities since 1992 and joined the American India Foundation's Digital Equalizer program in 2003.

From humble beginnings as a tuition teacher for primary students and a part-time employee in a construction company, he has steadily grown in his professional life through his own effort. In 1992, when "computer" was still new to Jamnagar, he acquired computer skills with the help of a well wisher who owned a computer and mastered skills in Desk Top Publishing, to start a small business of printing visiting cards. Being always interested in rural prosperity and committed to the assist rural community, he thought of using his skill for social service.

He started a free computer education centre for poor students and taught DTP skills to equip them to find gainful employment. Many people have benefited from his support and are making a living out of their learning. In 2003, when American India Foundation (AIF) started its Digital Equaliser Programme in the Jamnagar District, Yagnesh joined as a coordinator. The programme was to digitally equalise the poor students in remote villages and bring them at par with the affluent students. He has also been responsible for getting a Mobile Medicare Unit to providing free treatment and medicines to the villagers once a week.



Mr Zala Rajnisingh

Zala Rajnisingh (40), lives in Badodara Village, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He has studied upto B.A. second year. He and his family attend to farming work on rotation basis. At the Chiraag Centre of n-Logue, he offers photography, education, typewriting and graphics services. By using Agri service of Chiraag he gives solutions to agricultural problems of farmers and the villagers discuss their doubts with him.

From start to till date he has taught around 63 students at his center and the village community has benefited by the low cost. He is a respected person in his village.



Mr Dheeraj Arora

Dheeraj Arora (23), lives in Solan, situated in the Shimla hills in Himachal Pradesh at a height of 1,350 metres [4,432ft].

Dheeraj was a 12th class dropout but again joined education and is presently doing graduation (B.Com) through correspondence from IGNOU. He is running his own business of computer hardware, software, cyber café, computer education since 3 years. Starting with one PC in 2003, he brought the internet opportunity to the masses by charging nominally. Typical charges used to be Rs 180/- per hour; he charged less than half to make it more accessible to people. Currently it is less than Rs 30/-. He has been at the forefront in bringing internet facility to his small town by regularly meeting the BSNL officials and representing communication needs of his people.

Through the Rotaract Club, Dheeraj has been working on various projects like tree plantation, blood donation camps, etc. and the club has also adopted a school where computer education is provided to a group of children from a local ashram every Sunday morning at his cyber café.

Dheeraj is dynamic and has proved time and again that with the help of Internet, small town folks can achieve all that residents in large cities have easy access to.



Ms P G Juliet

P.G.Juliet (43), comes from Virajpet in Kodagu district, situated on the Western Ghats of Karnataka . She was running a handmade paper making and plastic recycling unit set up at Maggula village in Virajpet as a part of the Centre for Environment and Education's dry waste management project.

With her knowledge and skills, Juliet created awareness among women folk going on a door to door campaign just to motivate the people of this region. 15 women who were illiterate and most neglected in the community were given training in both handmade paper making and plastic recycling unit. Apart from training, Juliet transformed the lives of these women folk. She constantly encouraged them and showed the path to improve their quality of life. She helped the women to take up LIC policy and postal saving schemes to save their earning to live a financially secure and dignified life.

Juliet has formed many SHGs groups, educating them with income generating techniques such as mushroom cultivation, paper bag making, vermiculture and other environmentally friendly alternative livelihood options for the upliftment of rural women. Besides just training, she assisted the SHGs in initial marketing as well..As any unit is fully functional only when it is self-sustained, Juliet conducted various awareness, skill and income development programmes on the importance of solid waste management, biodiversity, deforestation, conservation and alternative livelihoods. She is constantly training various SHGs and local NGOs of Ahmedabad, Tirupathi, Patna, Delhi and Ujjain.

Juliet's continued efforts along with her colleagues' dedicated services for the environment, resulted in CEE receiving the PLASTICON AWARD

2005 for the plastic recycling unit, in the category of Innovative Recycling Technology by PlastIndia. The polyloom helps create plastic-free areas and is also a cost effective technology.



Mr Hemchand Kashyap

Hemchand Kashyap (42), from Sankheda village, Hoshangabad district, M.P has studied up to 12th.standard. A medium class farmer, he is very active in social work specially health related work and he participates actively in rural health camps. He also has expertise in areas of agriculture and livestock. He takes the initiative to share his knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet, Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing.



Mr Kalyan Singh Lodha

Kalyan Singh Lodha (55), lives in Ambaramchuk village, Guna district, M.P. This high-school educated agriculturist has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2000.

He is a very active social worker and has been selected by ITC in their Sunehra Kal project on livestock and watershed development projects. He is very well versed with the topography of the area and is a participant in agricultural surveys. He takes the initiative to share his skills and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.



Mr Pratap Singh Rajpoot

Pratap Singh Rajpoot (32), from Furtala village, Hoshangabad district, M.P. is a highly qualified agriculturist. He has an MA degree and is pursuing his PhD. He is an expert on agricultural techniques as well as on livestock and water management. He advises farmers on good farming practices and has a very good social standing in his village.

Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he has obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer usage, Internet browsing, insurance, pricing and quality parameters of various agricultural commodities, which he shares readily with others in the community.



Mr Ramsingh Rai

Ramsingh Rai (48), hails from Ghatera village in Vidisha district, M.P, and has studied upto 8th Class. He has been a Sarpanch, has good standing in the village and knowledge of best practices in farming. He obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr RatanLal Patidar

RatanLal Patidar (28), a farmer from Borkheda village, in Ratlam district, M.P, has studied upto Higher Secondary. He is an active Sanchalak in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes active interest in sharing his knowledge of ICT with other farmers of the village He has been actively working for rain water management in the village and was involved in making of a road under the prime minister's village road development program.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Ravi Malviya

Ravi Malviya (39), a graduate, belongs to village Gopalur, in the forested area of Sehore district ,M.P. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agricultural commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various fast moving consumer goods and products. He takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

He has good communication skills and leadership qualities, and has interest and experience in education and livestock management.



Mr Rishi Chaturvedi

Rishi Chaturvedi (37), has an MA degree and comes from Sukheda village, in Ratlam district, M.P.

He has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as a Sanchalak since 2003 and is actively involved in development of his village. He has been able to put up a Bio-gas plant with the help of political contacts. Utja Vikas Nigam, organised cleanliness campaign in the village and introduced Vermi Compost.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Sadasukh Bisnoi

Sadasukh Bisnoi (45), hails from Pratappura village in the hilly tribal area of Harda district in M.P. He is an agriculturist, has studied upto High School, is actively involved in social work and is the Vice President of “Goshala Society” in the village. He mobilizes villagers in cleaning of the village and gets them to devote some time and do “shram dan”. He has expertise in agriculture and water management and takes the initiative to share this knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Sadasukh Bisnoi has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2000, and is trained in computer application, insurance, and also on pricing and quality of agricultural commodities.



Mr Satyanarayan Upadhyay

Satyanarayan Upadhyay (40), lives in Bijapur village, Dewas district, an active Sanchalak in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD, a forested region in Madhya Pradesh . He has studied upto High school and is associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2004.

Having obtained training on computer usage and applications, Satyanarayan readily shares his knowledge of ICT with other farmers of the village. He has very good communication skills and has worked for water management and livestock management in the village.



Mr Suresh Jain

Suresh Jain (40), from Garethia Dangi village, Bhopal district, M.P, has studied upto high school, associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002. The sanchalak is also Sarpanch of the choupal village and contributes to his village through social service. He has also obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Virendra Singh Jat

Virendra Singh Jat (37), hails from Sonkutch village, a dry area in Bhopal district, M.P. Educated upto 12th Std., he is associated with the soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002. He is Sarpanch of the choupal village . He contributes to the development of his village through various social service activities, and in his capacity as Sarpanch. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Dipak Vithalrao Shinde

Dipak Vithalrao Shinde (51), is an organic farmer and B.Sc. graduate, residing in Nimkhed Bazar village in the hilly district Amaravati in Maharashtra.

On his farm many types of fruits, pulses as well as cotton are grown organically and certified. He demonstrated contour cultivation practices effectively on his farm and started an Organic Farming Home School in the year 2002, and started the first organic food processing centre in his village. He has trained 600 farmers in his own district Amaravati and several more from other districts and States in organic farming techniques. He also undertakes organic certification and arranges for marketing of the produce. He demonstrated his work at the World Organic Trade Fair held in Germany in the year 2003, and is shown as one of the success stories given in ICAR website. A community worker for the past 25 years, he is always keen to participate in HRD programs and knowledge sharing.



