

**Report
On
State Level Inception Workshop**

September 27th, 2007, Kolkata, West Bengal

**Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and
Economics (GRANITE) Phase-II**

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1. Introduction

The GRANITE project that was initiated in 2005 and continued till March 2007, is implemented in eight states, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) working at the grassroots focussing on Agriculture and Textiles of India, given their significance in the generation of employment in India.

Though the first phase has its success and non-success, the most important lesson from its implementation is that a base has been created at the grassroots level to create a sustainable space for the civil society in the context of globalisation and in terms of its effects on the poor, particularly the marginalised and women.

A concerted beginning has been made to expand this space to be sustainable in the long-run. This is the justification for taking the GRANITE initiative forward in its second phase – that is for a period of three years: from July 2007 to June 2010.

The overall objective of the GRANITE project is to create long-term capacity of Indian CSOs and other targeted stakeholders to address complex issues of globalization and international trade to understand how in an increasingly open and evolving environment they are affecting different stakeholders.

The GRANITE project Phase-2 in its aim and objective is different from GRANITE project Phase 1 as in this phase the research component is new and demands a detailed and critical analysis of the process, the problems therein and to give an avenue for exploring the prospects for CSOs intervention. It will have one policy focus approach that would be followed *vis-à-vis* Phase-1 which was general. Mainstreaming gender into policy making will also be a parallel activity of this project.

Expected Outcomes of Phase 2:

- An analysis on the process of preparation and implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2004-09.
- Awareness generation of different stakeholders on issues related to globalisation and its effect on the poor and marginalised sections of the society.
- Identification of gaps between the policies and implementation at different levels of stakeholders.

The outcomes of the First Phase of the project have considerably met the expectations of the project and some of them are as follows:

- Eight CSOs (the GRANITE partners) have demonstrated excellent capacity to be able to analyze, articulate and advocate on emerging and relevant issues with respect to globalization and international trade with specific emphasis on agriculture and textiles.
- With inputs from GRANITE partners, CUTS has advocated for pro-poor changes in the National Foreign Trade Policy of India, 2004-09 and many such changes have taken place.

- Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has formed the Inter-State Trade Council, which is in line with one of the advocacy goals of the GRANITE project, i.e. more involvement of State Governments in the process of trade policy making.

2. Inaugural Session:

Speakers: Keya Ghosh, Advisor, CUTS-CRC

Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Agriculture

S.Nandwani, Joint Director General Foreign Trade, Govt. of India

S.C. Panja, Joint Director of Industries, Directorate of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises, Govt. of West Bengal

2.1 Welcome of the participants by Keya Ghosh, Advisor, CUTS-CRC

She gave a brief overview of the project and highlighted that the most important lesson from the implementation of GRANITE project is that this project is the first of its kind at the grassroot level and a base has already been created in Phase-I. Some of the positive outcomes of GRANITE Phase-II are that the eight partners have developed their skills and demonstrated excellent capacity to analyse, articulate and advocate on emerging and relevant issues vis-à-vis globalization and international trade with specific emphasis on agriculture and textile and analyse its effect on the livelihood of the poor, particularly the marginalized and the women. The Department of Commerce, Govt. of India has formed inter-state trade councils which was in line with one of the advocacy goals of Phase-I.

However, unlike Phase-I, in Phase-II, we have decided to concentrate on a particular policy, National Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09 which envisages a programme that seeks economic growth and national development. The enunciation of the NFTP makes it evident that foreign trade is not just about exports and imports but also incorporates concerns such as economic growth and employment generation, especially in semi-urban and rural areas.

The Annual supplement (2006) to the NFTP draws attention to a ‘grand leap forward’- showing that in just two years, exports have jumped 60%, from 63 billion to 101 billion dollars. Yet the intriguing question is how much of the resultant benefits have accrued to the real producers. India’s development would remain largely vacuous if these producers do not enjoy a fair proportion of the economic growth resulting from foreign trade.

