Minutes of 3rdNational Executive Committee Meeting
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT Delhi

Mode: Virtual (Cisco- WebEx)

Date: 27th Oct 2020

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Chair: Prof. V.K. Vijay

Convener: Prof. Priyanka Kaushal

Meeting Attendees:

1.	Prof. V.K. Vijay (National Coordinator, UBA,IITDelhi)	-Chairman
2.	Prof. Sukumar Mishra (Associate Dean R&D, IIT Delhi)	- Vice-Chairman
3.	Prof. Rajendra Prasad (Advisor, UBA, IIT Delhi)	-Member
4.	Prof. Vivek Kumar (Co-PI,UBA,IITDelhi)	-Member
5.	Prof. Anand Rao (RCI Coordinator, UBA,IITBombay)	-Member
6.	Prof. Albino (RCI Coordinator, UBA,NITManipur)	-Member
7.	Prof. Sandeep Sangal (RCI Coordinator, UBA,IITKanpur)	-Member
8.	Prof. B. S. Murty (RCI Coordinator, UBA, IITMadras)	-Member
9.	Prof. Milind Dandekar (RCI Coordinator, UBA,SGSITIndore)	-Member
10.	Prof. Ashish Pandey (RCI Coordinator, UBA,IITRoorkee)	-Member
11.	Prof. Ruchir Gupta (RCI Coordinator, UBA,IITBHU)	-Member
12.	Prof. P.K. Singh (RCI Coordinator, UBA,MPUATUdaipur)	-Member
13.	Prof. M.F. Wani (RCI Coordinator, UBA,NITSrinagar)	-Member
14.	Prof. Namita Mittal (RCI Coordinator, UBA, MNITJaipur)	-Member
15.	Prof. Pradeep Lingfa (RCI Coordinator,UBA,NERIST)	-Member
16.	Prof. K. Ravichandran (RCI Coordinator, UBA, GRI, Tamil Nadu)	-Member
17.	Prof. Tuti Sandhya (RCI Coordinator, UBA,MGNCRE,Hyderabad)	-Member
18.	Prof. G. Sunitha (RCI Coordinator, UBA,NIT Warangal)	-Member
19.	Prof. U.N. Roy (RCI Coordinator, UBA,NITTTRChandigarh)	-Member
20.	Prof. Chander Prakash (RCI Coordinator, UBA,NIT Hamirpur)	-Member
21.	Prof. Priyanka Kaushal (Co-PI, UBA,IITDelhi)	-Member Secretary
22.	Prof. Ajay Saini (North-east region expert, NCI-UBA, IIT Delhi)	- Invitee
23.	Prof. Pooja Ghosh (Asst. Professor, IIT Delhi)	- Invitee

- Co-Chairman Mr. Devendra Sharma, Deputy Secretary, MHRD could not attend this meeting due to his pre-occupation.
- Prof. Mani Kant Verma (Asst. Professor, NIT Raipur) joined the meeting on behalf of Prof. Sudhakar Pandey (RCI Coordinator, NIT Raipur).
- Smt. Shameena joined the meeting on behalf of Prof. Jiju P Alex (RCI Coordinator, UBA, Kerala Agricultural University).

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Keynote address and Updates on UBA	
Item No.	**Particulars**
1.	a. **To confirm the minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the National Executive Committee held on 21st May 2020.** b. **Actions Taken on Agenda points of 2nd NEC meeting.**
2.	**Reporting Item:** a. **Formation of National Subject Expert Advisory Committee (NSEAC) to strengthen UBA SEG** b. **Reallocation of Districts in Maharashtra and North Eastern Region and allocation of newly constituted districts** c. **MoU with CSIR, TRIFED, VIBHA** d. **MoU with NECTAR (In process)** e. **Convergence in Future with RuTAG, Ministry of Social Justice, DRDO** f. **Guidelines for the Expenditure of Perennial Assistance**
3.	**Proposal for New ERP portal**
4.	**SEG Proposals Evaluation Guideline - for deliberation and approval**
5.	**Deliberations on UBA implementation ways in corona environment by PIs**
6.	**Scope for collaboration with Field Agencies**
7.	**Strategy for UBA Expansion**
8.	**Any other points with permission of Chair**
	Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

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Introduction

Prof. Priyanka Kaushal (Member Secretary, NEC) welcomed all the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee at the Cisco WebEx platform.

The meeting was initiated with a formal introduction of every member and how they are coping up with the pandemic situation. All members provided their inputs for how they faced the challenges bravely during the corona crisisand have learnt innovative ways while dealing with the "New Normal".

Prof. V. K. Vijay (Chairman, NEC) welcomed all the members at the virtual meeting and wished for everyone's good health during this time of the global pandemic of COVID 19.

Chairman's Address

In the Keynote address given by the Chairman, the agenda of the third NEC meeting was presented to all the members. Prof. VK Vijay updated the members about how UBA progressedduring the lockdown period by organizing various webinars, quizzes, weather forecasting and awareness programmes, conducting national level meetings online, and generating livelihood for rural people through mask and sanitizer making. He explained that how Regional Coordinating Institutions and Participating Institutions of UBA selflessly came forward in providing shelters to the migrating labours, during the lockdown and for distributing food, daily essentials masks and sanitizers in their adopted villages to fight against Corona virus.

