

CHAPTER NO. 2

ROLE OF ~~CART~~ IN ADVANCEMENT OF
TECHNOLOGY OF RURAL WOMEN.

ROLE OF CART IN ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY
TO RURAL WOMEN.

Council for Advancement for Rural Tec^y.(CART) is one more institution devoted to meet the national objectives of fulfilling the socio-economic needs of rural people especially, the poor. While the institutes of technology & related knowledge, the CART shall translate these through demonstration, transplantation & Post-delivery services at the door-steps of beneficiaries. While the CART shall not substitute the objectives & functions of any scientific, technological, engineering & educational institutions, it shall collect, collate & disseminate the know-how, techniques, technologies, equipment design, etc., of relevance to neral development, & provide a feedback to the generators of technology while the CART shall not be the generator of technology. It shall undertake action-research, adaption-research and pre-extension tests. It shall sponser projects for R & D (Research & Development) wherever required, to competent persons, body or institutions of excellence.

ROLE OF CART :

Being an apex national body, the council for Advancement of Rural Technology of the Ministry of Rural

Development, Govt. of India shall implement the programme on the basis of national priority by involving a number of women organizations & agencies already engaged in the development of women in rural areas. CART shall in the first round identify a few selected projects for development as illustrative examples of how science & technology could be moulded to make a major impact on the living condition of the rural women. The selection of the projects shall be based on an awareness of the immediate needs that appear to be the common denominator in most of the rural areas, regardless of their agroclimatic & ecological diversity. The selection shall also be based on the competence of R & D institutions to readily deliver the technology, CART shall also make a continuous review of each project to eliminate planning and implementation bottlenecks each project, to begin with shall be seeded in pilot areas & carefully monitored to ensure success. CART as a nodal national agency for advancement of technology also among rural women may provide the seed capital an important element in generating faith in adoption of rural technologies as some technologies may entail a total capital expenditure. The role & functions of CART shall thus be to analyse the present position with regard to :

1.1 The felt need Technology wise -

Improving the traditional techniques for productivity,

efficiency and more income. Bringing in new technologies for value added products and creating new work opportunities.

WELFARE AND UTILITY -

- Adding new and gainful economic activities through technology - towards direct employment in the village thus reducing migration to towns.

- Energy oriented projects to reduce drudgery of collecting fuel for cooking food & warming.

- Water oriented projects to provide safe drinking water

- Family welfare projects including nutrition and health care.

Training and Education -

- Training in techniques and technologies in economic areas (income enhancing and income generating) and income generating) by organising mobile training near the habitat of women;

- Site seeing and visits to success areas.

- Training in importance of marginal and marketing needs.

INFORMATION -

- Bridging the communication gap between the results of research, its prospective users (the women) and the scientists, technologists and professionals (a clearing-house for information)

1.2 Identification of institutions who are engaged in-

-R & D and innovation;

-Application of S & T with reference to down scaling, development so called appropriate technologies; &

-Extension of appropriate technologies.

1.3 CART'S OTHER ACTIVITIES.

-Setting up of demonstration plants in association/participation of women welfare agencies with the goal of improving the quality of life of rural women;

-Demonstration of new technique and technology.

-study of the impact/yield.

-Horizontal transfer of technology.

-Role of infrastructure and market with each technology.

-Licensing and regulatory constraints,if any;

-Documentation of data

-Identification of new areas of R & D

-Preparation of training manual both for technique & technology and

-Preparation of case studies.

2) AREAS OF CO-OPERATION -

As per the objectives and functions of the CART, it should seek co-operation from existing functionaries and institutions in the following areas.

2.1 ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY -

Local needs and aspirations vs. technological answers
in-

- i) Upgradation of existing skills,
- ii) Provisions of new techniques and technologies,
- iii) improvement in output efficiency, quality, value & productivity.
- iv) reduction/elimination of human drudgery,
- v) generation of gainful employment,
- vi) generation of faith in success,
- vii) Utilization of local skills and resources, and
- viii) Utilization of renewable sources of energy.

2.2 ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGY :-

- i) Source of availability,
- ii) status of technology,
- iii) terms of transfer, and
- iv) conditions (Pre-requisites) for application.

2.3 TECHNOLOGIES FOR ACHIEVING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
OBJECTIVES -

- i) defining the objectives,
- ii) defining the beneficiaries,
- iii) acquisition of information on alternatives to achieve the objective,
- iv) social cost benefits of alternative technologies,
- v) feasibility study,

2.4 APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY -

- i) adaption of technology through pilot/action research.
- ii) adoption and extension through 'education', demonstration, training and other aids and,
- iii) feedback to R & D institutions/generators of technology.

Harnessing technology requires a profound and deliberate approach and sufficient commitment to find answers and solutions to rural needs and more, challenging for rural women. In the economic aspect, it requires a difficult course of balancing employment maximisation with a low capital output ratio and overheads. The energy sources for cooking may be the top - most priority. All this may, perhaps, require scanning through the innovations and making

them adaptable to rural back - drop linking education and co-operative systems in the development of rural women. It is essential that, the technology generation, development, advancement and, utilization should be taken in its totality and tackled on a multi-disciplinary basis by the CART.
