

Annual Report 2017-2018



Contents

Executive Director's Message	2
ICCo's Geographical Focus Areas	3
ICCo Governing Board Members	5
Clean Energy Interventions	6
Agriculture Value Chain Interventions	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship	10
Green Business Challenge	11
Skill Building Program.....	14
Centre of Excellence	15
Women Empowerment	17

Executive Director's Message

2017 was a remarkable year on many fronts. Throughout the past year, ICCo has built strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the Government and Private Sector for our agriculture value-chain, women empowerment, youth employability and entrepreneurship, and clean energy initiatives.

The agriculture value chain work under North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is progressing well. We are developing a one-of –its-kind ecosystem of value chain services right from marketing to production for farmers in the North East.



Last year, we have reached out to 7,000 farmers under the ginger, king chilly, piggery, and dairy value chain.

A major project we undertook in 2017 with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and Oil India was to provide 3000 tea garden workers with energy efficient alternates to prepare meals. The project has not only reduced the community's dependency on firewood but also created a pool of clean 20 energy entrepreneurs who got trained on the construction of energy efficient cook stoves.

Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship is a very significant area to ICCo's work. We truly believe that the overall success of SDGs is highly dependent on effective engagement with the youth. We continue to spearhead several initiatives such as the Green Business Challenge for scouting and fostering agri-prenuers who would address concurrent agriculture challenges in the East & the North East region of India. Last year, we reached out to nearly 1000 such aspiring youth and 50 start-ups. ICCo will provide incubation support for access to finance to the most promising ones.

We are also working in partnership with Tech Mahindra Foundation for a skill building program where ICCo is identifying, scouting and mentoring students who are keen to pursue a career in the healthcare sector. We have reached out to nearly 2000 students so far.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners. It is their faith and commitment towards ICCo that truly inspires us and lends the affirmation that we need to push even further.

As we move ahead and celebrate past achievements, it is important to be cognizant of the tasks yet to be completed or begun. We will continue keeping farmers, youth and women at the heart of our work, build strategic partnerships and capitalize on synergies with various stakeholders; amplify impact of our work at the grassroots to create prosperity through various interventions that will enhance the quality of life of the communities we serve.

I am deeply grateful to the ICCo team for their extraordinary contribution and invaluable support over the years. My confidence for ICCo's bright future comes, in large measure, from the zeal, energy and passion of colleagues and the remarkable commitment they bring on board.

To each one of you, I express my deepest thanks!