He initiated his address by explaining about a new addition to the tagline of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – **"शिक्षित भारत–सक्षम भारत–स्वच्छ भारत–स्वावलंबी भारत–संपन्न भारत"**which would be **"स्वावलंबी भारत"** (Self-sufficient India). He continued that since every programme by Govt. of India is focusing on making India self-reliant, UBA now has an added responsibility on it to match the PM's vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat as the GOI is looking up to UBA for Rural Self-Reliance (Gramin Aatmanirbharta)** in the country. He then elaborated various milestones of UBA and how this aspiration programme of Ministry of Education is becoming a movement in villages for creating livelihood and making rural people self-reliant with the help of Higher Educational Institutions.

He updated the NEC members about a recent meeting held with NITI Aayog which saw many dignitaries from various ministries and discussion regarding convergence of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan with all Ministries to contribute for making our country "Aatmanirbhar" at every aspect held during the meeting. He asked for the suggestions of the members on this to make this fruitful and successful nationwide.

He then discussed various UBA footprints and explained UBA network. He told members that as lot of focus is being paid to make UBA footprint strong in North-east region through skill development programmes.

He informed members about "**Unnati Ki Kahani, Chitron KiJubani**" – a photo storycompetition organised by NCI-UBA during pandemic 827 applications. There were 5 winners to this competition that were announced on 15th August through an online webinar and each one will be awarded with Rs.5000 prize money. Other salient features of his speech were –

- 1900 SEG proposals have been received out of which 200 have been approved
- UBA received more than 500 print and electronic media appreciations
- 70 success stories has been published on UBA website
- 600 Gram Sabhas were conducted
- Several online meetings were conducted by NCI on daily basis with RCIs, PIs and SEGs to create strategies on how to move ahead while dealing with the pandemic situation.

He, then informed the committee about the programme organised by the Ministry of Education for the volunteers of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan / NYKS / NSS / NCC on 16th Sept 2020. The programme saw participation of Sh. Rajnath Singh (Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India), Sh. Kiren Rijiju (Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India), and Sh. Ramesh Pokhriyal (Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India). The programme was organised to disseminate information on how to sensitise people with the New Education Policy (NEP 2020). In the same regard, NCI circulated NEP Resource Material Document to all PIs and asked them to do mass sensitization of UBA volunteers to explain the responsibilities given to them by the Ministries. As a result, a total of **1076 events** were organised by **508 PIs** for mass sensitization of NEP under this campaign. These events saw a combined attendance of **62504people** including village students, teachers and parents, out of which **61813 were teachers**.

The chairman informed committee that UBA has signed 2 Tripartite MoUs - One with UBA, CSIR and VIBHA and other is with TRIFED, UBA and VIBHA for rural livelihood generation and to create opportunities of convergence for institutions. He added that with the help of CSIR laboratories, we will now be conducting skill development programs and releasing training manuals in regional languages for our students and villagers so that they can start rural entrepreneurshipand increase sustainable livelihood.CSIR technologies will be helpful for UBA institutions in technology implementation and technology customization projects in adopted villages.

Prof. Vijay elaborated about UBA's recent works with TRIFED through which UBA institutions can take help of 3000 Van DhanKendras (VDKs) to market tribal products. Various strategical meetings have been done with the UBA institutions of North-east region regarding same and soon all UBA institutions across the nation will be covered for its sensitisation. He added that UBA is also initiated communication to sign MoU with NECTAR, DRDO, MoRD, MoS&T, and other ministries to provide quality rural livelihood generation and skill upgradation programmes in villages. **It is also to be noted that Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is looking forward to creating National Rural Facility & Demonstration Centre at all the Regional Coordinating Institutes (RCIs) of UBA. He stressed on providing inputs and suggestions for achieving Aatmanirbhar Bharat through Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.**

He notified members about inclusion of UBA in NAAC accreditation and NIRF ranking parameters; Academic courses by UGC, 100-hour Rural Internship by AICTE, credit courses, and Appraisals for faculty working with UBA as great incentives for students and faculty members while working with UBA.

He concluded his session by inviting all members to contribute to India's development by supporting/ contributing in adopted villages.

AGENDA No. 1: To confirm the minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the National Executive Committee held on 21st May 2020

Item 1:

Minutes were confirmed by Prof. Priyanka after discussing the actions taken on the reporting points of 2nd NEC meeting. A copy of the circulated minutes of the 2nd meeting is enclosed as **ANNEXURE - 1**.

She talked about:

- Inclusion of Marketing Experts in Sustainable Agriculture SEG. The list has been sent to IARI and will soon be confirmed by them.
- Discussion is under process for SEG on Health which will be coordinated by IIT BHU and IIT Kharagpur.