Therefore, in the second phase of the project we have added a research component the purpose of which is to find out the various problems that hinder the exports and prevent the fruits of development from percolating down to the grassroots. In the first year of the project we will find out the involvement of different stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of National Foreign Trade Policy. The two major areas selected for the study are horticulture/agriculture in broad and handloom and textiles. Therefore, the main

2.2 The objectives of the workshop

- The enunciation of the NFTP
- How to promote employment-intensive exports in Agriculture/ Horticulture and Handloom?
- How to ensure that a fair proportion of the economic growth resulting from foreign trade percolate down to the producers and grassroot stakeholders?
In this regard to focus on--if Institutional mechanism in place can ensure fair sharing of benefits of trade; if representations of Civil societies and Producers in guiding and decision making bodies such as Board of Trade can ensure the above and other to explore other possibilities of ensuring this.
- The purpose of this research is to find out the various *perceived problems of the producers and other stakeholders* that hinder the enhancement of exports in the two selected areas, and the *obstacles* that prevent the fruits of development from percolating to the producers and stakeholders in particular sectors.
- And finally to channelise the discussions to find out ways/ means and nature of partnerships/ cooperation and coordination between different agencies/stakeholders dealing with these issues.
- Overall objective: To make necessary interventions in the policy-making process which may enable suitable modifications in the NFTP to suit changing times and circumstances.

2.3 NFTP and the agricultural sector in West Bengal

Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal

The main emphasis is how to promote employment intensity in Agriculture/horticulture. We have huge manpower in rural areas but tremendous under employment exist in rural areas which is evident from the fact that 60-70% of people are producing 0-30% of GDP which means that there is even disguised unemployment and if we can convert labour market to product market then overall improvement of India's society is possible.

It has been seen that every year we are targeting at a higher growth rate but along with that agricultural growth is 2-3% out of which horticultural production would increase upto 5-6% but there will be no vast increase in core agriculture. Another important point is if our export earnings go on increasing but at the same time the proportion of benefits that have accrued to the farmers do not increase then there will be no overall development of the society as a whole.

The National Foreign Trade Policy has provisions for Agri-export zones and the main objective is to analyse whether farmers are being benefited from this concept. In our

country, farm production has increased but farm income has not increased as higher output is negated by higher input cost. Globalization is an accepted doctrine, we cannot get out of it but important point is how we equip ourselves to it.

Highlights:

- There is a need to have a formation of association of producers whether agricultural or textile for negotiating with the large processor or exporter on terms of trade. Strengthen bargaining power which can be done by aggregating the produce in a manner immediately acceptable to the market. Farmers' organizations and producers' organizations should come out and this will change the international scenario.
- Need to have a dialogue between large consumers and the consolidated producers. Global demand is getting consolidated but supply chain is not being consolidated. Information on one hand is consolidated and on the other side there is disaggregated information and this dissymmetry is to be broken which is a challenge to CUTS through this GRANITE project.

He mainly focused on Rights of horticultural /agricultural farmers. In the 1994 when we signed into WTO, we never thought that agricultural/horticulture market in India will be strong enough to command the global market and at that time the focus was mainly on imports. But later it was felt that there is high potential in export of agricultural products. For profitability of agricultural sector agri-exports became important. In today's world, India do not have any competitive advantage as a whole but some regions like Malda, Murshidabad, and products like mango and litchi have comparative advantage.

The two schemes related to agriculture mentioned in NFTP are:

- ❖ ***Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna*** includes agri produce, minor forest produce and its value added variant for eg. If chawanparash can be prepared from Amla, honey toffees from honey, milk products from milk etc. benefit on these value added products will be covered under this system. Ease high transport and infrastructural bottleneck, 5% of the freight on value of exports would go to the exporters. Govt. of India is trying hard to ensure more involvement of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries i.e. the primary livelihood sectors in foreign trade.
- ❖ ***ASIDE:*** This is Assistance to States for Infrastructure, Development and Export. Pack house has been established in Malda, other infrastructural development has also taken place in Haldia, Bagdogra and kolkata and the government gets all the assistance in this regard from ASIDE.
- ❖ Farmers have to work in a cooperative and in a very transparency system like SHGs, collective bargaining, co-operatives etc.
- ❖ When agriculture/horticulture becomes market-oriented then there will be an effect on the food security of the farmers. Cases of farmers' suicide have been found in areas where commercial agriculture has become prominent such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh etc.
- ❖ Impact of Agreement on Agriculture or WTO has a positive impact on middle

- level consumers but it may have a negative impact on the poor and marginalised producers. Therefore, it is difficult to state that globalization is good or bad, it all depends on the position of the producer or consumer.
- ❖ In any contract there is a pre-supposition that people are equal. So if a contract takes place with a weak or poor person then it will not be a fair contract as contract pre-supposes equality.
 - ❖ Involve farmers in the decision-making process.
 - ❖ Internal consultation at the time of WTO Agreement perhaps is not adequate before the accession to WTO; Foreign Trade Policy is not determined by farmers but the Commerce Ministry. Individual farmers would find it extremely difficult to gain from any negotiations; hence, strengthening farmers' cooperatives or interest groups is perhaps the only way to get the farmers a better deal both from the corporate and from policy makers. So farmers should be made aware or conscious to get better returns. Need to empower the producer about how to negotiate, how their collective interest will be benefited.