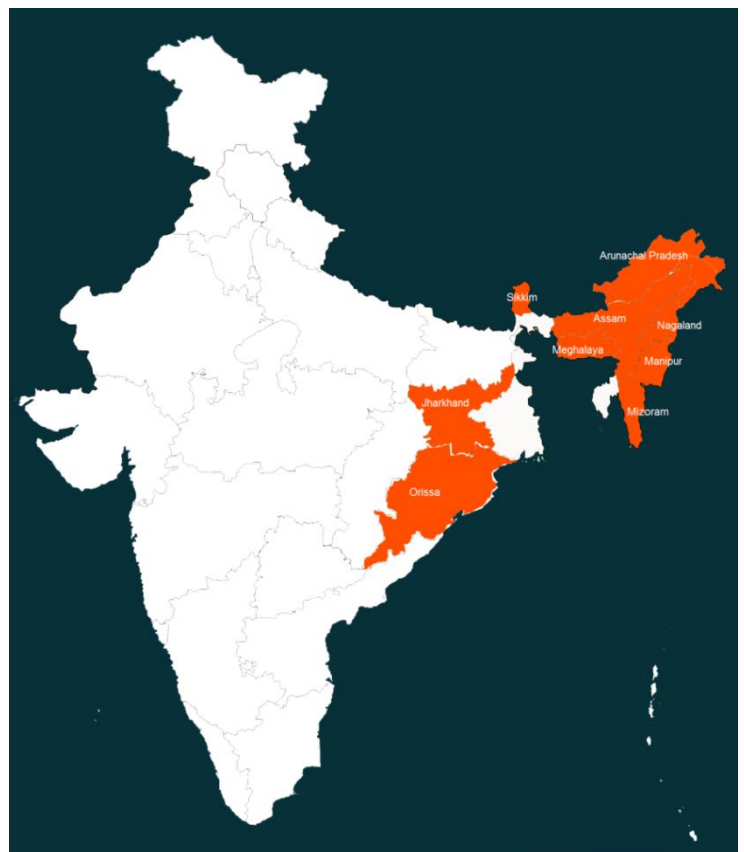
Alay Barah

Executive Director

ICCo's Geographical Focus Areas

ICCo now focuses on the eastern and north-eastern states of Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. These states exhibit low human development indicators, high poverty rate and high concentration of marginalised populations.

Marginalised communities, women and people with disability are found in large numbers among the poor population of these states, and rank low on economic and social indicators. Scheduled tribe-dominated districts are among the worst off in terms of supply of services and outcomes such as infant mortality and malnutrition.



ICCo Governing Board Members

- Mr. Sanjay Patra, Chairperson, ICCo Trust
- Ms. Sushma Mehrotra, Trustee, ICCo Trust
- Mr. Gary Kamaal, Trustee, ICCo Trust
- Ms. Madhu Chowdhury, Trustee, ICCo Trust



CLEAN ENERGY

North East India's Smoke-free Kitchen Brings a Ray of Hope

ICCo India, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and Oil India joined hands to provide 3000 tea garden workers with energy efficient alternates to prepare meals. The key aim was to introduce a fuel efficient and relatively eco-friendly cook stove, which reduces firewood consumption and thereby also lowers carbon emissions significantly.

The project covered six tea gardens from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, focusing mainly women workers. Those who followed the rules of using the cook-stove meticulously benefitted the most, both in terms of time and cost of firewood. Elimination of ambient air pollution in the kitchen has also been a boon for the health of women.



Key Highlights

3,000 households benefited

The economic impact experienced by 900 households on account of reduced firewood requirements is estimated at Rs 38 lakhs.

92 % of the households adopted the technology

Reduction in CO₂ emissions was nearly 890 tonnes

The project has not only reduced the community's dependency on firewood but also created a pool of clean 20 energy entrepreneurs who got trained on the construction of energy efficient cook stoves. Later on, these individuals will act as service providers and do the job of refortification and minor repairs of breakages.

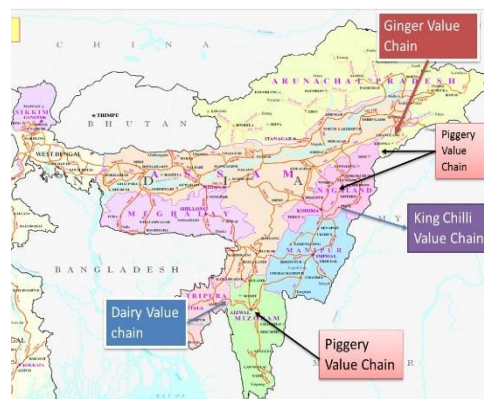


AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Value Chain Development in North East

ICCo continues to be the technical partner to North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), funded by World Bank and Government of India, to implement value chain development initiatives in the North East. Presently, ICCo is leading value chain development of Piggery, Ginger and King Chilly and Dairy in Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim.

Through this one-of- its-kind intervention, ICCo is developing a “complete ecosystem” for the value chain development. ICCo conducted a comprehensive value chain analysis to identify current gaps and design interventions accordingly. The main focus during year 2017-18 was on the building the institutional framework and infrastructure needs and networks. We have reached out to 7,000 farmers in the last year.



Under the piggery value chain, ICCo through its Value Chain Cell (VCC) is helping North East Rural Livelihood Program (NERLP) in bridging the bottlenecks in piggery value chain. Until date 25 pig breeding units have been established. We are also leading several training and capacity building programmes for farmers to get acquainted to various farming practices.

Under the Ginger Value Chain, ICCo is facilitating sourcing of quality Seed Rhizome variety (VARADA) developed by Indian Institute of Spices Research, Khozikode (IISR). ICCo is also facilitating construction of a collection center cum storage unit for scientifically harvested ginger. It is also working on establishing a ginger pre-processing unit at Sikkim and Mizoram that would do sorting, cleaning and grading at farm level and link it to ginger processing and marketing companies.