- Water Resources Training Program organised by IIT Roorkee and IIT BHU. The detailed report is attached as (**ANNEXURE 2**)

- Possibilities of Collaboration between NSS and UBA. Details of the programme organised were provided by Prof. V. K. Vijay in his address.
- UBA's idea of enhancement in next 5 years was discussed. A brief was given on NCI's conversation with MoRD and Jal Shakti Abhiyan for availability of water supply in the villages adopted under UBA. The process is taking time due to pandemic as it involves lot of field work.
- Requirement of Entrepreneurship Development Program is in advance stage of conversation with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship Guwahati. The work will begin from Northeast India.
- It has been communicated to MoE that directives should be issued for UBA Credit Course, New guidelines should not be students centric and UBA token amount should release in one instalment.
- Possibilities of creating 2 new SEGs on Empowerment (Women, Digital etc.) and Rural Livelihood have been explored and communicated to MoE as well. The action for the same will be taken after release of 2021 Guidelines.
- As decided, a 5-member Dispute Redressal Committee has been formed to mentor Ethics, Rules and Regulation for collaboration for Intra UBA Institutes.**(ANNEXURE 3)**
- A framework for providing Additional Fund to Participating Institutions of UBA was created. As a part of it, Perennial Assistance funds were announced and awarded by NCI to 78 PIs on 15th Aug. 2020.
- An upper cap was decided by the Chairman-NEC for Appreciation Fund. It will be Rs. 5 lakh or as mentioned in the Office Memorandum issued by MoE i.e. 10% of the generated fund (applicable when the generated fund is more than or equal to 5 lakhs) whichever is less. **(ANNEXURE 4)**

The process of approval for this appreciation fund will be:

  Step 1: Generated fund for Convergence should be sought under the umbrella and name of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

  Step 2: A template (**ANNEXURE 5**) should be filled and shared with NCI on which Total Convergence amount along with villages covered should be mentioned with proof.

The committee for approving this fund will be as follows:

1. Prof. Vivek Kumar (Co-coordinator, UBA)   - Chairman
2. Prof. Namita Mittal (RCI Coordinator, NIT Jaipur)   - Member
3. Prof. Sathans (RCI Coordinator, NIT Kurukshetra)   - Member
4. Prof. Dibakar Rakshit (Member, Internal Executive Committee-UBA)   - Member

- A proposal for forming National Subject Expert Advisory Committee (NSEAC) was sent to MoE. The committee has been formed and notified by MoE. Details are provided in Agenda Item 2.
- Guidelines have been formed by NCI for Institutes who want to Opt-out from UBA; attached as **ANNEXURE 6**.

No comments were received regarding minutes of 2nd NEC meeting and actions taken; hence they were approved.

Action: Minutes of 2nd NEC Meeting has been shared with respective National Executive Committee members. (Prof. V.K.Vijay)

AGENDA No. 2: Reporting Items

a). Formation of National Subject Expert Advisory Committee (NSEAC) to strengthen UBA SEG

Prof. Vivek Kumar explained objectives and ethos of forming NSEAC. All the SEG Coordinators of UBA, 3 members from the NEC-UBA, and 2 experts from field agencies are members of this committee. The list including 23 experts was approved on 30ᵗʰ September 2020 by MoE and is attached as **ANNEXURE -7**. The first meeting of this committee will soon be organized. The NSEAC will have following functions –

> a. To prepare vision and strategy framework for Subject Expert Groups (SEGs) and to update thematic areas to be include time to time.
> b. To design and develop clear guidelines and programmes for the implementation of different subjects under UBA.
> c. To guide and advise the SEGs as the PIs for implementation of the above-mentioned programmes.
> d. To monitor and coordinate the output and achievements of the above-mentioned programmes.
> e. To draw lessons and carry out corrections as and when required in the above-mentioned programmes.
> f. The main objective is to make an impact on the ground and deliver results of the programme to the people in rural areas through desired technical, management, and social interventions.

Action: The official document regarding formulation of NSEAC will be shared with SEG Coordinators and further intimation regarding the meeting will be informed. (Prof. Vivek)

b). Reallocation of Districts in Maharashtra and North Eastern Region and allocation of Newly Constituted Districts

Prof. Vivek Kumar provided a brief background on how new RCIs were created. Earlier, 4 new RCIs were formed for better coordination with PIs (IIT Jammu, IGNOU, VNIT Nagpur and IIT Palakkad). Hence, it was required to reallocate the pre-allocated districts to the existing as well as new RCIs.

Also, in reference to the First RCI meet held on 06.03.2020, the RCI Coordinators of North-East region suggested to have re-distribution of districts/states in light of the geographical/topographical issues, terrain, language constraints etc. Hence, NCI organised a meeting on 09.10.2020 for finalisation of re-allocation of districts in North-East Region as well along with Kerala, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir. It was during this meeting, a need of forming new RCIs for each state was felt due to many challenges faced by the RCI coordinators of Northeast India. Another request has come from IIT Bombay to create an RCI for coordinating Goa region. The Minutes of the meeting are attached as **ANNEXURE - 8**.

He added that a proposal for formation of 4 new RCIs (NIT Meghalaya, NIT Mizoram, NIT Nagaland, NIT Sikkim) will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. Till then, the RCIs will monitor the PIs as per the prevailing allocation. Also, a separate discussion meeting is scheduled for short listing potential Institution to be nominated as new RCI in Arunachal Pradesh. Presently, NERIST is the only RCI in Arunachal Pradesh and is facing difficulty in coordination due to topography of the state.

Prof. Vivek then elaborated on **allocation of newly constituted districts by Govt of India**. It was observed that a few of the districts have been bifurcated or trifurcated to form new districts in different states of the country. For instance, in Tamil Nadu state, six new districts were added as follows and making up to total 38 districts in the latter. The similar item was noticed for Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland till now.

