



The Livelihood School Update September 2009

The Livelihood School, set up in April 2007 by BASIX, is a new generation livelihood promotion institution. The school's objective is to improve the livelihoods of millions of poor in *Bharat*, through building capacities of practitioners whose work affects livelihoods of large numbers of people.

The school endeavours to achieve its objective, by:

- Building knowledge related to principles, processes and methods of promoting livelihoods of the disadvantaged sections of the society - especially of the poor and the women
- Disseminating such knowledge about livelihood and livelihood promotion to a large number of practitioners so as to improve their implementation capacities.

The School has focused on building the capacities of people working close to the grassroots and engaged with large systems such as the *Panchayat Raj* Institutions (grassroots institutions of local governance), Producer Organizations and *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (farmer service centers). It has already trained more than 7,000 of such people.



The School works in collaboration with state government departments in Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. The School shall be supporting livelihood promotion in Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration RGVN and APMAS with financial support from the SDTT. It has agreed to be a knowledge partner in Sustainable Livelihoods India Initiative (SLII), a national level initiative of ACCESS Development Services.

The School endeavors for greater involvement of women at all levels and to build autonomous, non-hierarchical collaborations with academic institutions, livelihood promotion and support agencies.

1. Major Accomplishments

- Conducted 258 programs, reaching out to 9,239 participants engaged in promoting and supporting livelihoods
 - Built the capacities of 2,277 practitioners, in 100 regular and customized education programs of the School
 - Conducted 158 Livelihood Orientation Programmes, covering 6,962 participants including BDOs/CEOs and PRIs members in Chattisgarh for State Institute of Rural Development, Ajeevika and People Science Institute, Dehradun.
- Conducted 69 **case studies** of various livelihood promotion initiatives across the country
- Conducted 10 workshops, with **Livelihood Learning Groups** on important livelihood promotion issues, with the involvement of 350 livelihood practitioners across the country
- Presently offering courses in five modules - 'Fundamentals of Livelihood Promotion'-1 and 2, 'Management of Watershed for Livelihood Promotion', 'Micro-financing Livelihoods and Well-being' and 'Livestock based Livelihoods'
- The School has completed the study of '**Savings Behavior of the Poor Households**' including 'financial diaries' methodology and 6 cases of savings innovations with support from Ford Foundation
- A National Level **workshop on "Financial Inclusion: Strengthening Savings Services"** was organized in collaboration with Micro Save, NABARD, and ING-Vysya Bank
- Built a strong team of 117 faculty members, - who are the backbone of the School - and enhanced their capacities through several faculty development initiatives
- Provided conceptual and **documentation support** for Building Knowledge about livelihood initiatives of various livelihood promoters including 33 action research projects of BASIX,



- **Animation CD** on fundamentals of livelihood promotion.
- "State of India's Livelihoods: The 4 P Report" has been published by The Livelihood School jointly with the Access Development Services.
- A report on "Agriculture based Livelihoods" (compilation of presentations) of the regional seminar held at Kolkata was published by the School.
- A national level workshop cum seminar on "Inclusive Growth: India in Global Perspective" has been jointly organized by The Livelihood School and Vivekananda College for Women at Kolkata.
- An article "The Contract Farming on Potato" has been published in the international journal (published from London) Enterprise Development and Microfinance in December, 2008.
- A paper presented about "Human Resource Implication of Micro-finance" at Asia Micro-finance Summit held at Hanoi, Vietnam
- National Seminar cum Workshop on 'Inclusive Growth: India in Global Perspective' organized jointly with Vivekananda College, supported by University Grants Commission (UGC), on March 09, at Kolkata.
- A seminar on 'Future Options of Agriculture - Corporate, Contract or Cooperative Farming?' was conducted in collaboration with Institution of Agricultural Technologists (IAT) on June, 09 at Bangalore.
- An International programme for the partners of 'Banking For The Poor' (BFTP) Network was carried out in association with BASIX Academy on July, 09 at Hyderabad.
- "Groundwater Resource Conditions, its Socio-Economic Impacts and Policy-Institutional Options: A Case study of Vaishali District of Bihar, India has been published in a book Groundwater Governance in the Indo-Gangetic and Yellow River Basins: Realities and Challenges (Published from U.K.) July, 2009.
- The School was facilitated five day training programme for the implementing agencies of CARITAS India on September, 09 at Mumbai.