Under the King Chilly value chain, ICCo is helping the project team to design suitable Package of Practices for king chilly based on field situation. We are also guiding NERLP’s District team to establish a collection center cum drying unit for collectivization and drying the chilly to maintain moisture as per market demand.

Under the dairy value chain, ICCo’s is leading breed improvement through Artificial Insemination (AI); providing training and capacity building on feed and fodder management and vet care support system and establishing collection center cum milk chilling unit.



YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Green Business Challenge: Unleashing Agri Business ideas to Create a Positive Impact on Farmers



The Green Business Challenge 2017 was based on the theme – “Promoting Innovation for Social Impact” with the focus on the core sectors – agri-implements and machinery, biotech in agriculture, ICT in agriculture and post-harvest technology. This year the journey began with 11 roadshows in 14 states of India reaching out to around 1000 aspiring youth and 50 start-ups.

Following a stringent screening process, 13 finalists were shortlisted, who made their final pitch to the jury panel comprising of highly recognized individuals and experts Dr. Bindu Dey, Secretary, Technology Development Board, Mr. Adarsh Kumar, Senior Agri Business Specialist-World Bank, Prof. Dinesh Awasthi, Former Director (EDI), Mr. Ajay Muttreja, Start Up Advisor /Mentor, Dr. Manisha Acharya, Director-Labs Indigram among others.



The Jury unanimously chose the three most deserving winners from the challenge. EasyKrishi Private Limited emerged as the winner of the competition. Mahismati Farmer Producer Company and Pabhoi Greens bagged the second and third positions. ICCo will provide incubation support for access to finance to them.

The awards evening was graced by Her Excellency Dominique Kuhling, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as the Chief Guest for the occasion. In her address, she appreciated ICCo and ICCSPL's continuous effort in creating an entrepreneurship ecosystem and assured Embassy's support to take the initiative forward.

Partnership and Collaboration

ICCo and Technology Development Board (TDB) signed an MoU in March 2018. The collaboration will lead to the a) Scouting of relevant agriculture technology business solutions in pre-harvest and post-harvest domain b) identify technologies and business solutions which demonstrate the ability to transform rural economic environment as well as generate employment for rural youth c) Asses the ability of interested agri-tech business in domains identified through the above activities to improve farmers' income levels by evaluation their technology readiness and business model for commercial and financial viability.



ICCo signed an MoU with Symbiosis Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (SCEI) on March 2018. The collaboration will lead to a) promoting entrepreneurship in agribusiness which will enable in supporting innovations and social entrepreneurs b) developing a new model of agribusiness by training and development of large number of rural youth as agri-preneurs. (iii) work towards improving income of small and marginal farmers through extension of services and better market-linkage.



Testimonials:

GBC 2017 was the first time we had pitched our business plan in front of the Jury. We had the opportunity to present our social business and got a lot of recognition. We have incorporated many of the things we learned through the GBC into our business and believe that learning will be incorporated for creating larger social impact- **Mahismati Producer Company, Madhya Pradesh**

As a CEO it is extremely valuable to have someone knowledgeable in start-ups to bounce ideas of and/or brainstorm... Overall GBC has been a great support mechanism for me. It was a great opportunity to interact with other entrepreneurs and with seasoned professionals who could provide guidance for growing our company. - **Greenovate Agrotech Pvt.Ltd, Maharashtra**

GBC 2017 was a good opportunity to improve my abilities and my skills about entrepreneurship. During the final pitching session, I learned about different agribusiness and about different business models presented by other finalists. For entrepreneurs from North east region, this is one of the best programs - **Innovative Attribute Society, Nagaland**

ICCo and Tech Mahindra Foundation Launch Skill Building Program in the North East



ICCo in partnership with Tech Mahindra Foundation launched a student mobilization drive to reach out to prospective students of North East to pursue paramedical courses at the Tech Mahindra SMART Academy of Healthcare in New Delhi. Since inception, the initiative has covered 12 cities across 5 states- Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura & Meghalaya. It has reached out to nearly 2000 students through various career workshops, counselling seminars, poster campaigns and entrance tests. The initiative aims to get on board at-least 100 students.