- On 22 November 2019, Tenkasi district was bifurcated from the erstwhile Tirunelveli district.
- On 26 November 2019, Kallakurichi district was bifurcated from the erstwhile Viluppuram district.
- On 29 November 2019, Tirupattur and Ranipet districts were trifurcated from the erstwhile Vellore district.

- On 30 November 2019, Chengalpattu district was bifurcated from the erstwhile Kanchipuram district.
- On 24 March 2020, Mayiladuthurai district was announced for bifurcation from the erstwhile Nagapattinam district.

Prof. Vivek seek advice from the members on the reallocation of Districts to RCIs. **After discussion it has been decided that the new districts will automatically be allocated to the concerned RCI having the erstwhile original district under their region.**

Action: The minutes for the meeting of reallocation will be shared with RCIs. (Prof. Priyanka)

c).   Tripartite MoU with CSIR, VIBHA & UBA and TRIFED, VIBHA& UBA

Prof. Vivek briefed on the outcomes of Tech4Seva event – a UBA-VIBHA spinoff. It's a mission to bring corporate, research agencies, NGOs, voluntary organizations, and grassroots level practitioners on a common platform to address the national challenges. As a result of this event, NCI is **developing an ERP portal to bring** *technology provider***,** *technology seeker, funding agencies and voluntary organisations* **on a same platform**.

He added that during the lockdown, mass migration to the villages of the country was witnessed, which has created its own set of challenges and livelihood generation is one of them, he continued. But if seen on the brighter side, it's a great opportunity for the villages and villagers to develop them. Hence, to create livelihood opportunities during pandemic crisis situation and to fast-track the proposal and stopping reverse migration to cities, UBA has signed a Tripartite MoU with CSIR, TRIFED, and VIBHA.

- UBA-IIT Delhi signed Tripartite MoU with TRIFED (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on **25th July 2020** for Skilling Tribals for Livelihoods, Introducing Tribals to Newer Processing Technologies, Product Innovation, Mentorship and Transformational Digital Systems. This MoU will allow tribal entrepreneurs under TRIFED's Van Dhan programme to get access to the expertise of the entire network of 2600+ academic and research institutions under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA). (Click for the Press Release -https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1641191)

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-IIT Delhi also signed a Tripartite MoU with CSIR and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) on **29th July 2020** to provide access to CSIR rural technologies for rural development through the networks of UBA and VIBHA. This will pave the way for the adoption of CSIR technologies and related knowledge base in tune with the people's aspirations in furtherance of initiatives such as UBA and VIBHA. (Click for the Press Release - https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642066)

He then explained the key guiding principles for signingMoUs with institutions. These are –

- Use of locally available resources
- Synergy with traditional knowledge system
- Adaptation of R&D as per local social context
- Empowering local people with the S&T skills through technology interventions
- Convergence – Community to Ministries
- Coherence with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

He then threw limelight on the Proposed Action Flow of UBA and institutions, which is as follows –

Proposed Action flow

NODAL AGENCIES
SOLUTION PROVIDERS
Ministries,
Departments,
Academic and R&D
Organizations

UBA FUNCTIONARIES
SOLUTION FACILITATORS
UBA NCI, RCIs & PIs
VIBHA
Capacity building
Incubation centre
Demonstration & Training centre
Scientific translation of felt needs
Connect and communicate

GRASSROOT AGENCIES
SOLUTION DISSEMINATORS
VOs, Development agencies
Panchayati Raj Institutions,
VIBHA regional chapters

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
SOLUTION SEEKERS
Community
Farmers
Artisans
Weavers
etc

Figure 1: Proposed workflow of Solution Providers, Solution Facilitators, Solution Disseminators and Solution Seekers

Prof. Vivek continued with explaining the responsibilities of UBA Institutions who will be Solution Facilitators and Knowledge providers. An ERP portal will be developed for better interaction between Solution Providers (SPs), Solution Facilitators (SFs), Solution Disseminators (SDs) and Solution Seekers (SSs), he added.
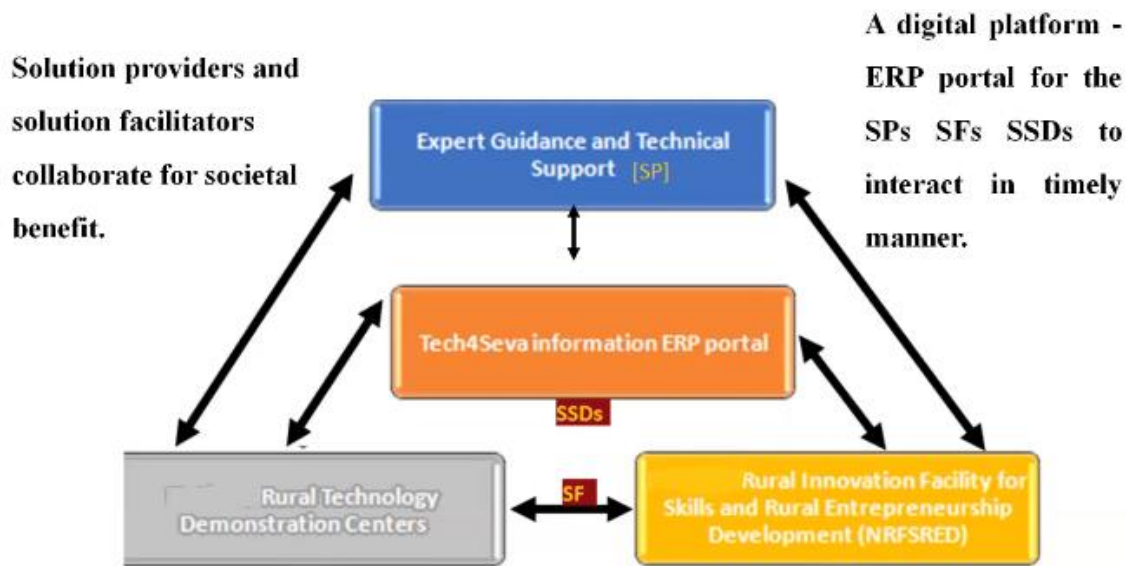
Solution providers and solution facilitators collaborate for societal benefit.