Mr Indrajit Shine

Indrajit Shine (27), is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from Lamjana village, a dry area in Latur district, Maharashtra. This 10th Std educated innovative farmer has developed new techniques of making humus and also developed new types of fodder from waste namely, "Zatpat Khad" on the "BAIF" research base. He has donated books for the Krishi Vachanalay which he developed at his own house.

He obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and takes initiatives to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Jagdish Madhukar Janorkar

Jagdish Madhukar Janorkar (40), is a graduate from Mahan village, in Akola district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and has received ICT and agricultural training.

Jagdish is very effective in implementing village development measures. He is active in areas such as road development and management of irrigation water. He provides suggestions to farmers on how to increase their yield with minimum expenditure and participates in extension activities like Gramswachata Abhiyan (cleanliness campaign for the village), tree plantation and sewage disposal.



Mr Prabhu Wakade

Prabhu Wakade (37), a graduate, lives in Talodhi (Naik) village in a forest region of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra.

A farmer by profession he is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD being associated with it since 2004, and takes interest in sharing his ICT and agricultural knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Prabhu Wakade has obtained training in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.



Mr Prashant Khanorkar

Prashant Khanorkar (33), a farmer and a graduate belongs to Naxi Village in a forest region of Nagpur district, Maharashtra. He has received training on computer applications, Life & General Insurance, and on the pricing and quality of agricultural commodities. Serving as one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from the year 2004, Prashant Khanorkar takes ample initiative for sharing his agricultural knowledge and interest in ICT with other farmers in the village.



Mr Rajendra V Salave

Rajendra Salave (32), comes from Khandale village, a dry and drought prone area in Pune District, Maharashtra. Inspired by his role models Mahatma Phule and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, he obtained a Masters degree in Social Work in 1997.

During his junior college days he joined a Youth Mandal in his village, and participated in the activities of an NGO working for women's rights. After graduation, he worked in family counseling, health and training sectors in the fields of women's issues, HIV-AIDS and government schemes. He also worked as a Family Counsellor for three years and took active part in organizing morchas, and andolans to promote rights for Adivasis.

Ashta No Kai-India (ANK-I) is an important milestone in his career, as it has given him the opportunity to work in the villages in his own area. Under ANK-I, he promotes literacy programs in villages and also coordinates 74 Self Help Groups as well as the project's Bicycle Bank.

As an example of his work in promoting village development by empowering women and guiding them in solving their own problems, he mobilized a women's committee to take some action regarding the great delay in the implementation of the Krishna Valley water scheme sanctioned more than 35 years ago, to alleviate the village's critical water shortage. Thanks to his efforts the village women gained courage to visit the local authorities and press for their demands.

Rajendra Salave's rural background gives him a good understanding of the situation in the village setting and the needs of rural people. He is a committed and dedicated social worker, good at oratory skills and public speaking and in addition, he is a good trainer and skilled teacher.



Mr Rohidas Vishnu Vasave

Rohidas Vishnu Vasave (21), is from Pimpri Village located in a hill area of Pune district, Maharashtra. He is a SSC educated tribal youth, with tremendous spirit and zeal for education.

Presently, he is working as Assistant Centre Manager in the 'Rural Education and Information Networking' project supported by Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha and the World Bank. He is conducting classes for non-formal education for the weak students and non-school going children. He is assisting with management of the Centre as well as with coordination of the activities of 7 villages and KIRANS. As part of his work, he organizes vocational classes at the Centre with the help of Center Manager, and organizes film shows in his village on various subjects for the farmers and women.

Rohidas has attended a number of training courses such as Organic Farming, bamboo craft training, creation and organization of street plays, non-formal and remedial teaching training and literacy class training. He is training himself so that he can further impart the same skills to his fellow tribals, and be a tool for the spread of education to the tribal community.



Mr Santosh Pusaram Dhoot

Santosh Pusaram Dhoot (35), is a graduate from Medshi, district, Washim, Maharashtra, associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 .

He is working very effectively for rural people for village development, and is a very active farmer in his village participated in extension activities. He gives useful suggestions to farmers on how to increase yield with low expenditure, gives suggestions for irrigation management, soil management, and fertilizer application in soil for farm practices.

Santosh Dhoot also participated in Gadgebaba Gramswachata Abhiyan and takes the initiative to share his ICT training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Shivaji Mane

Shivaji Mane (32), a graduate, comes from Chatari village in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal, he is trained in computer applications and on quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing. A farmer, Shivaji Mane has organised the agriculture fair “Kisan Melawa” for the last two years for the agriculture department. He is also a member of “Sambhaji Brigade” - a voluntary organisation involved in disaster management. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage and has indepth knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Ms Shobha Umesh Wani

Shobha Umesh Wani (47), is a matriculate belonging to Sakali village, in a hilly area and forested region in district Jalgaon, Maharashtra. Jalgaon district being the leading area in banana production, Shobha Umesh Wani, an innovative and progressive farmer, felt the need for banana processing. In the year 1998, she formed a women's organisation for household processing of banana.

The organisation prepared a range of products from banana, which have become commercially viable and popular in the market. This organization participated in the National Banana Exhibition in 2000 where they demonstrated and displayed 35 products made from banana for which they received awards in five categories.

Actively involved in organising women folk in the rural area and empowering them by imparting training, skills and arranging study tours, Shobha Umesh Wani was awarded the prestigious Jijamata Krishibhushan award in the year 2002 by Government of Maharashtra for her contribution to agriculture and women's empowerment.



Mr Subhash Sharma

Subhash Sharma (53), is a B.Com graduate of Dorli Village, located in a dry area in Yavatmal District, Maharashtra.

He has experimented with various technologies on his farm and has been successful in achieving record yields in cotton , sorghum and wheat. After knowing the ill effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, he started experimenting with organic farming. His experiments not only made him gain confidence but also benefited other farmers.

He demonstrated that reducing the production cost and adopting appropriate management practices, including water management, could also enhance production. He has received the Government of Maharashtra's prestigious award Krishibhushan in the Year 2002.

Subhash Sharma is an innovative farmer who is always engaged in new experiments, and has mastery in disseminating the agricultural knowledge to the fellow farmers.



Mr Sudhakar Shinde

Sudhakar Shinde (42), a postgraduate, lives in Gangapur village in a dry zone of Latur district, Maharashtra. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and also with the Village Level water harvesting Group, he is a very active person in his village.

After a severe drought in 2000 the villagers started working on the concept of "Shramdan". A water harvesting group, "Gangadevi Jal Sandharan Sahakari Sanstha" was formed under his leadership. Within 2 years, the water level increased thereby reducing the dependency of the village on water tankers.

Sudhakar Shinde is trained in computer usage, Insurance and agri – commodities and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Shivaji Dagadappa Torkad

Shivaji Dagadappa Torkad (35), and SSC educated, hails from Village-Yeli in a dry zone of Hingoli district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004, and has even participated in the Jalswaraj Yojna. He motivates and assists the village folks involved in water management activities like water filtration, tree plantation and refilling of common wells and shares his knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Through ITC-IBD he is trained in computer usage and Internet browsing, and takes the initiative to share his ICT experience .



Mr Vikas Giri

Vikas Giri (24), a high school pass, resides in lyahari village in Nanded district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and is involved with the Nirantar Shiksha Yojana.

He conducts classes regularly for village children. The education material namely, books, maps, sports goods received from the Education Department are used by him to disseminate information and teach the children. He also takes the initiative to share with other farmers in the village all the training inputs he has obtained from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various FMCG products.

Ms Anupama Mohanta

Anupama Mohanta (23), has studied up to +2 grade and comes from Nishaposi village in Mayurbhanj district, Orissa. The main occupation of the people is agriculture and they also depend on non timber forest produce since the village is located in a forest region where sometimes elephants are found.

She has keen interest in child rights related activities and is a child mentor, facilitating the child-rights programmes of the village. She manages the activities of the children's club - Bajrangbali Sishu Sangha, scheduling their meetings, organising children in the group and helping them to design the activities of the club.

She also involves herself in agricultural work, and is one of the active members of village level Self Help Groups. Although Anupama is new to these types of activities, she is organising and coordinating the assigned tasks in a proper manner. She has been involved with One World South Asia for the past 2 years and has received training on community communication skills.

