



LWSIT

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

(An Associate Program of The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service, Geneva)

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NEWS LETTER

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LWSIT - Citi Group CSR activity



LWSIT wins Earth Care Award 2014

It is with great pleasure we inform, that Lutheran World Service India Trust has won the Earth Care Award 2014.

A brief overview of Earth Care Award - The Earth Care Awards seeks to identify and foster actions across several sectors with special reference to mitigation and adaptation imperatives related to climate change.

Lutheran World Service India Trust along with ENDEV bagged the Earth Care Award 2014, awarded by JSW, a leading corporate



and The Times of India, most widely circulated Newspaper in India, for Community based Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change: Water Resources, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

The award is open to the Non-Government Organizations, industrial establishments and other corporate houses for their



work of excellence in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation and open to all SAARC countries.

For this year's award, 106 nominations were made and after rigorous process of studying of documents, field visits for interviews and documentation by the expert agency Center for Environmental Education and series of analyses by an expert Jury

Forthcoming events

- DCA-SARO PT3 'Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security (RLSFS) Programme' is scheduled from 4-8 August 2014 in Kolkata, India.
- BfdW sponsored Outcome and Impact Orientation, Capacity Building programme by Ms. Ankie Schuermann 17 - 19 August, 2014.
- AZEECON Summit in Nepal - 25th and 26th September, 2014.

Meetings, Training and Workshops

- 03 female and 01 male staff attended a two day seminar on Opportunities in Food Processing
- 01 female staff attended a training on MISP for sexual and reproductive health in disaster
- 02 male staff attended an Exposure cum Orientation on Improved Goat and Poultry farming.
- 01 male staff attended a Trainers' training on "improved package of practices for increasing rice productivity".
- 01 female staff attended the AZEECON Workshop on Disability Mainstreaming on Development" at Laos PDR.
- 01 male staff attended a Training on Production Technology in Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds with reference to Seed Certification and Seed Testing for the year 2014-15
- 25 male and 02 female staff and Community volunteers attended the Training on Conflict Management, Peace and Reconciliation
- Mr. Mukunda Sutradhar attended the AZEECON sponsored Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on Climate Change and DRR at Cambodia.

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board, LWSIT and ENDEV, another research based institution, received the award for the synergy through partnership for the community based category.



The award was for promoting and storing salt tolerant rice varieties in the project area of South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, the location is criss crossed by riverines and susceptible to massive flood and cyclone. LWSIT promotes land development through CBOs to deal with the problems of salinity and water availability in the area along with mangrove plantation with active participation and involvement from the communities. Dr. Subhash Chandra Garai, Program Manager of LWSIT, travelled to Mumbai (the travel expenditure was borne by the organising agency) to receive the award on behalf of LWSIT, which included a trophy, a citation and a cash award of INR 150,000.



Water Recharge Farmland Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Their innovative 'V-Wire injection well' technology aids water recharge in arid regions and eliminates the need for tanker water, establishing new bore wells and the utilization of energy during the water extraction. Other benefits include the reduction of top soil loss, the checking of sea water ingress in the coastal areas, and the reduction of hardness and salinity in the groundwater source. FLRHS has done 5,000 such installations to date across the country

'India should turn to renewable sources of energy'

Dr Rajendra K Pachauri, chief guest at the Earth Care Awards, chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and director general of The Energy and Resources Institute, spoke to Anahita Mukherji on why India need not go down the same path as the developed world. Excerpts from an interview:



Should Western countries be forced to pay more attention to reducing carbon footprint than countries like India, as the developed world has contributed more towards damaging the environment? The UN framework on climate change states the need for a common but differentiated responsibility that all countries need to undertake on climate

change. But I feel it is in the interest of countries like India not to follow the path of the developed world, and opt instead for energy security and lower levels of air pollution which would be

achieved through a different energy mix. There are economic benefits to using energy more efficiently. Instead of importing hydrocarbons and coal, it will be more efficient for India to use low carbon sources of energy and turn to renewable energy on a large scale. This does not compromise growth; it's just a different pattern of development.

You seek to bring corporates on board the battle against climate change. At a time when large corporates have backed think-tanks that fund climate change sceptics, why would they support sustainable development at the cost of business interests? Lots of corporates have done outstanding work in conserving the

environment, which shows that such actions have co-benefits. Let's accept that corporates are a part of society and if climate change has a major negative impact on society at large, they will also be affected by it. Rational thinking, reflection and use of knowledge and science will prove the need for corporates to take climate change seriously.

How can one hold businesses accountable for their impact on the environment? Business has a crucial role to play in dealing with climate change. Enlightened government policy and the right regulatory mechanisms can hold the corporate sector accountable.

