

**Proceedings of the video conference on ecoclub activities held on 08.07.2011 at 11.30 AM
in the Conference Hall of Rajiv Bhawan, Bhubaneswar**

The first ever video conference on ecoclub activities was held in the Rajiv Bhawan Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar. Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment and Shri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister, School & Mass Education were gracious enough to address the district level functionaries. Shri Bhagirathi Behera, IFS, Director, Environment-cum-Spl. Secretary to Govt., Forest & Environment Department, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, Special Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Shri Sidhant Das, Member Secretary, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Ms. Minakshi Mishra, Research Associate, OPEPA, Dr. Debasis Roy, Senior Scientist (E&E), Forest & Environment Department, and Shri Pravat Mohan Dash, Nodal Officer, National Green Corps discussed with all the Collectors, Member Convenor, Members of District Implementation & Monitoring Committee (DIMC) and Master Trainers.

Following are the details of discussion.

1. Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment suggested to carry out activities by all ecoclubs to protect nearby eco-sensitive area. He also informed that Government is trying to increase the number of ecoclub. He suggested to carry out plantation work in school premises and other areas besides the forest area. Ecoclubs should attempt documentation about their surroundings. He assured the cooperation of Forest & Environment Department for providing technical support on plantation & identification of suitable plant species. He requested all the DIMCs for verification of survival of the planted trees. The activities can be strengthened by involving CRCC & VRCC. He also informed that the ecoclubs will also to be opened at +2 level.
2. Shri Pratap Jena, Hon'ble Minister, School & Mass education during the discussion suggested to all DIMCs to hold committee meetings at least once in a quarter. He suggested to all ecoclubs to create awareness and take up field activities. He suggested felicitation of best ecoclub in each block during 15th August or 26th January. He has also suggested to all DIMCs to encourage plantation work and check the survival.
3. Dr. Aurobindo Behera, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department offered the following suggestions.
 - a) Eco-clubs should protect nearby eco-sensitive area.
 - b) Teachers may undertake walks along with students and discuss about the surroundings through interaction.
 - c) To provide contact numbers of all ecoclub teachers to CES by the end of July 2011.
 - d) Collect the songs of tribal people related to environment / nature.
 - e) To work on plastic waste management.

- f) To plant medicinal trees.
 - g) A period on every Saturday may be may be earmarked for eco-club activities.
 - h) Develop green fencing around the schools in absence of brick/cement boundary.
4. Shri Bhagirathi Behera, Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary discussed on progress regarding formation of additional ecoclubs and U.C. submission. He requested all DIMCs to take steps to complete the identification of additional ecoclubs by this month of July 2011 and take proper care in maintaining regularity in submission of U.C.
5. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, Special Secretary, Forest & Environment Department suggested to encourage plantation work in degraded land or waste land where it is found. He also appreciated the activity such as Green Chariot Programme. This can be adopted by all districts to promote awareness among the society.
6. Shri Sidhant Das, Member Secretary, OSPCB stressed upon conducting awareness campaigns to reduce use of polythene.
7. Ms. Minakshi Mishra, Research Associate, OPEPA informed about "MO VIDYALAYA" Programme and assured that this will be a support to the ecoclub programme.
8. Information & Suggestions from the DIMCs:
- a) Gajapati - They have already completed plantation programme in 20 schools and their target is 100 schools this year. Ecoclubs are working on forest fire protection and bald hill plantation. They requested to provide remuneration to the Master Trainers. They advised to prepare documentation of plantation around the school.
 - b) Dhenkanal - They have target of plantation programme in 100 schools this year.
 - c) Cuttack - Ecoclubs are being encouraged to participate in Nature Study programme. Ecoclubs have been instructed to maintain a ecoclub library. All schools have installed waste bins. They are conducting mega eco-camp. Principal Secretary suggested to conduct mini eco camp taking 7-8 ecoclubs.
 - d) Bargarh - Plantation already completed in 50 schools. The DFO was asked to expedite plantation of medicinal plants in schools near Gandhamardhan.
 - e) Malkangiri - 100 schools are targeted for plantation this year. DIMC was asked to collect tribal songs and make it popularize.
 - f) Mayurbhanj - They are publishing eco magazine regularly. They have also prepared a audio CD on environment song.
 - g) Kendrapara - DES have distributed plants to 100 schools. They have provided caps to all ecoclubs. They propose to do mass plantation in Pentha area.

- h) Bolangir - Most of the ecoclubs are taking up medicinal nursery. Schools are doing green fencing by purchasing seeds from other states.
- i) Keonjhar - They have requested to make provision of one Master Trainer in each block to coordinate the ecoclub activities smoothly.
- j) Khurda - They are encouraging ecoclubs to develop & maintain kitchen gardens.
- k) Puri - Plantation in 50 schools completed. They have instructed all ecoclubs to grow Jhaun species or make Kia fencing where boundary is a problem.
- l) Rayagada - Plantation of Simaruba species has been encouraged in their area through ecoclubs.
- m) Jajpur - DES have supported ecoclubs in developing 25 medicinal gardens.
- n) Boudh - They are publishing 'Sabujima' magazine regularly on ecoclub activities, conducting nature study and ecoclubs are participating in parade. They have requested to conduct State level and Zonal level conference/exhibition for ecoclubs. They have also requested to publish a state magazine on ecoclub activities so that all ecoclubs in the state will be encouraged. They requested to make provision to participate NGC students in parade like NCC.
- o) Deogarh - Schools have planted fuel efficient timber plants. Children are taking saplings for plantation in their homestead land. Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment desired that this model should be replicated in other districts.
- p) Sonepur - They have declared all ecoclub schools as no polythene area.
- q) Koraput - There is a need of link between network of ecoclubs for enhancing activities & sharing the experience.
- r) Kalahandi - Ecoclubs are doing awareness activities against shifting cultivation & maintaining green library. They have requested to conduct various exhibition programme at district level and state level for ecoclub students. Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment suggested that ecoclub students will discuss at least on one plant species every week and conduct ecomodel exhibition both at local & district level.

It was decided to identify 100 schools for plantation and documentation including species name, date of plantation and mortality etc.

The conference ended with vote of thanks to the dignitaries and other participants.



Director

Centre for Environmental Studies
(Dept. of Forest & Environment, Govt. of Odisha)

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Forest & Environment Dep
Govt. of Odisha