Mr Jagdish Das

Jagdish Das (23), comes from Kundala village in Keonjhar district, located in the forest area of northern Orissa. A graduate, he has expertise in functional literacy and health issues. He is a good motivator and an organizer and is now working as a child rights mentor and village animator. He is actively involved in child rights activities of a children's club - Alokjyoti Child Rights Club, where he organizes the members and monitors children's meetings and activities. Through a consultative process he assists children in identifying issues.

He is also looking after the village development activities like coordinating village meetings, meetings of SHG, organising various activities, preparing the various reports of the village etc. He is also a good actor performing in different plays.

Mr Kanhei Charan Naik

Kanhei Charan Naik (25), of Gorandijodi village, Keonjhar district, Orissa

has studied up to high school. He is actively involved with the community activities since last 2 years in the areas of agriculture, health, functional literacy and child rights related activities

Kanhei is involved in child rights activities in the village and is the mentor of Dharmapada Sishu Sangha (Children's club of the village). He looks after the activities of club, conducts meetings of the children and helps them to identify issues and the role of different stakeholders to address the issues in a consultative manner. He motivates the children to be involved and organised. He is a good singer and also writes small stories reflecting on various issues.



Ms Amirtham Dharmalingam

Amirtham Dharmalingam (37), is from Embalam village, Pondicherry. A dynamic entrepreneur, she has studied up to 9th class and proved herself as one among the best knowledge workers involved in community development activities through the Rural Knowledge Centre. She became self-innovative in running her own small-scale pickle production unit at home and generating considerable income. She also produces soap oil, phenol and detergent blue in a small scale as part of her income generating activities. She is an active trainer for production of numerous such cottage industry products.

Amirtham helped several aged women and widows to get their monthly pension from the concerned departments. About 38 families were helped for training on scientific rearing of cattle by Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary Science with educational stipends from DRDA. She has trained about 30 Self Help groups to start their own enterprises.

As part of her contribution for village development, she became a participant of the health camps organized by the department of health on general health, dental care and eye care, directing the people to the concerned hospitals. Similarly she acted as an animator for AIDS, malaria and leprosy camps to make the people aware of the program.

She is computer literate and teaches her own children as well as other children. She is a good social worker and shares whatever knowledge she gains with fellow members of society.



MrM Arulselvam

Arulselvam (27), hails from a fisher family in Nallavadu village, Pondicherry. He is a senior volunteer at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2003. He has studied up to 12th class and has a Diploma in Computer Application. Being computer literate he has taken every step to promote computer literacy in his village through the Knowledge Centre.

The versatile experience gained as a Knowledge Worker enabled him to manage the Village Knowledge Centres set up by MSSRF in some tsunami affected villages of Tamil Nadu this year. With full zeal and interest he spends most of his valuable time for the development of the fishermen community.

As a volunteer Arulselvam guides youth in Nallavadu to apply for government jobs and has helped a few get government jobs in Pondicherry. As a trainer, he guides teachers and students to participate in computer assisted learning programme and also guides students to take up some courses relevant to fishery, He also takes responsibility for dissemination of coastal information to the fishermen on a day-to-day basis.

Apart from computer skills, he is proficient with wireless networking for data and voice transmission and was successful in using the public addressing system to alert his people at the time of tsunami in his village Nallavadu. He is also a good writer and has expertise in art and screen-printing.



Mr N Gnanasekar

Gnanasekar (25), from Poornonkuppam village, Pondicherry, has studied up to 12th class and has a diploma in computer application and computer office automation. Hailing from a farmer's family, he is highly innovative and has taken the initiative to guide farmers of his home village. A senior volunteer of the MSSRF Knowledge Centre, MSSRF since 2000, he is computer literate and has taken every step to promote computer literacy in his village through the Knowledge Center.

In Poornonkuppam, nearly 80% of the farmers are horticulturists cultivating vegetables and flowers. Gnanasekar is a farmer's friend and guide, helping them to do appropriate farming in their land, based on soil condition and season. Being a farmer's son, he takes personal care and guides them away from chemical fertilizer and pesticide, to opt for organic farming and inter-cropping, which fetches good profit.

Gnanasekar trains regular students and school dropouts to participate in the computer assisted learning programme. Every year he conducts free computer training program the students by using educational CDs and joins hands with Non –Formal education programme to given free computer training to more than 50 students. He helps other NGOs conduct health awareness programs like pre and post natal care of pregnant and lactating mothers, anemia, diabetics, child immunization practices, gynecological disorders, AIDs etc., to their villagers. He focuses on environmental sanitation and pollution issues in his village through community meetings.



Ms Janaki Vinayagam

Janaki Vinayagam (32), from Thirukanchipet Dalit village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 10th class and proved herself as one among the best of community development workers.

She is associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2003 and is a living example of how a woman can become independent to face the day-to-day challenges in life and how to solve them through timely attention. She inspired and empowered by seeing other women of similar calibre functioning as social reformers in her village, she came forward to be a volunteer and social worker to help her own fellow members.

Janaki became computer literate and became a qualified tutor to run her own computer-training centre. She was given training on soap oil, phenol and detergent blue production and is now an active trainer of the various enterprises. She is the first woman driver of the emission free "bijili" tempo, the peoples' transport vehicle owned by the twelve women Self Help groups of Thirukanchipet village.

She participates in health related camps organized by the department of health on general health, dental, eye care. Similarly for AIDs, malaria, leprosy camps she acted as animator to make the people aware of the programmes.

She is Secretary in Environmental Pollution Control Committee, Secretary for the Social Forestry Programme and a Member of the Tank Irrigation project in her village. Hailing from a very backward village community she works sincerely for upliftment of the member of her community, especially women.



Ms Jayanthi Janakiraman

Jayanthi Janakiraman, (21), from Koonichempet Dalit village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 12th class and is a respected knowledge worker at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

She holds responsible positions in the village as a member of the group for village-level Environmental Pollution Control, a member of a Youth Association and a member of Rotary Club village level committee. Under the poverty alleviation program, she directed families acquire their own shelter through subsidy released by the Government, and directed many women members get their due government entitlements through Self Help groups. She is also an active participant in social forestry scheme introduced by the government for environmental protection.

For income generation, Jayanthi helps youth in her village join various training programs like learning jute bag making by machine, promotes women's tailoring enterprises at home, encourages cattle owners to get trained at the Veterinary College on scientific rearing of cattle and organizes training camps on fruits and vegetable preservation and preparation of nutritious food for children.



MrK Munian

Munian (20) is a Dalit youth from Koonichempet village in Pondicherry, educated up to 12th class. With a desire to assist the young people in his village he joined as a volunteer in the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre, and proved himself as one among the best knowledge workers involved in community development activities.

He trained himself in computer literacy, became qualified to train the local youth and students, and helped youth in his village to join various training programmes. He has contributed much for village development through participation in health services –diabetes prevention camp, eye health camp for general public and school children, blood donation camp, pulse polio distribution camp and general subjects like first aid to victims of fire and accident camp etc. Similarly he shares whatever knowledge he gains on health with other members of the community.

Under the poverty alleviation programme, along with other Knowledge Workers, he helped 10 families build their own shelter at a cost of Rs.55000, under the subsidy released by the Government. He also helped a physically handicapped student get his entitlement of a free tri-cycle from the government. He is an active participant in social forestry scheme introduced by the government for environmental protection, and holds several positions such as Member in the village-level Environmental Pollution Control committee.



Mr K Murgan

Murugan (20), comes from a Dalit family in Koonichempet village, Pondicherry. He holds a Diploma in Computer Teacher Education, has proved to be one of the best knowledge workers at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

He has attended numerous training camps on a variety of subjects such as diabetes prevention, eye health for general public and school children, blood donation, and pulse polio distribution; He has helped conduct dental camp, blood pressure checking camp, eye camp organized by Aravind Eye Hospital, awareness camp on oral cancer and tobacco and identification jointly conducted by MSSRF & JIPMER, ENT and Eye care camp, training on first aid to victims of fire and accident camp, traffic rules and regulation awareness program, Ozone environment awareness camp, Human Right awareness camp etc., He has contributed much for his village development by sharing whatever knowledge he gained through his training, with other members of the society.

Murugan is qualified to train the local youth and the students in computer operations and helps them to get employment opportunity information from the rural knowledge center and is in charge of a Night School for the school dropouts and elders.