Expert Guidance and Technical Support [SP]

Tech4Seva information ERP portal

SSDs

Rural Technology Demonstration Centers

SF

Rural Innovation Facility for Skills and Rural Entrepreneurship Development (NRFSRED)

A digital platform - ERP portal for the SPs SFs SSDs to interact in timely manner.

Figure 2: Responsibilities and Operations of Solution Providers, Solution Facilitators, Solution Disseminators and Solution Seekers

He continued that RCIs will have responsibility to develop 2 centres -**Rural Technology Demonstration Centre** and **Rural Innovation Facility for Skills and Rural Entrepreneurship Development** (RFSRED) within their infrastructure to encourage technology demonstration and rural entrepreneurship and providing the **knowledge support**. For example: To implement a technology provided by CSIR Lab, if any solution facilitator/solution seeker needs support for quality assurance, marketing research, or understanding taxation system, then it will be provided by UBA institutions, mainly by the RCIs.

This proposed facilitation centre will act as a Rural Start-up Accelerator, envisioned for providing rural innovators an enabling environment so that they could accelerate their business ideas into gainful business ventures. It will give a necessary handholding to fulfil their aspirations.

Similarly, RCIs will be responsible for identification of the CSIR technologies that will implemented within the districts allocated to them, Prof. Vivek added. He continued that RCI's will also be responsible for creating training modules of CSIR technologies in regional languages (in Visual/Oral/Written modes) as currently these modules are available in English and Hindi languages only. So RCIs will play an important role in recent collaborations.

Action: Information regarding the CSIR Technologies will be disseminated to RCIs (Incharge : Prof. Vivek)

d)   MoU with NECTAR (In process)

Prof. Vivek informed the committee members that UBA is also in process of signing an MoU with **North East Centre for Training and Research** (NECTAR) to provide convergence benefits and gap-filling funds to the Participating Institutions of North-East Region. NECTAR has come forward to work as a **Solution Designer** and will provide technology, facilitate the technology implementation, and fund the identified technology for Northeast region.

It will also provide expert guidance and technical support to grassroots entrepreneurs in terms of feasibility and sustainability. The major thematic areas for which support would be provided includes –
- Agri & Horticulture technologies
- Food Processing Technologies & Engineering
- Safe Drinking Water
- Renewable / Rural Energy
- Waste Management and Eco-friendly technologies
- Biomass Utilization technology
- Environmental Biology
- Extraction of Natural Products and Value Addition of Forest Products
- Bamboo-based technologies
- Communication, etc.

Prof. Vivek also informed members about a recent launch event of CSIR interventions that was organised by NCI on 30th Sep, 2020. In this event, detailed discussion was happened between experts and UBA institutions on 4 technologies.

Links for the event – **Inaugural session** - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBJaUkhgGLU

Session 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i5eVpByG18

Recently, one technology was identified by PIs of RCI NIT Durgapur for implementation and the NECTAR has agreed to fund this technology, Prof. Vivek added. To further explain his point, he elaborated that actions taken between any institution(s) having MoU with UBA will be of more of synergetic nature than working independently.

Action: The drafted MoU will be shared with NECTAR for further processing. (Incharge – Prof. Vivek)

e).   Convergence in Future with RuTAG, Ministry of Social Justice, DRDO

Prof. Vivek gave an insight on some of the future convergence possibilities of UBA. He updated members about the convergence plans with Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) and meetings being held with its executive members at IIT Delhi. The Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) is a mission, conceptualized, initiated and sponsored by Dr. R Chidambaram, Former Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India. Since RuTAG aims at improving the rural economy through appropriate S & T interventions in the traditional methods of production, it will play an important role in UBA in coming future. Proposal for the same is attached as **ANNEXURE 9**.

He then talked on proposed convergence with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) scheme. This scheme aims at integrated development of Scheduled Castes

majority villages primarily through **convergent implementation** of various govt. schemes and by taking up identified activities, which do not get covered under the existing Central and State Government Schemes, through **Gap-filling** funds provided as Central Assistance to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs per village.

Prof. Vivek continued that the government has covered 2500 villages through this scheme and now aims at covering 27000 villages till 2024. It is for this reason; the MoSJ&E is seeking collaboration with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan to reach a wider prospect through UBA's broad network. The ministry shared the list of eligible Adarsh Villages with NCI-IITD. This will enable adoption of such villages by Higher Educational Institutions for their overall development. On the other hand, it can be a great opportunity for the Participating Institutions of UBA as well as this collaboration will resolve convergence issues for executing many projects that were stood on hold due to unavailability of funds. We just need to provide our knowledge inputs and utilize UBA's network to get such government schemes implemented successfully, Prof. Vivek added.