2. Salient features of the School

The School focuses on livelihood promotion, and not on rural development or micro-finance. It works with people who cannot access good training, not due to their lack of intelligence but merely because of their inadequate command over the English language. It is guided by practitioners working closely with academicians. The School's instructional strategy involves a mix of class-

room instruction and on-site learning taken to the participants at different locations with the support of the extended faculty group (EFG).

1. The School has been designed to be an institution **without a brick and mortar campus**. On the strength of its faculty located at 20 different places across the country, the School is able to organize its programs in suitable locations that are close to the practitioners.
2. The School endeavors to create **practitioner-oriented knowledge** base for livelihood promotion. Its knowledge building methodology aims to make explicit the tacit knowledge of the practitioners and people and then to make such knowledge available in the form of instrumental knowledge that can facilitate creation of large numbers of livelihoods.
3. The School offers all its educational and training programs in **vernacular media** so as to make livelihood education accessible to practitioners who do not have access to higher education institutions due to their inadequate command over the English language. The School believes that such an approach will help connect remote rural India to the economic and technological developments of the country.
4. In the combination of **practice and academics**, the school has adopted to put practice first. The School engages in academic pursuit on issues that are important for practice. It attempts at bringing in the required academic rigor into knowledge relevant to and arising from practice.
5. The School has 117 faculty members, 18 of them are members of the core faculty team, 99 belong to the **Extended Faculty Group (EFG)**, The EFG, a special feature of the School, is a group of empanelled reflective practitioners, academicians, or domain specialists, who work with the School closely for various functions. They contribute and participate in different programs depending upon the suitability of time and place.
6. In order that practitioners do not need to stay away from work for long durations the dissemination of livelihood education is done in short **modules of five days**.
7. The School predominantly uses **participatory methodology** for teaching and educating practitioners. Learning is based on a mix of classroom sessions, field-based exercises and post-program follow-up assignments.

8. With intent and also the need to be **financially self-reliant** in a reasonably short period, the School works on the revenue model. To the maximum extent possible it proposes to meet the expenditure of its activities out of the fees charged for its services.

The School places emphasis on high quality delivery of its services. In order to ensure quality of its knowledge building and knowledge dissemination processes it has set up an external referral system in addition to the internal review system.

3.1.2 Livelihood Learning Groups (LLG's)

The School facilitates Livelihood Learning Groups, a unique reflective forum of practitioners and academicians: wherein, professionals engaged in promoting or supporting livelihoods of the poor come together, reflect upon difficult issues involving livelihood promotion, share their learnings with other members of the group, conceptualize and generalize the ideas arising from new learnings in order to help academicians to make the knowledge available in the public domain for others to learn from.

LLGs that the School has conducted during the last three years:

<i>Theme of LLG</i>	<i>In Association with</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>
Livelihoods and Livelihood Promotion	Ford Foundation, New Delhi	Hyderabad	November 2003
Market led Livelihood Interventions	Ford Foundation, New Delhi	Kolkata	October 2004
Status of livelihood Promotion in Andhra Pradesh	APMAS, Hyderabad	Hyderabad	February 2005
Strategies for Livelihood Promotion for Andhra Pradesh	APMAS, Hyderabad	Hyderabad	June 2005
Livelihoods and Livelihood Promotion Challenges in the Northeastern States	Royal Danish Embassy, New Delhi	Shillong	August 2005
Is Minimalist credit adequate or do we need Credit Plus	Ford Foundation,	New Delhi	September 2005

<i>Theme of LLG</i>	<i>In Association with</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>
	New Delhi		
Livelihood Finance	APMAS, Hyderabad	Hyderabad	September 2005
Micro Finance & Livelihood	BRLP & WDC, Patna	Patna	January 2007
Effectiveness of Livelihood Interventions: Using a cost benefit analysis	Ford Foundation, New Delhi	New Delhi	July 2007
Emerging Institutional models for Livelihoods	APMAS, Hyderabad	Hyderabad	December 2008

3.2 Knowledge Dissemination programs

The Livelihood School undertakes knowledge dissemination to enhance capacities of junior and middle level practitioners working in livelihood promotion agencies or practitioners whose work influences livelihoods of large numbers of people. Courses designed by the School are delivered in vernacular medium with the active involvement of members of the Extended Faculty Group (EFG).