Selected students will undergo an intensive training programme under the guidance of seasoned healthcare and education experts at the Academy. ICCo is leading the efforts to identify, guide and mentor students to be able to pursue these courses at the Academy.

Mr. Alay Barah, Executive Director, ICCo said "We are delighted to work with Tech Mahindra Foundation to nurture these youths into independent thinkers, who have the capacities and competencies to learn and grow on their own terms".

Dr. Loveleen Kacker, CEO, Tech Mahindra Foundation said "We are pleased to partner with organizations like ICCo India who would join us in reaching out to the youth in North East and more. I hope many more young boys and girls can be benefited after joining our academy and make a respectable career in the fast growing healthcare sector."

Due to limited opportunities in North East, I was confused about my future. I attended ICCo career counselling seminar in Imphal and gained a lot of knowledge on pursuing paramedical courses at Tech Mahindra Foundation in New Delhi. I feels like my dream has come true, the teachers are very supportive here.

I also get a lot of exposure to express my views and opinions. I want to get a job and support my family as our financial situation is very bad.

Sapam Rishikesh Singh, Beneficiary, Tech Mahindra Program

Centre of Excellence (CoE)

ICCO's Centre of Excellence (CoE) has undertaken several initiatives and activities to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the North East Region. Seeing the immense potential to innovate, raise entrepreneurs and create jobs, CoE was involved in number programmes and opportunities to nurture innovations. While conducting these activities ICCo works closely with farmers, SME's, start-ups, academia, industry, investors and non-governmental organizations.

Last year, the Centre provided business development support to agribusiness booster linked companies by providing them access to relevant technology, help them in business expansion plans, and provide capacity building and training support.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women Empowerment and Livelihood Program

ICCo and Jindal Stainless Foundation (JSL) joined hands in to collaborate on the 'Women Empowerment and Livelihood' (WEL) Program in ten villages of Jajpur District of Odisha. The project is designed at the nexus of livelihoods, capacity building and entrepreneurship development.

To design the interventions, ICCo conducted a situation analysis in the villages of the Danagadi block in Odisha. The analysis prepared a comprehensive assessment of accessing livelihoods.



The household survey covered various aspects of livelihood (for example main and subsidiary source of income), access to Govt. Schemes, existing skills and training undertaken, savings and credit linkage, presence of Self Help Groups. Subsequently, Participatory Learning Appraisal (PLA) and Scoping study on Clean Energy were carried out to grasp the possibility of community level intervention through the existing women platform of Self Help Group (SHG). Apart from the study, a four-day residential training was conducted on Planning for Better Business with 20 women SHG leaders including four Community Mobilisers of JSF.

ICCo is planning the next phase of the project in ten villages of Danagadi block of Jajpur district and have been designing several training and capacity building related interventions. It is expected that these interventions will help women to have access to Government schemes, mentor them to make informed decisions, strengthen their skills to earn substantial income, create livelihood opportunities in animal husbandry among other.

Story of Change



Mousumi Singh Ghatowar, is one of 3000 beneficiaries of the fuel efficient cook stove provided by ICCo under the Clean Energy Program in the tea gardens of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh in Assam. She is a housewife and also chairperson of an SHG of 12 members. Eleven members of her SHG have also taken the new stove. She cooks meals three times a day for her family of four members.

Her yearly expenditure on firewood was between INR 7200 to 8400 per year. The cost of adoption of the new stove resulted in savings of approx. INR 2400 per year, while the total time saved on cooking now is two and a half hours per day.

Being entrepreneurial in nature, she took advantage of the time saved to start giving tuitions to kids. This helped her earn an additional income of INR 7200 per year.

After having benefited from this stove for the past eight months, she is keen to get one for her mother's house as well.

Mousumi feels that to get optimum results from the stove it is very important to cut the wood into smaller billets of the right size. If this is done the efficiency goes up and wood consumption comes down.



THANK YOU