He told members that the proposal for this collaboration is under construction and soon will be shared with them. The action plan and roadmap has been made in the same context; and is attached as **ANNEXURE 10**.

> **Prioritization of the 27000 villages for implementation of PMAGY**
> The list of 27000 plus villages which is shared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will be given priority based on the descending order of SC population from each such district. This will be mapped by the UBA Participating Institutions (PIs).
>
> **UBA for successful implementation of PMAGY**
> ✓ UBA IIT Delhi will be a knowledge partner and participate in bringing together the higher education institutions (Participating Institutions and Regional Co-ordinating Institutions).
> ✓ Survey of eligible villages which are mapped under Adarsh Gram Yojna by PIs and RCIs.
> ✓ Identifying the real beneficiary and prioritizing the need based identification list.
> ✓ Individuals will benefit through the PMAGY scheme according to UBA mandate and UBA will help in connecting dots between the Scheme and the villagers.
> ✓ After the upliftment of individual beneficiary through the scheme, PIs will help the village community through technological interventions and other development processes utilising the PMAGY fund.
> ✓ As UBA will be the knowledge partner it will ensure that funds are allocated properly to all the target beneficiaries and help the government in preparing the need based identification priority list and survey data.

Figure 3: Some salient points for PMAGY's successful implementation through UBA

Prof. Vivek informed members that to provide sustainable livelihood to the village people living in border areas, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) wants to converge with UBA for Frontier area villages, so that migration cannot take place in these areas. This is again a great opportunity for UBA institutions, as DRDO is willing to provide funds as well as technology for border villages. Seeing the current scenarios, DRDO wants to begin with Arunachal Pradesh.

Action: NCI will get in touch with DRDO for further alliance. (Prof. Vivek)

f). Guidelines for the Expenditure of Perennial Assistance

Prof. Vivek provided an insight on a recent meeting organised with all 78 Participating Institutions who were awarded Perennial Assistance Fund. Based on their inputs, guidelines were prepared for the expenditure of Perennial Assistance funds. The proposed guidelines are –

1. The funds are mainly meant for assistance for awareness, Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) study, need assessment, and contingency expenditure (Like Seed Money guidelines), training programmes, any S&T based projects.
2. The solutions selected/ customised should be sustainable, innovative, implementable and scalable.
3. The solutions proposed should be filled in approved template and it should be giving a clear statement of the problem, proposed solution, with proof of requirement & willingness to fund the solution by the District Administration / Central and State Governments/ Corporates/ Philanthropies, cost of the solutions etc. which would be verified by RCI and NCI.

4. There is no scope for mere lab projects or prototypes and the solutions should have been tested at the field level. However, if the prototype is developed in the lab and is to be tested in field, then this can be allowed.
5. There would also be no scope for Institutions to suggest the solutions in the form of provision of subsidies, provision of funds for financing research proposals or projects for construction of infrastructure.
6. Long term research projects/ Fellowships of any kind, cost on PhD programmes, setting up laboratories / centres, exhibitions & similar events, workshops (except when MHRD conducts workshops) and capital / construction expenditure of any sort, also do not attract UBA funding. (Anything at village level and for the village people can be approved, like training programme in village or setup laboratory in village etc).

Prof. Vivek asked for comments of executive members on these guidelines. A copy of the template is attached as **ANNEXURE-11** for the approval of the hon'ble NEC members.

Action: The approved template for Perennial Assistance will be shared with the PIs and RCI should provide their recommendations on the same. (Incharge : Prof. V.K.Vijay)

AGENDA No. 3: Proposal for New ERP portal

Prof. Priyanka Kaushal detailed the members about the areas that need improvement in the current ERP portal of UBA. She explained how the NCI is working on removing certain issues reported by PIs and RCIs an improving the same through features like alert emails, interlinking, and quick report and proposal submissions.

She informed that the proposed new ERP portal will be more transparent, robust, user-friendly and will contain more enhanced features to reduce the burden of coordinators. Additionally, there will be a stronger Support system that will need lesser time to resolve the queries. Also, the rights of RCIs to see the works of PIs will also be worked upon.

Following are the features of the new ERP portal –

- Existing AISHE code / Unique ID will be used for login
- Internal ERP, email system will be developed for communication
- Registered email of SEGs/RCIs/PIs will be used for notification and alerts
- Available dashboard will be converted into more responsive dashboard
- All forms will automatically fetch existing data like adopted village / RCI name / District name at one click
- New ERP will be the communication history for future use/reference
- There will be no need to send emails for changing the credentials for the new coordinator. The login credentials can be directly transferred to the newly appointed coordinator and he/she will be able to update the name and email in the profile section.

Prof. Priyanka then highlighted that the NCI does not entertain the use of personal email IDs for login at UBA portal and UBA communications and this issue will also be resolved with the new ERP system. She also requested all UBA representatives to have official UBA ids for communication purposes and avoid personal email IDs.

