

BIHAR 2009

ACTION PLAN OF BIHAR DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR 2009

Background

The Club of 55 (C-55), which was organized in 2006 with the retired officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as its members, launched its BIHAR INITIATIVE in 2007. In January 2008, the Bihar Development Centre (BDC) as a pro-bono society was registered at Patna under the Indian Societies Act.

During 2008, the BDC prepared its project paper based on the following three precepts.

- GOOD GOVERNANCE
- ECONOMIC REFORMS WITH A HUMAN FACE, and
- A MODERN 21ST CENTURY CIVIL SERVICE

BDC, according to its project concept, is essentially a regional development project for BIHAR with technology as the main propulsive input. For detailed regional planning, BDC has taken up the following four broad sub-regions of Bihar.

- PATNA SUB-REGION in the SOUTH-WEST
- MUZAFFARPUR SUB-REGION in the NORTH-WEST
- BHAGALPUR SUB-REGION in the SOUTH-EAST and
- KOSI SUB-REGION in the NORTH-EAST

The BDC identified single most important propeller of development for these four sub-regions are the following:

PATNA SOUTH-WEST SUB-REGION – RICE REVOLUTION

MUZAFFARPUR NORTH-WEST SUB-REGION – AGRIBUSINESS

BHAGALPUR SOUTH-EAST SUB-REGION – TOURISM

KOSI NORTH-EAST SUB-REGION – FLOOD TOLERANT URBANISATION

Introduction

Based on the above broad outlines and following a series of personal discussions with experts and participatory workshops in 2008, BDC is focussing

its mentoring activities in 2009 on a handful of ten projects which are listed below:

1. Agricultural Development – Technologies for Rice Revolution in the Ganga-Son Doab region and True Potato Seed in the Gaya Region.
2. Animal Husbandry – Dairy Development of COMFED, Kegg Poultry and Inland fisheries.
3. Tourism Development – Both CLASS as well as MASS pilgrim facilities.
4. Agribusiness Projects especially in cane, maize, potato, fresh fruits and vegetables –Bihar Invest programme of IFC / World Bank.
5. Housing for the Poor especially the flood tolerant type in Kosi area.
6. Brand building for Bihar
 - Muzaffarpur Litchi
 - Madhubani paintings
 - Bhagalpur Silk
 - Patna Rice
 - Heritage as an asset – Gaya, Nalanda and Vaishali
7. Mother and Child Welfare – Lowering Maternal Mortality Rate and fighting Malnutrition – PHC & ICDS.
8. Education – 2 lakhs Women teachers' training - Bihar Atlas and training in use of computers.
 - Patna Women's College – Public Affairs Centre model popularised by Prof. Samuel Paul.
9. Empowerment – Women SHGs – credit linkages.
 - Right to Information Act implementation.
10. Employment – NREGA programme
 - Skills Development with Chambers of Commerce and Industry association.

Brief project profiles are attached for discussion at the proposed meeting at 3.00 P.M. on 5th February 2009 at Patna.

BIHAR 2009

PROJECT PROFILES

1. **Rice Revolution**

Preparatory work for India's second agricultural revolution based on rice hybrids which are now available has already started in Bihar's Ganga-Son area. New technologies to be introduced are SRI method for rice cultivation, modern rice mills with colour-coding and a modern rice silo. Building up the Patna Rice brand and easy availability of modern rice hybrid seeds and strengthening the agricultural university set up are the steps to be taken speedily this year.

2. **Animal Husbandry including Inland Fisheries**

Accelerating Comfed's programmes, modern milk processing units in the private sector (e.g. ITC), Kegg type of Poultry development which is not capital intensive and is decentralized, inland fisheries especially in horse-shoe lake areas are the selected-activities for initiation during 2009.

3. **Tourism Sector**

Improving and developing existing hotel accommodation facilities for middle class pilgrims and promotion of sales of Bihar's handicrafts to visiting tourists will be taken up during the current year.

4. **Agribusiness**

The activities of the World Bank + IFC's FISA programme for which the State Government is entering into an MoU will be accelerated for cane, maize, true potato seeds, fruits and vegetables based agribusiness projects.

5. **Housing for the Poor**

Last year's programmes for womens SHGs, Syndicate Bank's Synd Kuteer type of self-help housing, credit linkages with Public Sector banks and Laurie Baker type of cheap but durable and flood tolerant type of housing will be continued and strengthened.

6. **Brand- building for Bihar**

Soft-selling and image building activities for Bihar's well-known litchi, makhana, Madhubani paintings, Bhagalpur Silk and Patna rice will be intensified. We will seek to build on Bihar's heritage areas like Gaya,

Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vaishali, Gandhiji's Champaran Indigo area as "assets".

Capacity building of District Magistrates of the concerned districts will be the basic building block of our mentoring efforts.

7. Mother and Child Welfare

In a selected district, we will concentrate our activities for PHC and ICDS projects. Networking with the existing activities of the Hindustan Latex Foundation for Lifespring Hospitals will also be attempted.

8. Education Field

We will concentrate on computer training activities of the 2 lakh women teachers in Primary schools and production of a Bihar Atlas for high schools based on an existing model.

Public Affairs Centre type of activities will be popularized with the assistance of the alumni of the Patna Women's College.

9. Empowerment

Our targeted activities will be especially focused on women SHGs, protection of people's rights, implementation of the Right to Information Act in the Jeevika project areas.

10. Employment

In a few districts, NREGA activities will be mentored on the model of Amit Bhaduri's Development with Dignity prescriptions.

Skills development programme for ITIs and polytechnics in association with Chambers of Commerce and Industry Associations like CII and FICCI will be attempted to improve employability of trained personnel in the private sector.