2.4 NFTP and the export sector

Mr. S.Nandwani: Joint Director General Foreign Trade, Govt. of India

Highlights

- Globalisation is how you perceive it and it is at what level of individual development you are in. Globalisation means movement of goods, resources and capital across borders with an easy flow.
- Laying down the infrastructure is the best thing that Government can do. WTO stands for 2 primary principles: National treatment and most favoured nation which means no discrimination amongst countries, whatever benefit is given to country A, same benefit will be given to country B. National Treatment means not discriminate between goods produced in the country and goods imported. Previously there was restriction on import but now it's just the opposite and duties have also been reduced than earlier.
- Govt. of India took the initiative to get all the states roped in export initiatives of the country. Central by large frames the policy but actual implementation is done by the states at the grassroots level.
- Role of CSOs: Social Impact analysis on the grassroot level, kind of governance that has been decided NFTP percolates down to the grassroot. How well it is implemented relates to the how much aware or educated the farmers are.
- Internal consultancy before WTO not sufficient much done with various stakeholders. In Board of Trade CSOs should be involved.
- Some of the objectives of FTP are: facilitating technological and infrastructural up gradation, revitalizing Board of Trade by incorporating the perspective of different stakeholders.
- Globalisation and WTO does not talk about outcomes it talks about opportunities.

2.5 NFTP and the Micro and Small Enterprise Sector

Mr. S.C. Panja, Jt. Director of Industries, Directorate of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises, Govt. of West Bengal

Highlights:

- Recently Micro and medium sized enterprise act has been announced where handicrafts is a small scale industry. 42 lakhs craftsmen are engaged in producing handicraft products all over the country.
- West Bengal was famous for Zari work. Handloom and handicraft products are gaining demand in international market. Gradually these products are also being exported apart from domestic demand.
- Exports will increase, but the point to be looked at is whether the artisans are being benefited by more export, whether they are getting a larger share of exports.
- He also stressed on the point that the grassroot people should be empowered on increasing their bargaining power and whether they are involved in the policy formulation process.
- Training can be imparted on improving the designs of their products because if they can produce quality products then only their bargaining power would increase towards exporter. There is scope for export promotion in these products.

3. Session-II:

Horticulture/Agriculture: Problems & Prospects in the light of NFTP

Open Discussion:

- Haripada Basak from Fulia, Nadia stated that now about 10 crore of export has taken place in case of tant sarees.
- Smt. Bani Saraswati of Sreema Mahila Samity, Nadia raised a question that if farmers produce according to their own choice then whether that is profitable. It is also needed that farmers make themselves aware of the market information, then they can be benefited or not. As pointed out by Mr. Sanjeev Chopra that Globalisation will have a negative impact on the marginalized and poor, it has been found that suicide cases are more in case of farmers involved in commercial agriculture. We are aiming at exports of these products but in the domestic market, we do not use handloom and handicrafts, so this can be an area of concern.
- In organic agriculture it has been seen that when chemicals are added to the crops, farmers are reluctant to use it as the quality of their production would deteriorate and they will not get appropriate benefits for their products. Awareness generation, how their products can be marketed without the middleman. There has been huge production of tomatoes but at the same time huge amount of tomatoes

are being destroyed also, so participants wanted to know the role of State Government in this regard.