She then explained functionalities of SEGs, RCIs and PIs in the new ERP portal

Subject Expert Group	Regional Coordinating Institute	Participating Institutions
Profile update for name email and domain (for notification)	They can review the PIs' details	Same credentials will work for this New ERP
Separate tab for SEG proposals (Detail in SEG portal PPT)	They can make announcement for PIs working under them	PIs can interact with their respective RCIs/ SEG as well as NCI
Tab for other communication with PI/ RCI / NCI	All information of a PI can be traced by its respective RCI	Each report submitted by them will be available under ERP
Fund / Grant related details with UTR and date	They will have special tab for communication with NCI	It will save the time from email communication (usually they do

		for village change/coordinator change
Each communication with PI / NCI can be marked as unread	Fund details with UTR will be automatically reflected on the release	Easy update on payment / grant with UTR details can be found in the same login.

As far as communication and acknowledgement is concerned, alert emails will be sent on registered email IDs for –

- PI registration
- Fund / Grant Allocation
- SEG proposal
- Delay in Proposal
- Event form Design

This email alert system will -

- Improve the evaluation and review process of SEG proposals.
- Allow timely progress report submissions of RCIs and PIs.
- Provide timely allocation and acknowledgement of funds.
- Provide reminder system for certain UBA events.
- Remove unnecessary delays in mandate form submissions.

Prof. Priyanka then invited suggestions from the members for the new ERP portal as the NCI has initiated the process of migrating the current UBA ERP portal and the process is in its preliminary stage.

Action : Discussion to be done with website committee (Incharge : Prof. Priyanka)

AGENDA No. 4: SEG Proposals Evaluation Guideline - for deliberation and approval

Prof. Vivek Kumar provided a background on how evaluation of SEG proposals is taking longer time than expected. He highlighted that 2001 proposals have been received so far under SEG from the years of 2018 to September 2020. Out of these, only 162 proposals (other than covid-19 proposals) were approved and funded by the NCI. Having said that only 8% of the total proposals have received approval under the UBA program. Currently, it takes an average of 6 months for the approval and release of funds for each project, and the concern was raised by some SEGs regarding the same.

Prof. Vivek informed that various suggestions have been received to expedite SEG evaluation process and those will be taken care of. Following reasons were identified that caused delays in evaluation of proposals and awarding of funds –

- Certain Bugs in ERP portal
- Repeated/ multiple revision of proposals
- Delays at SEG end
- Delays at NCI end

Seeing the scenario, suggestions were invited by the NCI from the SEG coordinators to update Guidelines on deliberation and approval of SEG proposals which is a time-consuming process currently. Following is the table showing suggestions received from the SEG coordinators and the proposed guidelines.

Suggestions received from SEG Coordinators	Existing SEG Guideline	Proposed Guidelines

Mechanism for the irrelevant proposal submission under an SEG	No provision of transferring of proposal	Updating the ERP for transferring the proposals to relevant SEG
Revision of Proposal Submission Format	Revisions of project proposal template has been done twice	Can be revised as per the suggestions
Timelines may be set in quarterly batches for proposal evaluation	There is no rigid timeline. One proposal is taking 6 months on an average to get evaluated.	Can be discussed
Provision for Rejection of proposals	There is no provision for rejection of proposals	After two revisions, the project will be considered as fresh/ can be notified to PI for resubmission
Any new research that needs field testing in reality and requires small fund can also be taken up in the adopted villages.	There is no provision for funding of R&D projects	Can be discussed

Prof. Vivek also invited suggestions on certain discussion agenda points for National Subject Expert Advisory Committee (NSEAC)-

- UBA's stance on proposal with CSR funding, as firms are declining help due to pandemic and current economic situations. Many RCIs have requested the NCI to issue some supporting letter in order to get some CSR funding.
- Discussion is required in evaluation/allocation of livelihood projects that benefit individual rather than a group of people or village as a whole.
- **Modifications in SEG ERP portal.**
- **Revamping of Review process and Formulation of Internal Committee with SEG.** In order to fast-track the SEG evaluation process, the Committee decided to give approval rights of the proposals to the SEG coordinators. The project must be reviewed and approved by at least two-three Subject Experts (as per the list provided by SEG coordinator) of the respective subject and then those approved projects will be sent to the NCI for the release of funds. The idea behind this was to strengthen the SEG by providing the **mentorship of the projects received from PIs to reduce the rejection of proposals**.
- The SEG coordinators can also consult with the NSEAC as well for guidance on certain projects.

Prof. V. K. Vijay requested members to provide suggestions to improve the review process of SEG proposals.\

Prof. U. N Roy (NITTTR Chandigarh) suggested that RCI can be a part of the review process to get the proposals approved on a speedy mode. The idea was praised by the members and it was decided that the RCI will be provided the right to view and edit the proposal while its PI writes it. However, the evaluation of the proposal will be done by the SEG only. To this, Prof. Vivek Kumar replied that the members or experts groups of SEGs should be strengthened for proposal evaluations. RCIs can provide support and handhold PIs for writing the proposals only but they cannot be incorporated into the evaluation process.

Prof. B.S Murty (IIT Madras) suggested that in case the proposal receives a rejection from the SEG, it will be the responsibility of the RCI to mentor the PI to write the proposal in the right way, before sending back to the SEG. The suggestion was accepted by the members.

