

## 150. Saranjamshala–CSIR Rural Technologies Gallery

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**Abstract.** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India's premier S&T organization has a mandate to innovate and shape sustainable rural technologies to help the common people and smaller communities for better quality of life by realizing the use of the technology. It has 37 working laboratories around the country and in the pursuit of strengthening the nation from grass-root level, it has undertaken several R&D programmes and developed over 365 promising technologies for the rural communities in the areas of agriculture (farm & non-farm), drinking water, leather, building materials, natural fibers, ceramics, medicinal and aromatic plants etc. These technologies have shown large impact on the socio-economic conditions of the rural people and CSIR is currently operating a project which aims at bringing solutions to 800 million people in the country under a innovate program called CSIR 800.

CSIR is now continuously striving towards the outreach of these technologies to the rural areas for attracting prospective entrepreneurs. In this process, it has established a Rural Gallery named "Saranjamshala" at Bhopal to showcase its prominent rural technologies for their effective outreach. Models, exhibits, products and other information related to CSIR rural technologies have been displayed in 5 theme showcases and 14 individual laboratory showcases. The gallery is a permanent showcase of CSIR rural technologies to depict the success stories of rural development and is continuously visited by of NGO's, KVK's, Rural Artisans, Entrepreneurs' etc. The paper discusses various aspects of CSIR rural technology dissemination and how effectively these technologies have been showcased.

**Keywords:** Rural technology, CSIR, Dissemination, Rural gallery

### Introduction

Technological interventions are vital elements in the socio-economic development of any region. A majority of the world's population, especially in the developing countries live in rural areas and it is utmost important to develop sustainable and meaningful technologies for improving their quality of life. This would call for significant technological interventions in many areas which include water, shelter, energy, environment, health, food, farm and nonfarm sectors. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India's premier S&T organization and one of the world's largest publicly funded R&D agency has a mandate to innovate and shape sustainable rural technologies to help the common people and smaller communities for better quality of life by realizing the use of the technology (CSIR, 1995).

During the years 1997-2002, CSIR has prepared a plan for its orientation towards rural development programs and brought out a focused program called "Rural Action Program" (RAP). The program is largely concentrated on the effective dissemination modes of prominent rural technologies by the way of publication of journal of rural technology, establishment of a CSIR rural technology gallery and organizing various training programs/awareness programs and Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI), formerly Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal has successfully implemented these activities. This paper reveals about the establishment of a gallery consisting of promising CSIR rural technologies which is mainly aimed at popularization.

### CSIR Rural Technologies

CSIR has a wide network of 37 laboratories around the country and some of these laboratories, in addition to generating new knowledge, have been making out technologies that will have a special significance for the rural sector. CSIR joins hands with various governments departments and ministries towards meeting the commitment to leverage its relevant knowledge base for the benefit of rural sector, north east region of the country and weaker sections of the society (Vimla, 2007). It has also established new linkages and partnerships by providing technological support for basic human needs of the people living in rural India in key S&T areas of strength.

Rural development through inducting and infusing S&T based innovations in rural life has been a vital mission for CSIR. In this journey it has developed around 365 technologies covering areas like mechanized agriculture, new

cultivation techniques, water purification techniques, low cost housing and traditional ceramic products utilizing locale-specific endowments etc. All these technologies are creating lot of employment and wealth generation by improving quality of life and community development. During Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) of Government of India, CSIR has brought out a focused program called “CSIR 800” which aims at providing a better life to 800 million people in the country by the way of developing cost effective technologies in the areas of health, agriculture, and energy. Apart from providing meaningful solutions, the program largely encourages the successful dissemination of its rural technologies.

### **Rural Technology Dissemination**

Dissemination of rural technologies as such is not the mandate of many CSIR laboratories. But without popularizing its technological base these laboratories can never benefit the rural populations and the issue of effective dissemination has been widely discussed over the years and at various levels. It was during the Tenth Five Year Plan of Government of India, CSIR has brought out program called “Rural Action Program” (RAP) which is largely aimed at showcasing and disseminating the rural technologies (Nandan, 2009). Apart from this, efforts are being made to design successful business models to create sustainable employment.

### **Saranjamshala–The CSIR Rural Gallery**

In the process of its dissemination efforts, CSIR has established a rural gallery named Saranjamshala—a name inspired by the Gandhian literature at AMPRI, Bhopal to showcase its prominent rural technologies for their effective outreach. Prof. V.L. Chopra, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India inaugurated the gallery, in the presence of Dr. Samir K. Brahmachari, Director General, CSIR on March 28, 2008. The gallery is presently functioning as a CSIR rural technology showcase. The design of the gallery includes 5 theme showcases and 14 individual laboratory showcases. The theme showcases are the places where collective technological models of different laboratories were placed based on various themes viz., Natural Fibers, Leather, Ceramics and Handicrafts, Food Technologies, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. The individual showcases hold prominent rural technology products/models of the following 14 CSIR laboratories:

1. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow
2. Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM), Jammu
3. Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun
4. Advanced Materials and Process Research Institute (AMPRI), Bhopal
5. Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai
6. Central Scientific Instrument Organizations (CSIO), Chandigarh
7. Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore
8. Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute (CGCRI), Kolkata
9. Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur
10. National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science & Technology (NIIST), Trivandrum
11. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur
12. Institute of Materials and Minerals Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar
13. Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee
14. Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar

### **Collection of the Exhibits**

After the conceptualization of the idea a meeting was held with nodal officers of the respective CSIR laboratories to decide on the structure and exhibits of the display. Exhibits interms of working models, miniaturized models, original products, brochures etc. It was also decided to place scrolling displays in the gallery for providing the technological details about the exhibits.

### **Exhibition Plan**

Soon after finalizing the type of exhibits, information from all the individual laboratories was collected and based on the material, 5 theme showcases and 14 individual laboratory showcases were made. The five theme showcases were designed to showcase the collective technological models of the CSIR laboratories that are working on common areas like natural fibers, leather, ceramics and handicrafts, food technologies, medicinal and aromatic

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plants. Apart from this, the exhibits supplied by the individual CSIR laboratory were showcased separately in the form of an individual showcase. Technical information in the local language (Hindi) about the exhibits in both the theme and individual laboratory showcases was placed in the scrolling displays which are attached to the showcases.

### **Promoting the Gallery**

A 25 minute video film of the gallery along with a brochure has been made and sent to various State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Krishi Vigyan Kendra`s and other major rural development organizations. These organizations are guiding the prospective entrepreneurs and rural artisans to visit the gallery for getting more information. Apart from this workshops and awareness programs on prominent technologies were also conducted for the NGO`s and rural communities. To build more audiences we have popularized the gallery through media.

### **Support and Networking**

To increase the effectiveness of the gallery we are continuously supporting the visitor`s interms of technology transfer and incubation processes. It also involves business meetings with prospective entrepreneurs for preparing sustainable strategies towards marketing and related issues. All these activities are helping us to create a large network of people that are interested to adopt CSIR Rural Technologies.

### **Conclusion**

CSIR is a vibrant institution and rural development has always been a vital mission. It is continuously striving towards the development of promising technologies for rural India and on the other side constantly disseminating its readily available technologies. The CSIR rural gallery “Saranjamshala” is a unique place where prominent technologies were showcased for their effective dissemination.

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