He directed many male members get their government entitlements and organized various training programs for youth on jute bag production, for women on tailoring, computer operation training, organic farming practices, rain water harvesting, handicraft training to students, scientific rearing of cattle for the farmers and cattle owners, and touch screen operation training for the farmers and cattle owner as the subject related to livestock management.

An active participant in social forestry schemes introduced by the government for environmental protection, he motivated people through youth associations not to pollute the air with fire crackers during festivals, for healthy environment. He holds positions as Member in the village-level Environmental Pollution Control Committee, Youth Association and Rotary club village level committee.



Mr K Raja

Raja (25), a sportsman from Kalitheerthalkuppam village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 10th class. He is an excellent knowledge worker involved in community development activities through MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre. Always wanting to improve the life and cultural activities of youth members of his society, he had the zeal to learn computer operations and become a qualified tutor.

He has become a good friend to farmers in his area by sharing information promptly about agriculture, stock market information on food grains like paddy, pulses and cereals received from the regulated markets located in and around Pondicherry and also guiding them by proper weather warnings which saved the crops of many farmers. Similarly about 11 youth became government employees aided by proper and prompt guidelines and advice from Raja.

With the help of youth movements in his village and through Government and NGOs, he has solved several village issues like arranging for village roads, street lights, drainage pits and de-silting the tank bunds etc., and is a young reformer in his village.



Ms Rajalakshumi Manickavel

Rajalakshumi Manickavel (22), from a fisher family in the coastal village of Veerampattinam in Pondicherry. She has studied up to 12th class, and is associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2004. Generally, women from the fisher community are always hesitant to come out and do public service, but Rajalakshumi set an example of being available always in the Rural Knowledge Centre to share information knowledge with other members of society.

She qualified herself by getting various trainings like primary screening of eye diseases through Aravind Eye Hospital, making sea shell ornaments, mushroom cultivation and kitchen garden maintenance. She has been helping fisher community by providing their daily information needs like weather forecast and wave height, and information on employment opportunities to the unemployed youth and training opportunities to the women in her village. She has turned herself as a public relation person to direct her village community to the right direction to get their entitlements.

Having become computer literate and qualified to train local youth and the students, she promotes computer literacy and encourages children to use the educational CDs in the Rural Knowledge Centre.



Ms Rukmani Thangarasu

Rukmani Thangarasu (35), from Embalam village, in Pondicherry, is a senior volunteer in the MSSRF Knowledge Centre. Educated upto class X, she holds very active positions in community based institutions like Self Help groups, Block Level Committees and in the Village Development Council at Embalam. She is a good trainer in formation of Self Help group, computer literacy and various enterprises producing cottage industry products , pickles and ornamental crafts.

Rukmani has contributed much for health promotion in her village and was a Pulse Polio Immunization volunteer for two years continuously. She participated in health camps organized for HIV-Aids, malaria, filaria and leprosy, and conducted health survey in 200 households for Aravind Eye Hospital to detect cataract problems.

She has been involved in a watershed management and rainwater harvesting programme organized by Public Works Department, and is the best content developer for the Open Knowledge Network on identifying prevailing indigenous medicinal practices.



Ms Selvarani Kandiban

Selvarani Kandiban (37), Embalam village in Pondicherry overcame her diffidence to become a volunteer in the MSSRF Rural Knowledge centre. A housewife with education upto class IX, she was inspired by seeing other women of her own peer group becoming social reformers in her village, to become computer literate and qualify as a tutor to run her own computer-training center.

She now holds positions in community-based institutions like the Village Development Council, Self Help Groups and Non-formal Adult Education programmes. With an urge to solve general problems in her village, she moved her women's Self Help group members to approach the Electricity department to find a permanent solution for erratic power supply in her village, arranging speed-breakers near the school by the Public Works department and set right a community water tank generator. She was innovative in procuring "power tiller" through her Self Help group savings for renting out to the small and marginal farmers for tilling their land at the time of cultivation, which fetched considerable income to the SHG.

Selvarani is an active participant and motivator in all the exposure and training programmes organized by the Dept of Health on pulse polio immunization, and eye health surveys in her village. She is a resource person for training staff of an NGO –Volontariat, on soap oil, washing powder, phenol and detergent blue production. She directed many women members to get their government entitlements and several families to take up Life Insurance –Jana Raksha policy, and motivated alcoholics to go to the de-addiction camps. She advocates the message of rational usage of water for irrigation and household purpose in her village.



Ms Sumathi Govindarasu

Sumathi Govindarasu, (31) , from Embalam village in Pondicherry has studied up to 5th class. Though she always feels that she has only primary school education, she became empowered by seeing other women of same caliber comin forward. This prompted her to be a volunteer and social worker to help her own fellow members and she is today among the best knowledge workers associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

She is self-innovative and runs her own small-scale production unit at home generating considerable income by producing rose milk, jam and juice varieties, soap oil, phenol and detergent blue and is an active trainer for Self Help groups for starting their own enterprises. As part of her contribution for village development, she became one of the participants of the health related camps organized by the department of health and acted as animator to make the people aware of the various programmes. Whatever knowledge she gained on health was shared by her with her fellow members of society.

Sumathi is computer literate and a qualified tutor. She is a good social worker, assists the cattle owners to undergo enterprise training and training on scientific rearing of cattle from PONLaIT, and assists village people to access life insurance policies and entitlements.



Mr M Suresh

Suresh 929), Dalit family in Thirukanchipet village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 12th class. A knowledge worker involved in community development activities through the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre. With zeal to learn computer operations and become a qualified tutor and always wanting to improve the life of youth members of his society, he joined as a volunteer in the rural knowledge centre. He helps his fellow members to become computer literate and helps them get information on employment opportunities from the Centre.

Suresh always keeps track of various village level issues and helps solve them with the help of his friends in the Youth Club. At the Knowledge Centre, he helps people get applications for birth certificate, revenue certificate, resident certificate, job applications etc., He also found a solution for getting caste certificate for people who did not have the caste evidence according to the Government Gazetteer of 1964, by making the whole village certify that he/she belonged to particular caste and submitting to the revenue department which then accepted the evidence. In this regard he arranged a meeting with the Legal Aid cell members to guide them.

He promotes education as a member of the Non-formal education group and conducts free tuition classes in the evenings. As a member of the Youth Association, his vision is to keep his village clean, developing more social forestry, preventing wastage of drinking water, keeping streets clean, and taking messages that are informative and good for community development to the door steps of the people.

Ms Karamjit Kaur

Karamjit Kaur (22), a graduate in Computer Applications comes from Zira in Ferozpur district, Punjab.

Karmjit teaches the Microsoft Unlimited Potential course to thirty students at her TARA kendra.

In a very small town in northern India, where the mere thought of a woman working for a living, is considered a blasphemy, Karmjit runs her own business. An affliction of polio may have enfeebled her limbs, but certainly not her spirit. When she decided to set up her own TARAKendra (TARAhaat IT based community and learning centre), nobody in her neighbourhood believed that she would make it. But now, just after a year, the very same people send their daughters to the TARAKendra to be taught computers.

“I want set an example for other girls; I want to show everybody that girls are capable of more than they are thought of.” says an enthusiastic Karmjit who believes that every girl should know computers, and wants to achieve a major headway in her efforts to promote computer education amongst girls. She is also of the opinion that the fact of being taught by a female instructor has led many parents to shed their inhibitions in sending their girls to the TARA kendra.



Mr Bhagirath Saran

Bhagirath Saran (32), from Kagasar village in Bikaner district, Rajasthan, is educated up to 9th Std and works as a cluster coordinator in Kalu cluster under Urmul Setu Sansthan, Lunkaransar.

He is fully devoted for community development and has participated in improving the status of women and encouraging them to take up income generation programmes. He had managed various activities such as community training, plantation programme, advocacy for vulnerable women, education to adolescent girls and health facilitation training to community.

Hardworking, sincere and proactive, Bhagirath Saran has been working for the last 10 years and has helped the organisation with his advocacy and local leadership qualities for carrying out programmes. He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices His functions facilitate the villagers to communicate problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet media.



Mr Habib Khan

Habib Khan (20), from Nure ki Bhurj village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, is studying for a BA degree. He is a social activist in Doosra Dasak Sanstha, Phalodi and works in various village development programs. Selected as Ek Duniya Kayee Kahaniya Fellow, he participated in several training programs including training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices His functions facilitate the villagers to communicate problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet media and to disseminate information on health and hygiene and environment.