- As stated by Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, in our country Sugar Control Order exists which dictates that farmers cannot produce other crops except sugarcane. The Order also states that not only sugarcane will be grown but sugarcane will be sold to a particular factory in that area. When we say farmers' rights to grow, it means if we give market support, packaging support to one particular crop, in contrast to that we are not providing any fiscal or packaging support to that crop which implies that indirectly we are discouraging that crop and taking away the farmers rights to grow that crop.
- In Coochbehar medium farmers are growing tomatoes on lands of small farmers as medium farmers' have the ability to bear the market risk than the poor farmers Risk taking ability is much higher among medium farmers than poor farmers. When potato production or tomato production rises to higher level there is the need for processing industry. Apart from adequate number of processing units, another important factor that can be looked at is the rate of transaction.
- Another critical factor is if farmers have the facility ownership then advantage of value addition would go to the farmers but the existing situation does not reflect that but at the same time we are moving from imperfect situations to perfect situation and it is a gradual process. In this context, massive cooperative intervention is needed.
- Need to have a dialogue between processors and producers. We need to get the National Co-operative Union of India and FICCI on a face to face dialogue on one side and the producers, representatives of farmers' interests on other hand.
- Today silk yarn that China is supplying to India is much cheaper than our own production and the reason for this may be our production is perhaps not as efficient or our systems are not structured as Chinese systems are. Now we have to look at how we can compete in the global market which is extremely difficult but production of some specific products like so that we get global advantage.
- China is catering to a mass market but unique products that India can produce can create a demand in the market. India can compete in this market as we have specific human skill to produce that particular product.
- The rate at which economic requirement is increasing the rate of ability to absorb agriculture labour is less which means how much manpower can be engaged in single cropping, multiple cropping. In contrast to factories, services create more number of man days.
- As pointed out by Mr. S.N. Khara, District Horticulture Officer, Malda and coordinator agri-export zone, Mango that any new scheme if introduced initially

to the small farmers may not motivate them at the beginning as they are afraid of bearing the risk. Therefore, in this case first target should be the contract farmers and big farmers and then gradually the concept spreads among the small farmers.

- In case of mango cultivation, 38% of the cultivation is Fazli and its main market is Bangladesh particularly Fazli and Ashina which are exported to Bangladesh could not capture the market this year due to political unrest. As a result the entire economy was disturbed. Farmers are now producing quality products and organic mango is also being cultivated.
- Another important factor which came out in the workshop is the lack of trust of the farmers on the government. Due to the implementation of new techniques the cost of production increased but the farmers could not earn that much profit by selling their products in the domestic market and hence this mistrust of the farmers on the government started developing.
- The most important need is the strengthening of market. Previously, there was a lack of infrastructure but now many infrastructural facilities have been developed by National Horticulture Mission, NABARD. Another point is if the exporters make a contract with the farmers at the flowering stage of their product then the grower are ready to invest their money and they would provide us with quality produce.
- Certification of organic product which in some cases face difficulties while exporting. Therefore, there is a need for institutions and organizations which will certify these products for export.
- Companion crops can be grown in interspaces between mango orchards. These interspaces can also be used for cultivation of medicinal plants and their produce can be marketed.
- If fresh food cannot be exported then processed or value added products can be marketed. There is lack of adequate markets for processed foods, even different women self-help groups (SHGs) are also preparing some products which they are unable to sell due to lack of market.
- Even in case of bamboo production, same question has been raised by the grassroots people that existing bamboo area would expand but the market would not expand at that rate and their difficulty in marketing the products would persist.
- More investment should be made looking into the allied services than only agriculture. One problem in West Bengal Agriculture/horticulture requires long-term commitments.
- In remote areas the growers usually sell their products in the 'hatbars' i.e. local markets every week but since there is no shade or infrastructure for storing these

perishable agri-products like potato, tomato, they incur a loss while those who have already developed such kind of infrastructures make good profit out of it.

- In Dhanekhali, Hooghly, there is a huge production of potatoes but immediately after the production when these potatoes are picked up at that time the price drops drastically but there are more than 24 cold storages in that area. Therefore, if any byproduct of potato can be prepared and exported. In this regard, Mr. Sanjeev Chopra said that NDDDB in Bangalore in collaboration with Government of India has set up a *Safal National Exchange* where online trading of potato, mango other agricultural products can be started. Since this year all the products have been already sold so this new system would start from the next year and farmers will also know at what price they can sell their products. In West Bengal 3-4 Processing plants will be set up which would perhaps minimize this disparity between production and requirement will be minimized.
- *Therefore, the main points that came up in this session is the formation of farmers' co-operatives or associations, strengthening their negotiation or professional skills and if farmers can themselves be exporters.*

4. Session-III: Textile: Problems & Prospects in the light of NFTP

Speakers: Mr. N.Dey,

Prof. Indranil Bose, Head, Department of Political Science, St. Xaviers College, Kolkata

As pointed out by **Prof. Indranil Bose**, some of the major problems that handicap the enhancement of export of handloom products may be highlighted:

- (1) ***A Shrinking Market:*** it seems that consumer preferences have undergone a change; intricate designs produced by handlooms are no longer in demand.
- (2) ***Threat imposed by the power loom:*** the power loom can make available simple and utilitarian items like saris and lungis for everyday use at much more affordable prices. Traditional handloom weavers are feeling compelled to move out of their professions. Besides, the one time reservation of 22 items for handloom was reduced to 11 in 1985 and today there is no such reservation at all.
- (3) ***Unfair and Foreign competition:*** advent of Chinese silk has put a decisive closure on the demand for 'silk tangail' which was a speciality of Fulia at one time.
- (4) ***A rapidly evolving technology:*** Traditional handloom weavers are making a desperate attempt to produce new and intricate designs which cannot be done by powerlooms; but such designs can be produced only with the help of expensive looms, which cannot be afforded by most of the weavers. Besides, the demand for such items is also not substantial.

