

Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) Updates

Under the umbrella of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI, a new training course entitled “**River Life Management System (RLMS)**” has been conceived to address the increasing pollution of the river Ganga and promote rejuvenation of the holy river. The course is aiming to build the capacity of the communities (those who residing within the 10 Km radius of the bank of the river Ganga) on different aspects of human-river interactions. This course intends to develop green skills among the local communities as well as aware them about the causes and effect of Ganga water pollution, how it is impacting their livelihood and sustenance and how they can be instrumental in Ganga river conservation and rejuvenation.

The Centre for Environment, Energy and Climate Change (CEECC) at Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Patna is the lead ENVIS RP to execute RLMS in the pilot phase for the Ganga river stretch from Danapur to Patna. CEECC-ADRI along with the collaboration with other ENVIS RPs/ hubs and research institutions has developed four interdisciplinary course modules under RLMS based on the need and relevance of the selected stretch of river Ganga.

The following training modules will be conducted in different phases under the programme:

1. ETP, STP, & CETP Operation and Maintenance (collaborative partners: BSPCB & GCPC)
2. Biodiversity, Dolphin Conservation & Aquaculture Management (collaborative partners: ZSI, ICAR, & GCPC)
3. Eco-Tourism and River Life Management (collaborative partners: WII, Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation, SCSTS, & GCPC)
4. Forest-based Enterprise and Alternative Livelihood Management (collaborative partners: WII, BNHS, GCPC, & FRI)

Apart from that, every course has a compulsory unit on Cleaner Production and Waste Management in their syllabus. CEECC-ADRI has already successfully conducted first two modules of RLMS, wherein class room lectures were well complemented by the relevant field exposure. Total 27 trainees participated in these two modules, who belongs to the Ganga river stretch and were awarded certificates. Faculties and experts from across India were invited to share their knowledge with the trainees. To impart holistic knowledge of the subject, the trainees of the first course visited the operations and maintenance of Asia’s largest tannery common effluent treatment plant (CETP), situated at Calcutta Leathers Tannery Association (CLTA), Kolkata. Apart from that they also visited two industries namely Pepsico, Kolkata and Coca Cola, Patna to gain exposure on the industrial wastewater management procedure. Likewise, in the second module trainees did extensive field visit along the river Ganga to know about river biodiversity and how they are affecting the health of the river Ganga. They also gained knowledge on commercial fish farm with latest Biofloc technology in Samastipur, Bihar which they can use for entrepreneurial ventures in future. In both courses, the trainees were guided and trained by several local and national level scientists and practitioners.