Dr. K. Ravi Chandran (GRI) requested to keep the RCIs updated about the status of the project proposals of PIs, which will be easier for RCIs for handholding.

Action: The SEG Proposal Evaluation Guidelines will be shared among the SEG Coordinators for further action. (Prof. Vivek)

AGENDA No. 5:   Deliberations on UBA implementation ways in corona environment by PIs

Prof. V. K. Vijay provided an insight on current pandemic situations and various challenges faced by the village people. He informed the members about various activities performed by the NCI since the last NEC meeting organised in April -

- For strengthening UBA Villages and to generate livelihood opportunities, UBA had launched a separate sub-category under OTHERS SEG named as COVID-19.
- Also, in the last Internal Executive Meeting, it was decided to continue this SEGfor increasing the interventions related to COVID-19, Livelihood generation.
- IIT Delhi has also collaborated with CSIR, TRIFED to provide the information related to Rural technologies and livelihood generation opportunities in short-medium-long term mode.
- NCI has also compiled the reports shared by the PIs related to their work in COVID-19 times.

He then invited suggestions for how UBA works can be done in field areas during and after pandemic. Dr.K. Ravichandran (GRI) shared his experience for conducting online surveys in villages and supporting villagers through WhatsApp groups.

Prof. V.K. Vijay also threw light on how various webinars and works were conducted by IIT Delhi team during corona crisis.

Prof. P.K.Singh (MPUAT) suggested that it was observed that the village level survey can be easily carried out virtually hence it is advisable to RCIs to encourage PIs to at least conduct village-level surveys virtually, if not household surveys.

Prof. V. K. Vijay informed the members that they can take help of Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs) located in their vicinities to spread the agriculture-related information to the villagers through WhatsApp groups.

Hence, it was decided in this meeting that household surveys will be deferred until the normal situation prevails and the institutions will conduct the village surveys only through virtual mode.

Action: The PIs will be informed regarding the deferring of Household surveys for time-being. (Prof. V.K.Vijay)

AGENDA No. 6:   Scope for Collaboration with Field Agencies

Prof. Vivek informed the members that during the implementation of the recent collaborations of UBA on field (in 5 states in Phase – 1), it was observed that UBA needs field agencies to get technologies implemented in the right manner and at lower prices. Prof. Vivek invited comments for the same. An Executive Summary for ROAR UP Bharat Action HUB has been attached in **ANNEXURE 12**.

> **Prof. M. F. Wani (NIT Srinagar)** suggested that –
1. National-level collaborations with field agencies can be a great opportunity for UBA expansion, but certain guidelines should be prepared for the field agencies for sustainable partnership with UBA.
2. ERP portal should be developed to ease out working with these agencies.

The suggestion was accepted by the Chairman.

Action: The NCI will search for further opportunities for collaboration with field agencies and take up further communication. (Prof. Vivek)

AGENDA No. 7:   Strategy for UBA Expansion

Prof. V. K. Vijay provided insight on the recent meetings done with the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Rural Development. It was decided in these meetings that we need to focus on creating livelihood in

villages to stop reverse migration, and convergence should be focused on livelihood generation. As far as Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme is concerned, NITI Aayog sees UBA as the key scheme to implement the technologies in villages in coming years because of vast UBA network, knowledge pools of institutions, and educated youth. Ministry wants to connect every village to connect with an institution for implementing Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Prof. V. K. Vijay then invited suggestions from the members for making an action plan for the expansion to 40000+ colleges to adopt 6 lakh + villages of India.

➢ **Dr. K. Ravichandran** suggested that –
1. The NCI can ask all the institutions in the hilly areas to be a part of UBA.
2. The institutions that come under Aspirational Districts programme must be a part of UBA.
3. Initiatives can be taken at NCI level for making UBA a compulsory scheme for all the higher education institutions, so that all the villages can be adopted in India, and the benefit of UBA can be reached to a higher scale.
4. Regarding the financial aspect, the PIs should be asked to observe the general financial rules for the funds received from the NCI, so that accounts can be perfect.

The Chairman praised the suggestions provided and the same would be reviewed in another meeting. He also advised the members to follow the General Financial Rules provided by the Government of India to avoid any financial mistakes.

➢ **Prof. Lingfa (NERIST)** suggested that the active involvement of the District Administration in UBA meetings is mandatory for the expansion of UBA scheme so that they can provide maximum support and hence something needs to be done on this part as well. The Chairman appreciated the concern raised and said that a meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Education and all District Collectors will soon be arranged in this regard.
➢ Prof. B S Murty(IITM) suggested that RCIs can conduct UBA road shows to highlight the works done under UBA to enhance the physical reach-out once the Corona situation calms down. The suggestion was accepted by the Chairman.
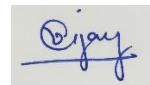
Action: The new/revised guidelines will be shared with SEGs/RCIs/PIs. (Prof. V.K.Vijay)

▬▬ Concluding Remarks ▬▬

Prof. Rajendra Prasad wished all the members to achieve great milestones under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and help develop the nation through its villages. He asked members to develop a solid roadmap to move ahead and prove our strength on ground.

Prof. Vivek Kumar then concluded the session and shared vote of thanks to all the members for leveraging their precious time to this meeting and coming up with many important suggestions that will make Unnat Bharat Abhiyan stronger.

Prof. V. K. Vijay
National Coordinator
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

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