## TOUR NOTE ON THE TOUR OF SHRI ORIS SYIEM MYRIAW HON'BLE MEMBER, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI TO BEGHALAYA W.E.F. 9–15, FEBRUARY, 2011 (MEETING AT IFAD)

The Hon'ble Member had a meeting with the Members of the International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Shillong on 10.2.11. The list of Members present is enclose at Annexure – I.

The Hon'ble Member is received by Shri L.Baite Director and Dr Vincent Darlong, CPO, IFAD. The Member then had a meeting with the officials.

At an outset, the Director Shri L.Baite welcome the Hon'ble Member for paying a visit to the organization. Then he explained about the projects of the Organization. The North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project For upland Areas (NERCORMP) is a joint livelihood Project of the Government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialised Agency of the United Nations headquarters in Rome, North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Doner represents the Government of India, United Nations office for Project services (UNOPS), Bangkok is the Cooperating Institutions. The over all objective of the project is to improve the livelihood of Vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to protecting and restoring the environment. The Project is implemented in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Districts of Assam, Senapati and Ukhrul Districts of Manipur and West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, all are tribal dominated Districts. The project is implemented at the Regional and District levels through registered societies established specifically for the project. The Regional society located in Shillong is the highest governing body and is chaired by the Secretary NEC. District Societies are chaired by Deputy Commissioners in Manipur and Meghalaya and by the Principal Secretaries of Autonomous Councils in Assam's District.

To achieve its aims and objectives, the Project is implemented through two Community Based Organisations (CGOS) at the grassroot level – the Natural Resource Management Groups (NaRM-Gs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs), NARM-Gs are akin to Gram Sabha under PRI with equal participation of both men and women. He informed that there are 1012 NaRMGs and 3168 SHGS.

He explained the activities of the CBOS as under:

NaRMG – Comprises one males and on females drawn from each household in a Community to serve as – village Development Board / committee, universal participation, equal gender representation, complimentary traditional institutions, decentralized budgeting, planning and implementation, devolution of decision making from fraditional institutions and Government, decision making for the project activities and supporting role, coordination and guidance to SHGs wherever necessary.

Self Help Group – has around 15 to 20 members who play key role in providing credit to its members and women groups. They are also increasingly taking up social activities besides economic activities which is the dominant role. Their role is to promote Savings and credit, foster increased women's participation and endorse womens empowerment through effective fund rotation, provide a forum to address micro-credit needs while encouraging Saving, convey community ownership and stronger sense of accountability and to provide a forum tto address social issues.

Dr. Vincent Darlong, CPO – IFAD also welcome the Hon'ble Member and requested him to brief about the Commission. The Member explained the duties, function, role etc of the Commission and infact also expressed his happiness on learning that the project has been implemented mainly in the tribal districts for raising their livelihood. He further express his happiness to be able to share with them in this occasion which happened to be a meeting day of all the Project Managers, experts, consultants and members of NERCORMP – IFAD. As their projects are all in the tribal areas, he requested that more informations be supplied to the Commission for incorporation in the Annual Report.

Shri Ansari expert from New Delhi expressed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which is suppose to play an active role in the Forest Act, but it has been sleeping over it for so many years. He suggested that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes needs to wake it up. He requested the Member to pressurized the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to make a study on how Government Schemes like MNREGA, NRHM etc are being implemented in the tribal areas. The Hon'ble Member agreed to the opinion but also request that specific case be given to the Commission for taking up with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Project Managers as well experts desires that the Commission pressurized the MTA to accept the implementation of IFAD on their line of thinking – from grassroot level to top and not on their terms from top to bottom.

Another Project Manager, brought to the notice of the Member the ill effect of the burning of trees for charcoal in the West Khasi Hills which has effected the Natural Resources – forest, water etc. People in these areas are looking only at the present and are not farsighted for the benefit of their future generations. The charcoal is being supplied to ISPAT Tyre industry in Byrnihat. This occupation has killed the commonsense of the people where large number of trees are being felled which resulted in area not having any more forestcover, thereby led to water scarcity and also while burning charcoal has also effect their health. Member agreed that awareness programme by the Project Managers themselves is a must and the Government should wake up to stop this short term occupation.

The Project Manager of the North Cachar Hills also reported that a large acres of forest land has been made plain to pave for the Railway lines under 2 National Projects. For this the Hon'ble Member suggest that the State Government concerned should have been consulted by the concerned authorities prior to the approval of the projects. If however, there was no consultation, then the matter in black and white should be submitted. The ADCs in these Districts should also be consulted.

At the end of the meeting, the Director, Project Managers and Experts opioned that the Government should accept the tribal people's idea of the type of development programme suitable for them rather than being pushed by the Government through different Schemes as it is now.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from Shri L.Baite Director.

## NAME & DESIGNATION, DEPARTMENT, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE OFFICIALS OF NERCORMP-IFAD WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH THE HON'BLE MEM HER SHRI. ORIS SYIEM MYRIAW ON 11th FEBRUARY 2011

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