

Summary of Side Event:

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE RESOURCE CENTERS (CRRCS) FOR AIDING POST COVID SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN INDIA

4 May 2023, [8:30 - 9:45 AM (EST, New York time)]

Background on the event

In the course of recovering from the challenges of Covid-19, a need was felt to strengthen community's preparedness, response and approach to future health challenges as well as other uncertainties (including uncertainties in livelihoods) for Resilience, Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development. The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India had started an initiative to establish Community Resilience Resource Centres (CRRCs) for better recovery, building Science Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities and capabilities of the communities for improved resilience against the pandemic and post pandemic recovery for livelihood rejuvenation. 25 CRRCs have already been established in various locations to complement the efforts of the Government at different levels in building resilience and post COVID socioeconomic recovery through various Science & Technology (S&T) interventions.

Key Issues discussed

1. The processes of establishing Community Resilience Resource Centres (CRRCs) for building Science Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities and capabilities of the communities for improved resilience and livelihood systems.
2. How CRRCs have strengthened and supplemented resilience building at community level through appropriate STI based interventions
3. Capacity building in relevant STI solutions at community level for self-reliance against various uncertainties and other aberrations for risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation.
4. Strengthening STI based socio-economic and ecological resilience of the communities to address the issues related to multi-dimensional poverty for sustainable development.
5. Measuring the STI based resilience among the communities.

Key recommendations for action

- The initiative to set up Community Resilience Resource Centres (CRRCs) across the country is an example of Frugal Innovation from India wherein the Government is reprogramming existing projects to deliver a basket of new STI based services for community resilience.
- The CRRC programme is also empowering academic institutions, civil society organizations as well as research institutions together with government to be a partner in inclusive development, in building community resilience.
- With less than 7 years to achieve SDGs by 2030, countries need to pilot new approaches that can accelerate progress as well as to ensure no one is left behind in development. CRRC is thus focused on SDG-centric delivery mechanisms to quantitatively measure progress in achieving community resilience.
- During the Indian Presidency period in G20, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India is keen to promote South-South learning related to building community resilience for tackling future challenges such as Covid 19 through the experience of the CRRCs. Today's deliberations helped in preparing a blueprint for future cooperation between India and the world.
- DST, Government of India values its knowledge partnership with Accelerator Lab, UNDP India and will work more closely to be an active contributor as well as facilitator of cross-border knowledge sharing on building community resilience between India and the 115 countries covered by UNDP Accelerator Lab network.
- DST, Government of India is also grateful to United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA) for providing a platform to share experiences from India related to building community resilience. DST looks forward to working with UN-DESA, UNDP and other international organizations in building a global network on community resilience with active involvement of all member states of UN.
- DST and UNDP will work with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to introduce training on community resilience out of the learnings of CRRCs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.