Mr Harchand Legha

Harchand Legha (26), from Ajitmana village, in Bikaner district, Rajasthan is 12th pass and participates in various state level programmes. He has been supporting Urmul Setu Sansthan's village development programmes for the last one year and is also working with government on total sanitation programme.

Having been selected as Ek Duniya Kayee Kahaniya Fellow by One World South Asia, he participated in several training programmes including on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight these through the media. His role is to organise radio listeners' clubs, facilitating discussions on the broadcasted programmes. Besides this, he is also involved in writing on social issues, radio programme script and recording voices and also managing community web sites.



Mr Hari Singh Gurjar

Hari Singh Gurjar (44), lives in Kherwal village, in Dausa district, Rajasthan. A Progressive landholding farmer, he has studied upto 8th Std, and has expertise in agriculture, live stock, functional literacy and health issues.

He has been a Sanchalak in ITC'S e-Choupal since 2004, working very hard for dissemination of knowledge on best practices of farming and bringing awareness among the farmers on how to get good prices for their produce. He uses the internet to gain knowledge about the latest and best agricultural practices, and on application of timely and adequate amount of manure and fertilizer for good results and economic farming. Always ready to adopt something new and setting an example for others, he is a trend setter and opinion leader in his village; Most of the villagers ask for his advice before taking any decision. He is always keen to do something for the betterment of the people and children of his village, and plays an important role in resolving disputes of the village families.



Mr Jayanti Lal Sutar

Jayanti Lal Sutar (31), from Bhuwasiya village, Chittaurgarh district, Rajasthan, has studied up to 12th Std. He is an active Sanchalak in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes keen interest in spreading knowledge of agriculture related information in his village . He regularly shares best practices which he tries to implement , and has helped many farmers increase the productivity of their fields. Having obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative Fast-Moving Consumer Goods(FMCG), he takes initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village.



Mr Mangej Kumar

Mangej Kumar (20), from Tankarda village in Jaipur district, Rajasthan, is studying for his BA degree. He had worked under National Service Scheme disseminating information on HIV/AIDS and STD to the community through local traditional methods. His programmes involve drama, puppet shows and songs. Since these media can easily communicate information to the larger community, he used them for awareness creation on HIV/AIDS for Balmanch, schools and adolescents and also for information dissemination to panchayat, VEC's and various other local committees. Mangej Kumar was selected as Ek duniya kai kahaniyan Fellow by One World South Asia and has received training on community communication skills.



Mr Mohan Patidar

Mohan Patidar (30), hails from Chokla village, Banswara district, Rajasthan. Educated upto 12th Std, he has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004. He is a very keen believer in using IT to help small farmers. He is in touch with all the small farmers of his village and tries to improve their productivity by using scientific methods. His belief is in the fact that a village cannot progress until farmers participate. He has tried to use innovative and inexpensive methods of farming to bring benefits to the small farmers. Mohan Patidar has obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer and internet usage, Life & General Insurance, agri commodities pricing and quality. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village.



Mr Narayan Ram

Narayan Ram (33), from Kolu Rathora village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan has studied upto 8th Std. He has relevant experience in several areas of community work and is involved with community work in Kolu Pabuji Gram Panchayat. Prior to this, he worked with programmes for upliftment of the dalit community in Urmul Samiti, Phalodi. In addition to this, he was active in promoting self help groups, afforestation drives as well as programmes for dissemination of relevant information on government schemes pertaining to BPL families. This involved working in association with local cooperative committees.

He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight these through the media. Having participated in the Ek Duniya workshop has aroused his interest and commitment to send stories on local issues; he has been selected as a Fellow by One World South Asia.



Mr Pira Ram Dehati

Pira Ram Dehati (36), is a graduate with B.Ed., from Dasori village in Bikaner district, Rajasthan.

He has worked as a field worker in Urmul Trust, Bikaner for the last 8 years. Balika Shivar is a 6-month residential camp for girls above the age group of 12 years who are deprived of education. Other than providing primary education which is supported by Pira Ram, which is the primary objective of the shivar, it also includes activities which supplements the overall development of the child such as providing books and other educational aids. Pira Ram helps in organization of the shivar and in mobilizing the community for sending their girls to the shivar, selection of teachers, formulation of core committee to manage the activities etc. He works in close interaction between the girls and the teachers. Pira Ram received an award from the District Collector for his efficient and effective implementation of Balika Shivar. His main objective is to improve the quality of education and to improve the status of life in the village. He has laid his main emphasis on girls' education, gender sensitisation and empowerment of women.



Ms Pushpa Vishnoi

Pushpa Vishnoi (23), lives in Soorsagar village in Jodhpur district, which falls in the semi arid zone of western Rajasthan. She is a graduate pursuing further studies, actively involved in community activities since the last three years.

She has expertise in the field of gender issues, micro finance, community mobilization and institution building. As she belongs to the same region she has a very good rapport with the community, particularly with the womenfolk. She has attended of the capacity building events on project specific and area specific issues and possesses good written and verbal communication skills. On some occasions she has represented the organization in different forums.

Sincere, hardworking and honest in her approach, Pushpa Vishnoi has good understanding of local conditions and is sensitive towards the local issues. Her NGO orientation has developed her vision to contribute painstakingly to improve the life of the underprivileged.



Mr Rambaksh Bhakar

Rambaksh Bhakar (36), from Khera Narnolia village in Nagaur district in the arid zone of Rajasthan, has studied upto 10th Std and has expertise in agriculture, micro finance, water management, health issues and craft training. He obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer and internet usage, insurance, quality parameters and pricing of agri commodities, information on various fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), etc. and has been a Sanchalak for the past one and a half years. He is a hard worker with good knowledge about agriculture and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village, giving the details

on usage of Information Technology to farmers on daily basis. He won the award of Best Sanchalak in this year's Sanchalak Sammelan



Mr Ramnivash Prajapat

Ramnivash Prajapat (32), from Bhojasar village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, studied upto Class XII.

He has been a field worker in Urmul Marusthali Bunkar Vikas Samiti, Phalodi, Jodhpur and has worked under the health project especially in immunization and pulse polio programme. Ram Niwas motivated the villagers and disseminated information to them about immunization and health programmes. He also encouraged village panchayat with the support of VECs and various local committees.

He had also worked with Self Help Groups, linking them with income generation programme to improve the livelihood status of women. He was efficient in setting up SHG groups consisting of 10-11 women who learnt to save their earnings.



Mr Rau Ram Meghwal

Rau Ram Meghwal (34), has studied upto 12th standard and lives in Kolu Rathora village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan.

He has been involved with community work in Kolu Pabuji Gram Panchayat. Prior to this, he was involved with programmes organised by Urmul Samiti at Phalodi for the upliftment of dalit communities. His work has covered different aspects of community work like promoting self-help groups, afforestation drives, facilitating access to information on relevant government programmes for BPL families in association with village cooperative centres.

Ram Rau Meghwal has wide ranging experience in field work and is connected with a variety of issues. He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. He has been selected as Ek Duniya Fellow by OWSA.



Mr Santosh Kumar Tyagi

Santosh Kumar Tyagi (32), is a landholding farmer and a graduate from Sadikpur village in Dholpur district, a village located near the Chambal river in Rajasthan.

Santosh Kumar obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various FMCG products. He takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village, providing information to villagers from time to time regarding improved cultivation practices of crops and rates of mandi. He acts as helpdesk for farmers by forwarding questions related to plant protection and other problems to the hub team for expert guidance.



Mr Tarachand Malav

Tarachand Malav (31), belongs to Raithal village, Baran district, Rajasthan. An agriculturist with class XII education, he has done commendable work in helping the farmers of his village, by using the computer effectively to disseminate knowledge about the latest agricultural practices. He initiated the practice of soil testing in his village and spreads awareness of its benefits through field visits and demonstrations. He is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from the year 2004 and is respected by his village community.



Mr E Altrin

E. Altrin (26), is a computer professional belonging to Victoria Nagar, a fishing hamlet in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu. Associated with the MSSRF Village Knowledge Centre at M.G.R.Nagar, Thangachimadam, he has been assisting a Handicapped Welfare Association for the past 5 years and is also a member and district secretary of All India Handicapped Association. He has organized several health camps for physically challenged people in co-ordination with district Health Department, and helps them to get medical certificates, train concession, tricycle etc from the government departments. He also organizes training programmes like ornamental shell craft making, tailoring, book binding etc. and he takes steps to market the products .