The three-level Programme in Livelihood Promotion (PLP) consists of number of modules:

Level - 1 Fundamentals of Livelihood Promotion (FLP)

Level - 2 Engines of Livelihood Promotion (ELP)

Level - 3 Functional Areas for Livelihood Promotion (FALP)

Program in Livelihood Promotion - Design

Levels	Modules	Objectives
Level - 1 Fundamentals of Livelihood Promotion (FLP)	Livelihood Perspective and Identification of Livelihood Promotion Opportunities	To provide basic understanding of livelihoods and the livelihood promotion process that any practitioner must have in order to be effective and efficient.
	Designing and Managing a Livelihood Promotion Intervention	To create understanding that may be applied across different socio-economic and geographic conditions.
Level - 2 Engines of Livelihood Promotion (ELP)	Livelihood Promotion through Watershed Management	To create understanding about major livelihood promotion strategies through modules on specific themes
	Micro-financing Livelihoods	
	Livelihood Promotion through Livestock	
	Similar other courses	
Level - 3 Functional Areas for Livelihood Promotion (FALP)	Marketing for Livelihood Promotion	To provide inputs from several disciplines which have important bearing on the livelihood promotion process and its impact.
	Finance for Livelihood Promotion	
	Strengthening Livelihoods of Excluded Communities	
	Similar other courses	

At the end of every programme, participants are given assignments to complete before taking subsequent modules.. While completing the assignment, participants need to apply their newly acquired learning.

Other than the PLP, the School offers customized programs to meet specific requirements of livelihood institutions involved. All programs are

delivered as a mix of classroom learning, complemented with learning in the field, and with the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based materials.

On the cards are a series of stand-alone one-week programs on various subjects related to livelihood support/ promotion such as Livelihood Profiling for identification of livelihood opportunities in an area, Sub-sector Analysis, and Economics of Micro-Enterprises.

3.3. Faculty Development

The School has a well-designed system for identifying, inducting and developing faculty members belonging either to the core team or the Extended Faculty Group (EFG). The faculty development activities of the school are designed to ensure requirements of the knowledge dissemination and knowledge building deliverables. After careful identification of the potential faculty, induction is systematically done through participation in school's education programs and in the knowledge building processes. To strengthen their knowledge dissemination skills trainings of trainers (ToTs), case teaching workshops and training for delivery of modules are organized for the faculty members. Whereas, case writing workshops and research methodology workshops are organized to enhance understanding of knowledge building processes among them.

Besides the above activities, visits to important interventions are organized to let the faculty experience the live conditions on the field, such experiences are important for analysis of livelihood related data.

The members of the extended faculty group come from various backgrounds and different regions of the country and bring knowledge and experience of their contexts to the School: so also, they take valuable knowledge from the School to their regular work contexts. This exchange of knowledge adds a unique feature and flavor to the process of livelihood promotion education.

**LIVELIHOOD SCHOOL
PROGRESS - AT A GLIMPSE**

1	Established	18 April' 2004
A	Centers: Regional Centers	3
B	Faculty Members	117
C	Internal Faculty Members	18
D	Extended Faculty Members	99
4	Knowledge Building	
A	Number of papers publication	9
B	Cases Developed	69
B	Livelihood Learning Groups Consultation	10
C	Total number of Practitioners attended LLG	350
D	SDC-LTF Action Research Accompaniment	33
5	Faculty Development Programs	
A	Training of Trainers Program (FDP)	21
B	Case writing workshops	9
C	Case teaching Workshop/Write shop	7
D	Research Methodology for non researchers	2
6	Knowledge Dissemination -PLP	
A.	Total programs	258
B.	Total Participants	9,239
C.	Number of Standard Program conducted	48
D.	Number of Trainees attended	822
E.	Number of customized Program conducted	52
F.	Number of Trainees attended	1,455
G.	Livelihood Orientation Program conducted	158
H.	Number of Trainees attended	6,962
7	Institutional Linkages	37
A	State Agencies	14
B	Private Agencies - Donors	23