- (5) **Lack of financial support:** A majority of the weavers are outside the cooperative fold, and have to operate independently, mostly under no cover of security. Even cooperatives are heavily dependent on Govt. subsidies and the day the govt. is unable to dole out aid, these cooperative societies will shrink.
- (6) **Lack of managerial efficiency:** lack of professionalism is a major handicap among the handloom weavers of West Bengal; there is need for proper strategy formulation to enhance the bargaining power of the weavers.

Mr. N. Dey, Director, Handloom & Textile, Government of West Bengal

Highlights:

- Handloom and textile is a major sector after agriculture. The production of handloom and employment generation has increased over the years but export is less. Demand in foreign markets exists but the weavers are unable to export. There is enough scope for export but we are not aware of the export market and the criteria for export and the weavers are at the base level.
- In Hosiery sector also employment generation has increased. For readymade garments places like Metiaburz, Maheshtala are depots of these places. In this sector, more than 2 lakh families are involved and a business of 10.5 crores exists in this sector.
- Individual initiative is the need of the hour. Government will play the role of a facilitator. Apart from Kolkata, accessibility to internet which is needed for foreign trade is lacking in most of the remote areas of West Bengal.
- Handloom societies export through merchant exporters either Kolkata or Delhi based. As a result, they are not getting enough scope for direct exports.
- A co-operative society like TANTUJA is the marketing outlet through which the products of primary weavers' co-operatives will be marketed. But since TANTUJA was unable to finance the weavers in time, the societies suffered their working capital got blocked and unable to repay the loan.
- At present 20-25% weavers are within co-operative societies and the rest 75% are outside the societies. In the 11th five year plan a decision has been taken that those weavers outside societies to be increased and they would get all the help. Handloom Weavers Group formation can be encouraged, cluster development and then go for financing where NABARD can also help us in financing. In West Bengal 2 clusters are working in 2 districts of West Bengal.
- Products should be market-driven. This mainly implies domestic market but gradually the export market will now be capitalized.

- Traditional sarees of Dhanekhali do not have adequate market for export. Another point is the demand for chikon embroidery and here the entire export is through Mahajans and the women labourers are very low paid and also suffer from eye problem. One of the weak point of Dhanekhali is the weavers are reluctant to accept changes because market demand can be created if designs can be changed.
- Haripada Basak of Fulia, Nadia stated that there has been partial socio-economic development of the weavers of Fulia. Every year they carry the merchant exporters order but their customers from Japan, America visit the places of production the 'tanti paras'. They interact with the weavers about their method of production, payment etc. Before accessibility of internet, one important factor is the lack of infrastructure like road condition, water supply, electricity, drainage system etc. In Fulia, an *export mart* will be established very soon which perhaps would solve all these problems. Cluster development would facilitate infrastructural development. CAD centre are also being set up in Fulia which helps in preparing different attractive designs.
- In case of Sericulture, Abdul Rejjak of Mushidabad highlighted that the labourers involved in rearing of silk threads get a very low wage. But the same source can also yield high quality silk but due to certain constraints good quality thread cannot be yielded.
- Baseline Survey of both weavers and exporters should be carried out so that we can analyse the matching needs. Marketing is still weak in the handloom and textile sector which needs to be strengthened.
- There are 133 rural development schemes but villagers are not aware of even one. If we identify the information gaps then also it will be of some contribution.
- There was a scheme titled Development of Exportable Product and their Marketing (DEPM) which stated the specific requirements for export and one of which was a foreign designer but it was not possible to look for a foreign designer and as a result the work got delayed.

5. Conclusion

The most important factor that evolved out of this workshop is the market assurance in both horticulture and textile sectors. Although a market for the products definitely exists, there is an obvious lack of awareness how to reach the market effectively. Furthermore, there is also a lack of market linkages as well as marketing strategies for the products. These identified factors contribute to an insufficient market presence for the products; the local producers are not able to benefit from the policy to uplift them from poverty. One of the research components of the project should therefore be the analysis of both success and non-success stories so that the same mistakes are not committed again and at the same time actively develop future strategies to achieve the above stated necessary preconditions (namely broad awareness generation amongst the industries' stakeholders, the establishment of market linkages and specific marketing strategies to name just a few) for a successful implementation of the National Foreign Trade Policy for the State of West Bengal.