Altrin's occupation is fish trading, and he is an active self-help group member, through which he creates awareness on reasons for depletion of fish resources, importance of coral reefs etc. He is regular in attending the Grama Sabha meetings and raises the questions related to hygiene and infrastructure facilities in his village.

Now he is actively involved in village knowledge centre activities and motivates youth to become computer literate.



Mr N Arun

N.Arun (27), from Melapatti Village, Pudukkottai district, TN, is DEEE educated. By occupation, he is a milk co-operative union Secretary, and also does electrical work on contract basis.

He is the leader of a SHG named Subash Ilangyar Narpani Mandram, and along with his team members he is encouraging school dropouts working in gem cutting units to attend school properly. He encouraged the Child Labour School, receiving an award for his sincere social work from the District Administration.

He helped reduce the water problem in his village by building small tanks to avoid wastage of water, motivated the community to use the tanks for water storage and also educates them in Rain Water Harvesting Techniques. One of his remarkable contributions is formation of Milk Society in Illupur for the benefit of the community. Now it has become a government undertaking and he and his friends are working as temporary employees.

Arun has done excellent work for his community and he is a role model for other youngsters. Now he is actively involved in Computer Education for school students.



Ms Bagavathi Ammal

Bagavathi Ammal (34), born in Veerapandianpattanam on the sea coast of Thoothukudi district, TN has been very keen and interested in promoting various aspects that are needed for rural development. She is + 2 educated and has undergone the 2 days CBFL ALP training conducted by TATA Consultancy Services before launching CBFL and also 2 days inservice training from Block Resource Centre on literacy through computers .

She has been associated with the government in implementing schemes. With the help of the rural development agency she motivated people to construct 332 individual household toilets. Through her efforts she has made people of her village aware about family planning and its importance and 33 cases have successfully undergone the surgery.

Bagavathi Ammal's commitment towards making people literate has made her facilitate the ALP classes and has covered 30 batches in which 496 people were trained to be functionally illiterate. She says that every human has the responsibility to not only develop their own selves but also to have concern and make efforts for the development of their fellow men and women.



Ms M Banumathi

Banumathi (41), from Iluppakkorai, Thanjavur district, TN is a social activist with a passion and commitment to the social and economic upliftment and empowerment of rural women. A widow, she has studied up to 9th standard and is a Treasurer of All Women Farmers Club of Iluppakkorai. The club got an International Award from World Women Summit Foundation, Geneva.

Born in a traditional agriculture family which restricts women from going out of the house, Banumathi somehow managed to attend a training programme organized by the state Agriculture Dept in 1995. This influenced her to develop income-generating skills for the farm women to enhance their economic situation. She was a pioneer in Pseudomonas, Trichoderma viridi production in this area, and she also taught its preparation to a number of farmers. She also underwent coir making training and earns additional income to motivate others to do the same. She and few innovative farm women of her village are engaged in catering.

Endowed with good leadership qualities, Banumathi has successfully mobilized women SHGs and enlightened them about the social and welfare programmes of the Govt. She has participated in many All India Radio Programmes and shared her agricultural experiences. She has conducted many Sanitation Awareness Programmes and Awareness Programmes for adolescents and is a role model for many women in the village. Now she has started learning computer with the help of MSSRF and very soon she will emerge as a knowledge worker in her village.



Ms M Jeya

Jeya (34), from Theethampatti in Thoothokudi district, TN, has studied upto class XII. A physically challenged woman, with great will power to work for the development of society, she says even though she started to work for her society little late, she is happy that she can do something now and would like to learn more to build a developed model village .

She has undergone Special Two days CBFL ALP Training conducted by TATA Consultancy Services and attended the 3 days orientation and Self Help Group formation training conducted by Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation. She facilitated 2 batches of CBFL ALP in her Continuous education centre through which 95 men and women benefited. The people were also oriented on SHGs and 5 groups were formed. Her work has also helped to implement 150 individual household latrines. Her interest in the care of school dropouts made 39 students to rejoin school education. One of the groups she formed was specially for the physically challenged people.



Ms Kasthuri Chandrasekaran

Kasthuri Chandrasekaran (44), belongs to Pulvaikarai, Virudunagar district, Tamil Nadu. With only primary level education, she was the first person in her village who understood the concept of self-help and mutual help for self-reliant and self-sufficient village development, and mobilised more than 1500 rural women into self-help groups. She is Community Leader of Covenant Centre for Development, President Mahakalasm Trust (Microfinance organisation) and President Community Enterprise Forum International .

Kasthuri Chandrasekaran is involved in capacity building of microfinance groups, promotion of local resource based enterprises for generating livelihood options and promotion of community centred development model in medicinal plants and herbal products. Her Trust analysed the consumption loan spending patterns of members and found that household medical expenses formed a major part of the consumption loans . Since simple ailments could be managed at the household level with simple remedies, the Trust decided to promote Kitchen Herbal Gardens (KHGs) that would cater to the primary healthcare needs of rural families. She documented more than 2000 cases of indigenous knowledge and grassroots level innovations in the field of medicine and livelihoods, and has taken many steps for value-addition of resources and encouragement of traditional skills.

Kasturi is a role model and has got international recognition for her pioneering work.



Mr B Logidasan

Logidasan (26), who was born in a agricultural labour's family at Posampati village, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu. After completion of high school, he engaged himself in the family occupation - agriculture. During his leisure time he started to get involved and initiated himself in some social activities. He works to generate awareness on tree planting, small savings, anti – untouchability, evils of drinking etc.

He was appointed as a Prerak in Posampatti Panchayat because of his commitment to social activities. After assuming work, he undertook a door to door literacy survey and identified 126 men and 161 women illiterates in the age above 15. Before the launch of Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) he was involved in teaching the adult illiterates and he successfully made 62 adults literate.

His work was enhanced with the introduction of CBFL with the donation of Computers by TCS. In the first batch, 18 women benefited and 20 are undergoing training currently. The centre and the village was covered by the national news channel NDTV and telecast nationally .



Mr Manimaran

Manimaran (23), is a graduate from Rasingapuram a forest region and hill area, in Theni district, TN. A former LIC Agent he collected savings from village – to – village and provided timely loans to the needy members .

Manimaran has organized agriculture campaign meeting for members, organized farmers' groups and provided farmers with training and awareness, and seeds for better crops.

He has also organized cleanliness campaigns in his village with the help of the panchayat as well as other village development work. Through Chiraag, he is earning by offering DDTP services, computer education, spoken English course, browsing and computer games. He also provides services of project works, Internet search, photo for ration cards and other facilities for the village community.



Mr R Murugan

R. Murugan (36), from, Anghuchettipalyam, a tropical coastal area of Cuddalore district, TN, has a Diploma in Pharmacy . A progressive farmer, he is helping the local farming community in various aspects of modern crop husbandry.

Murugan provides Internet browsing at concessional rates at his village internet kiosk centre, to students. His role in helping the farmers avail financial facilities for raising crops, minor irrigation etc from banks is appreciable. Other services provided by him are Video conferencing with Department of Agriculture and TNAU scientists, organic manure sales, arranging farmers club meetings and conducting rural medical camps and yoga classes.



Mr K P Murugesh

K.P.Murugesh (46), hails from Kuvattupatty, a hamlet in Pudukkottai District, TN, A traditional agriculturist and specialist in organic farming, he has studied upto SSLC. A demonstrator of herbal insecticide, vermi compost, rain water harvesting and recharging and of farm pond fish farming, his varied contribution towards community development is immense and he is an asset to community.

As a Secretary of farmers' discursion group (FDG) in Pudukkottai district and a member of the scientific advisory committee of KVK-TNAU, K.P.Murugesh has served on a number of development projects. Now he is actively involved in establishing a Village Knowledge Centre his Panchayat .



Ms K Parameswari

Parameswari (20), is SSLC educated and comes from the Scheduled Tribes group from Ganamalai Panchayat, Jawadhi hills, Thiruvanamalai district of Tamil Nadu. She belongs to an illiterate family of agricultural labourers.

In the year 2003, the village was surveyed by Srinivasan Services Trust (SST) of TVS group with the help of the Madras University and many community development activities were initiated. Parameswari works as an animator for the village and also as representative for the village. She personally requested SST that CBFL be implemented in the village since there were many illiterates and on her request it was initiated.