"This award is quite an achievement for Kymore Cement Works, ACC Limited. The team has done a good job on the front of energy, environment, community and resource conservation. This is a good initiative by JSW and The Times of India to improve the environment performance of the whole industry" **Subhash Chandra Chaudhary** | ACC KYMORE CEMENT WORKS



"The JSW-TOI awards are one of the most important initiatives today because caring for the earth is the responsibility of all Indian citizens. If we don't care for the earth, we are heading towards extinction" **Dr Subhas Chandra Garai** | LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICES TRUST



"It is good to see that field work done in remote rural areas gets recognized in our urban-centric world. Also, it reinforces our belief that community-centric work is the best way to help communities cope with the vagaries of climate change" **Apoorva Oza** | AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME



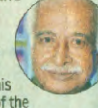
"This Earth Care award is unique for us because in 2010, we received this award for our water-harvesting filter technology. Afterwards, we were able to expand our business nationwide and globally as this award, presented by JSW and The Times of India, is recognized both nationally and internationally" **Michael Sadanand Baptist** | FARMLAND RAINWATER HARVESTING



"We feel really honoured to get this award. It is an endorsement of our efforts over the past 7-8 years in the sphere of sustainability. This reaffirms our direction and the path we are taking towards climate change mitigation" **Dr Aniruddha Agnihotri** | TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES



"It is great to get this recognition from the organizations that have arranged this award. We do feel that this incentive will be very useful as the workers of the institution get recognized. This award is one of the major reasons why we can now scale up our operations in other coastal areas of West Bengal" **Dr A K Ghosh** | ENDEV (SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT)



LWSIT through Green Wave makes a difference!

The Green Wave is a multi-year global campaign that enables children and youth to make a difference – one school, one project, one step at a time. The Green Wave brings together children and youth from around the world to raise awareness about biodiversity, and the need to reduce its loss.

LWSIT joined hands with this campaign to bring about awareness on biodiversity across all its operational areas. All the project units of LWSIT have enthusiastically participated in the campaign through tree plantation, school children and youth not only planted trees but also took up the responsibility of taking care of the trees. These children have also encouraged elders and others to own responsibility of the trees.

LWSIT chose to plant banyan trees not only because it is our national tree but because of its great contribution towards reduction of carbon dioxide and release of oxygen. It is considered one of the most venerated trees in India. It has the ability to survive and grow for centuries and is often compared to the shelter given by God to his devotees, according to Hindu mythology. Banyan trees shoots are considered important for its medicinal attributes.

But, alas!

Despite banyan tree being the national tree of India it is mercilessly felled to make way for infrastructure centric development. To restore banyan trees in the country, LWSIT in its small way campaigned for its plantation. 401 banyan trees have been planted across partner communities. Along with banyan tree, the partner communities were also encouraged to plant ashoka, black berry, royal poinciana, spanish cherry, beechwood, sandalwood and mango. A total of 555 trees have been planted on 22nd May commemorating International bio-diversity day.



Food processing in Assam: Bodo women determined to re-build their life

Shantipur is a forest village in Dotma block under Ramfalbi VDC, under BTC Kokrajhar district. The village is affected by the riots of 1998 and 2011. The Bodo community from the village is highly vulnerable due to the continuous influence of the militant and the army movement. Forest is the main source of livelihood but due to reservation policies of the Government the community were not allowed to collect the produce from the forest anymore. Under present situations, the villagers came in contact with LWSIT in the year 2009. As a part of the ongoing process, LWSIT formed VDC with 4 functional SHGs in the village between 2010 and 2011

In 2013, the Shantipur VDCs proposed an income generation scheme of "Dried meat processing unit" as a business venture. LWSIT proposed that four SHG groups from 3 villages should come together and start the unit. All the four SHGs came together and named the unit as SARA (S is Sonari SHG, A is



Amasibuk SHG, R is Roshanhanja SHG and last alphabet A is Ansuli SHG.)

A professional resource person from Odisha extended his technical knowhow by imparting training to the members of SARA SHG collective. LWSIT provided machineries like freezer, dryers, cutters for the meat processing unit. LWSIT staff Santana Kundu did a commendable job and her efforts helped the group to successfully start the business unit in Dec 2013. The most important contribution was that of the land on which the building is established, is now in the name of SARA, the property was donated by Bodoland Territorial Council to these SHG groups.

Presently the meat processing unit process the raw meat into finished products like processed dry pork, pork pickle and pork momos which has ready market in the locality. Presently the women entrepreneurs are reaching a target of Rs.2500.00 income per month. They still have a long way to go, the women are planning to make this into a viable business model right from rearing the pigs. LWSIT will handhold in developing and designing the plan as well as formalizing and institutionalizing the program. LWSIT encourages the community to prepare sausages and sell the products in the push cart in the nearby town during evening hours. The motivation and urge to come together is really an encouragement for the community and village women.



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