6. Workshop Agenda

**State Level Inception Workshop
On
Grassroots Reachout & Networking in India on Trade and Economics**

- 9:00-9:30 : **Registration**
- 9:30-10:30 : **Inaugural Session**
 Welcome Address & a brief Project Overview
 Dr. Keya Ghosh, Advisor, CUTS International
 Address by Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture.
 Address by Mr. S.C. Panja, Joint Director of Industries, Government of West Bengal
 Keynote Address by Mr. S. Nandwani, Joint DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
- 10:30-11:00 : ***Tea/Coffee Break***
- 11:00-1:30 : **Session-I: Horticulture: Problems & Prospects in the light of National Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09**
- 11:00-11:30 : Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture
- 11:30-1:30 : Open Discussion
- 1:30-2:30 : ***LUNCH***
- 2:30-5:00 : **Session-II: Textiles and Handloom: Problems & Prospects in the light of National Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09**
- 2:30-3:00 : Mr. N.Dey, Director, Handloom & Textiles, Government of West Bengal.
- 3:00-5:00 : Open Discussion & Vote of thanks

7. List of Workshop Participants**GRASSROOTS REACHOUT AND NETWORKING IN INDIA ON TRADE AND ECONOMICS (GRANITE) PHASE-II****SEPTEMBER, 27, 2007, KOLKATA**

Sl. No.	Name
1	Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Secretary, Department of Food Processing & Horticulture Govt. of West Bengal
2	Dr. Piyush Pramanick, Director, Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal
3	Mr. S. Nandwani, Jt. DGFT, Govt. of India, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India
4	Mr. S.C. Panja, Jt. Director of Industries, GOWB
5	Mr. D.B. Dutta, Deputy Director, Small Industries Service Institute, Ministry of Industry, Government of India
6	Mr. N. Dey, Director, Handloom & Textile Government of West Bengal
7	Mr. S.K. Dasgupta, West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd.
8	Sh. S. K. Patra, Dy. Director (Processing), Weavers' Service Center, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
9	Secretary, APED, Debendra Prasad
10	K. B. Agarwala, President, WB Hosiery Association, Kolkata
11	Mr. Haripada Basak
12	Smt. Bani Saraswati
13	Mr. Litton Bhattacharya/Mr. Nitya Ranjan Das Fulia 52 Bigha Social Development Organisation
14	Mr. Khairul Anam Meerza, Secretary, Palsa Pally Unnayan Samiti
15	Abdul Rejjak
16	Mr. Dipak Chakraborty, Secretary, Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity
17	Ms. Rajeka Khatun/ Mr Naushad Mallick, Hiranyabati Gramin Silpa Niketan
18	Mr. Bimal Biswas, Asst. Secretary
19	Aniruddha Bagchi, Usha Gram Vikash Kendra
20	Mr. Sirajul Islam Secretary, Gobindapur Simanta Bangla Mahila Seva Samity (G.S.M.S)
21	Shri P.K. Sen, Deputy Director, Textiles Committee, Block GN, Plot No. 38/3, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091
22	Dr. Chandan Mukherjee General Secretary, Society for Equitable Voluntary Actions (SEVA)
23	Ms. Manjusree Guha Majumder

24	Ashok Kumar Jha, Area Extension Manager
25	Arun Mondal, President, Uttar Banga Anarash Chasi Sangathan
26	Subhas Adhikari, Choa Samabay Samiti
27	A.K. Mallik, Mallik Agrotech, Grower
28	Mr. Dipak, Chakraborty , Secretary Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity
29	S.N. Khara, Project Co-ordinator, Mango
30	N Mishra, Area Manager Gour Gramin Bank
31	Loknath Kumar, Secretary, Ratua II, Mango Growers Association, Puria, Ratua, Malda
32	Mr. Tarun Bhaduri, Balia Agro-Mission
33	Jayanto Basu
34	Keya Ghosh, CRC
35	Nabinananda Sen, CRC
36	N K Sinha, CRC
37	Indranil Bose, CRC
38	Jayeeta Sarkar, CRC
39	Arnab Ganguly, CRC
40	Sumanto Biswas, CRC