With the help of the computer, she mobilized and encouraged the people to join the classes. The classes took place everyday from 7 to 8 in the evening. She maintained regular attendance and motivated the people to come for the classes. She also mobilized some gifts for the completed learners and more people were willing to join. She also taught the learners to write their names with the help of the software component. With the help of the TCS software and her efforts, 65 women were taught to read and are now progressing on learning to write.

On the completion of training of her first batch, The Hindu newspaper covered the story of her village and also witnessed the learner's ability to read.



Mr S Rajkumar

S.Rajkumar (33), Peravurani on the sea coast of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, has B. Sc. (Physics) DCA, D.I.M.E education. Wanting to help his village people through Internet access, he started a Chiraag kiosk in his village and is running the centre successfully.

Education is one of the best service (Red, Green Courses) offered, followed by Photoshop and DTP works. Browsing is the most popular service in his centre, bringing good earnings. He also provides agriculture services for the farmer community..



Ms Revathi Selvaraj

Ms.Revathi Selvaraj (40) from Thirupalanam village, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, has been involved community activities since 1998 as a volunteer in Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture (TANWA) project.

She has studied up to SSLC and got involved in development work after receiving training from TANWA and subsequent training programmes conducted by agricultural universities, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation and State Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu. She engages her time in helping self-help groups in financial record keeping using modern accounting software and also taking computer programmes to help various nodal agencies.

Revathi Selvaraj is good in documentation and provides indigenous knowledge about agriculture for dissemination to the farming community. She is engaged as knowledge worker at Thirupalanam Village Knowledge Centre and is enthusiastic to train the farmers in the field of organic farming. She has also organised many health camps and works closely with government health departments. She is a source of inspiration for others and a good motivator.



Mr R V Sampath Kumar

Sampath Kumar (45) from Ramanaikenpet village, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, has studied upto 12th Std. His areas of competency are agriculture and livestock, and he has been involved with Chiraag since 2004.

.As an operator in the kiosk, Sampath Kumar works hard to implement the services provided by Chiraag, educating the village children to learn more about computers and taking classes in spoken English. He also does job work like Online photoshop and browsing and is interested in rendering agri services for the community.



Ms M Shanthi

M. Shanthi (39), from Jeeva Nagar, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu, has completed 12th Std and has a Diploma in Tailoring. A prerak for the Continuing Education Program, Trichy district, she is involved in conducting literacy program, tailoring program and organising self help groups activities.

She conducts Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) classes of TCS for two hours daily. She has successfully completed batches of more than 60 women who are now functionally literate, including 25 women prisoners from Trichy Women's Prison.

Through Shanthi's involvement in self help group activities , in the year 2004 -05 a sum of Rs.13, 000/- was saved in the group and they had annual turnover of Rs.70,000/- . Having a good skill in tailoring, Shanthi with the help of the funds from the government was able to start a tailoring unit in the Continuing Education Centre. Her main aim is to educate and help people generate self employment. She enrolled the Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) women to this tailoring training and at present 15 women are getting trained. Women who complete this training can earn Rs.90 to Rs.100 a day. Shanthi's initiative was very much appreciated by the District Collector and her Self help group exhibited their home made products at the "International Literacy Day" Celebration.



Mr C Sivakumar

C.Sivakumar (30), from Vaitheesvaran Koil, Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu, is B.Sc D..E.E.E qualified with competency in agriculture and livestock. He was working as Principal in an ITI, and after getting introduced to Chiraag through a friend, he now runs a Chiraag center.

Sivakumar is conducting Online Tutorial for more than 30 students and educates the youth of his village. He provides all the computer and internet services and information including astrological services to his community.



Ms K Suguna

Suguna (23), was born in the Jagannathapuram village, Thiruvallore district, TN. 20 of the Scheduled Caste families from the village were asked to vacate to a hamlet called Arunajothipuram due to caste issues. She is the only literate female in the village who is studied up to SSLC from the nearby Government school.

She aims to make her village a complete literate village and she is working hard to achieve this. She finds it easy to operate the Computer Board Functional Literacy (CBFL) Software which is framed for better understanding by the rural people. She motivates the village people to attend the CBFL classes regularly. She has completed 2 batches successfully and more than 30 people have benefited. She says, it was a challenging job for her because everybody speaks Telugu in that village, but now after the CBFL they are able to read and write Tamil letters and words. At the same time, she helps small children in their education in the village. She helps the women who are in Self Help Groups to maintain their accounts and monitors the self help group's progress.

Suguna attended EDP training programme to prepare baking powder and is on the verge of starting her own unit.



Mr P Suresh Babu

Suresh Babu (26), is 12th Std educated and lives in Samanthipuram village, Thiruvanamalai district Tamil Nadu which is located in the Jawadhi Hill area in the Western Ghats.

He works as an animator for organising self help groups and coordinator for the Adult Literacy Programme of TCS run by the Srinivasan Services Trust (SST) of TVS group. He underwent training for operating the computer and the CBFL software given by TCS. He motivates SHG women members to attend the adult literacy programme classes. At present he coordinates 4 ALP centers in which 105 learners are getting trained.

Suresh Babu maintains the attendance of the learners and verifies their progress and trains SHG women to maintain the books. He also trains them to access government schemes and bank schemes. His challenge now is to make 1500 people literate in the next 6 months.



Ms V Tamil Selvi

Tamil Selvi (38), is a graduate from N.Nedungulam, Virudunagar Dist, TN. Starting her career as a teacher in a school promoted by ASSEFA, she worked as an organizer in the same organization, served as health organizer for 3 years and formed a village committee on health issues.

Tamil Selvi is working as a coordinator in Aravind Eye Hospital. She was responsible for the health education program and has been serving the community in the FH&DRSF as Community Organiser.



Mr G Thiyagarajan

G.Thiyagarajan (28), from Perambur, Nagapattinam district, TN, holds a Diploma in Electricals. He is running a photo shop, and offers educational services and agri services through his Chiraag center; and at the same time he is also running an electrical shop.

Thiyagarajan's other areas of competence are agriculture and livestock, and he takes keen interest in the development of his village. Through e-governance, he got the sanction for a road in his village, and he works for similar facilities.



Ms V Vijayalakshmi

V.Vijayalakshmi (34), from Mundalmunai, a small fishing hamlet located in Rameswaram Island, 15 km away from Rameswaram town in Ramanathapuram district, TN.

A member of the Ramanathapuram fish worker trade union, though educated only till 9th Std, she has sound knowledge of conservation of marine biodiversity and bioresources of Gulf of Mannar. She gives information to the members of the union about the important of marine biodiversity, fishermen rights and the issues related to fishing.

She is a good communicator with a strong social commitment and has been involved in social and development programmes especially for women in development. She is a good writer, contributing a regular column in a community newspaper on SHG concepts, micro enterprises, women rights etc.

Vijayalakshmi is now actively involved in the MSSRF Village knowledge Centre activity and motivating women's groups and adolescent girls to learn computer, accounting software training. Apart from that she has motivated rural women to step out of their homes and manage their lives better. She is a role model for empowering the fishing community.

She is an Executive member of the village marine council formed by Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Trust in Therkuvadi village, and also a Leader of Namathugramam Thittam in Pamban panchayat.



Mr Ajit Singh

Ajit Singh (42), from Kurthiya Village, Chandauli District, U.P is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes interest and initiative in sharing the knowledge of ICT with other farmers in the village. Educated upto 10th Std., helped in making a road in the village. According to others in the village, he has a helping nature and is always ready to solve the problems of other farmers in the area of agriculture and others if any.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.



Mr Akhilesh Kumar Singh

Akhilesh Kumar Singh (35), Karahipurwa village, Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh, is a farmer with Intermediate level education Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004, he shares all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Akhilesh Kumar has done a good job by providing seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and fast moving consumer goods directly to the farmers at reasonable rates. He also gives information to the farmers about the weather and about ways of effective farming. He always downloads all the information of farmers' interest from Choupal Site and gets it printed and distributes the same to the farmers. ITC has also awarded him for the second Best Sanchalak of UP branch in 2004.



Mr Devendra Dutt Mishra

Devendra Dutt Mishra (42), comes from Pure Dhirja village, Gonda district, UP, and has an M.A. degree. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002, he won the best Sanchalak award in Rural Distribution of qualitative FMCG & non-FMCG for 2004-2005, received the best Insurance awards in 2003-2004 and contributed highest wheat Procurement during 2003-2004 and enabled farmers to get remunerative price for their produce.

Devendra Dutt Mishra gives education to villagers about internet and usage of computer. He actively participates in all social activities and is known as a very good sanchalak amongst all the e-choupals.



Mr Jay Singh

Jay Singh (27), belongs to Kapathua village, Allahabad district, UP. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002, he gives knowledge to villagers on internet usage and weather and mandi rates of wheat and other agricultural commodities. He organises meetings of villagers and gives information on how to improve their situation through ITC e-choupal.

Jay Singh has training on Computer usage and pricing of agricultural commodities and various FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village and has won best sanchalak award of Allahabad Hub at the 2005 Sanchalak amsmelan.



Mr Jitendra Singh

Jitendra Singh (27), comes from Ladpur Chhinava village, in Auraiya district, UP. Intermediate sducated Jitendra Singh educates the farmers about the benefit of e-Choupal in terms of agri-extension, procurement, rural distribution and financial services and ensures regular distribution of FMCG products in the village. He explains the usage of internet in farming and best agriculture practices to the villagers and finds answers to their problems through mail from the hub. Jitendra Singh is a Principal in a Junior High School. He also financially supports the education of poor children of the village. Recently he won the “Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005” award.



Mr Manoj Kumarr Tripathi

Manoj (35), belongs to Sikandarajeet pur village, Maharajganj District, U.P, and is a M.A., B.Ed. He disseminates information and knowledge of new agricultural technology. He is involved in agri extension and in giving full support to villagers on insurance and other facilities. He also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and the crop yield of farmers in the area has increased. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002 and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Manoj Kumar Dixit

Manoj Kumar Dixit (27), comes from Wasaina village, near the bank of the river Ganga in Unnao district, in U.P. A biology graduate, he has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004. Manoj Kumar runs a secondary school in the village and plays a very active role in the social development of the village. He is performing a good role in terms of information dissemination to his fellow village men on weather forecasting and best agricultural practises through the internet usage. He plays an active role in distributing good quality products at right prices to the retail outlets. Having been trained in the areas of computer application and agri-commodities, he takes an active interest to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Pradeep Singh

Pradeep Singh (32), from Rampur Rewti village, Santkabir Nagar district, UP hold a B.Sc degree and has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. He mobilised a youth group “Nav Yuvak Mangal Dal” for doing social development work in the village.

Pradeep Singh is trained in Computer application and quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Rajendra Mishra

Rajendra Mishra (35), comes from Jamurawan village, RaeBareli district, U.P. He is a graduate and has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Rajendra Mishra actively participates in rural distribution activities, knowledge dissemination through frontline field demonstration and gave the Best Field Demonstration of Paddy in UP conducted by ITC Ltd, IBD RaeBareli.

He has fair knowledge of internet usage, having obtained training on Computer usage and Internet browsing. He is also trained in quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and has knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Ramdayal Verma

Ramdayal Verma (), from Umari, Sulthanpur, UP, a graduate and a farmer, is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD who takes interest in sharing the knowledge of ICT with other farmers in the village. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.



Mr Ravindra Pal Singh

Ravindra Pal Singh (36) is from Gauriyakala , an interior village of Unnao district, UP. He is a graduate, associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2003. He has obtained training in the areas of computer application, importance of life and general insurance, quality parameters of various agri-commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Ravindra Pal Singh educates the farmers about the services/benefits of e-Choupal and elaborates the uses of internet in information gathering, farming and marketing amongst his fellow villagers. Through the hub team, he finds answers to the questions of farmers in his village. He contributes to social causes, and has won “ Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005” award.



Mr Ritesh Katiyar

Ritesh Katiyar (30), from Tajpur village, Unnao district, UP, is educated upto high school level. He is a one of the best contributing sanchalak of Bangermau hub. He provides weather information, current Mandi and ITC rates and best practices of agriculture to the villagers. He also inspires the farmers to adopt new agriculture technology. He regularly provides quality products in his village and nearby villages. He also serves the people through insurance. All this is not just a business for him as he finds e Choupal a tool for social service.

Ritesh Katiyar elaborates the uses of internet in farming, marketing and information-gaining to the villagers. He also usually consults the Hub team for agriculture problems faced by his fellow village men through mail. He has won the “Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005” award.



Mr Sanjay Dubey

Sanjay Dubey (35), lives from Kakraha village, Mirzapur district, UP, is a land holding farmer with a graduate degree. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village. He regularly shares knowledge on weather and crops which he obtains through internet with the farmers. He is a generous social worker, always helping the poor people in the village including giving financial assistance for poor girls' weddings. He received the 1st prize in Insurance at the 2005 Sanchalak Sammelan.



Mr Sanjay Kumar Pandey

Sanjay Kumar Pandey (28), hails from Bazar Deeha (Pure Badal) village, Gonda district, UP. The Intermediate educated farmer has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Having obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products, he shares his knowledge with villagers about internet and computer usage.

Sanjay Kumar Pandey explains the benefits of agri inputs to farmers in his village and participates in all social activities. He has won awards for his good work with distribution.



Mr Sunil Kumar Rai

Sunil Kumar Rai (31), from Gathia Village, Ghazipur District, U.P is a Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science). He disseminates information and knowledge on new agricultural technology, awareness about insurance to the villagers with the help of e-Choupal. He takes an active part in agri extension activities like conducting demonstrations of new agricultural technologies. Besides it, he also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and has helped increae crop yield.



Mr Vijay Bahadur Singh

Vijay Bahadur Singh (34), from Karamajeetpur village, Deoria District, U.P, a graduate and is associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Active in information and knowledge dissemination, he tells the villagers about the benefits of bio fertilizers, insurance, Internet usage, etc. Using the website like e-choupal.com, Naukari.com, Railways.com, results.com, he assists the villagers. Vijay Bahadur Singh is participating in rural distribution of Fast Moving Consumer Goods and Agri-Products. His social-development activities include helping the villagers in their education, medical treatment, problems related with court, and assisting the Panchayat.



Mr Yogendra Rai

Yogendra Rai (42), a resident of Nishan Village, Jaunpur District, U.P is a landholding farmer with B.A. degree.

He disseminates information and knowledge of new agricultural technology, awareness about insurance to the villagers with the help of e-Choupal. He takes active part in agri extension activities like conducting demonstrations of new agricultural technologies. Besides, he also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and by using these good quality inputs, the crop yield of farmers has increased.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.



Mr Apurba Saha

Apurba Saha (34), is a B.Com from Kunuri.village, not far from Shantiniketan in Birbhum district, West Bengal. He has been involved with the organization GRASSO for more than 2 years and has experience with telecommunication information system while working as staff of Grasso. He has also taken training in social service, and has a good background of computer expertise.



Ms Pinki Chakraborty

Pinki Chakraborty (25), hails from Bhoalrdabri village, Jalpaiguri district, WB, an area where some parts are forested, and tea industry is well developed, but water management and health care systems are very poor.

She has completed a master's degree in arts under North Bengal University and is a social worker involved with a society whose activities are to develop the rural area. She also works with the society for health care and literacy, and has experience in rural field work organized by Govt of India.



Ms Ranu Saha

Ranu Saha (25), is a graduate living in Andaran Fulbari village, an agricultural area of Coochbehar district, WB. Having completed her graduation with English honours from North Bengal University, she is studying computer basic course. Ranu has 3 years experience of social work. She and her group have formed a society for development of their local area.



Mr Samarendra Nath Bhattacharjee

Samarendra Nath Bhattacharjee (45), belongs to Jalpesh Mandir village, Jalpaiguri district, WB, an area with many tea factories. He has an M.Com. degree, and is involved since 2 years with GRASSO as a beneficiary. A helpful, hard working, energetic person, he completed his graduation and master degree in commerce under North Bengal University. He has been engaged with an NGO whose activities promote rural development. He has some knowledge about computer operation and good experience with rural connectivity.



Mr Soumen Middey

Soumen Middey (19), from Batiswar village, south 24 Parganas district, WB, passed HS in the year of 2005. He is continuing his education for graduation and is also doing a diploma course on Computer Hardware. He has already been attached with rural Sanitation programme through Panchayat organised by UNICEF & Pulse Polio Tikakaran organised by WHO, and is doing various kinds of social work in his village area.



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