

Weekly Livelihoods Update

28 December 2018

- ✚ **Ecologically responsible Assam** – With the efforts Ranjit Barthakur and Prabir Banerjee of forest restoration called “Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark” in Balipara has led to a rolling series of outcome. The initiative have not only served the purpose of ecological upgradation but also brought the biggest socio-economic movement in Balipur. The ecological works has added to the aesthetics of the scenario and with all the conversed spices has drawn attention of the tourists including the researchers. This trend has formed new livelihoods opportunity in hospitality and other services. With this emerging market the area is benefited by knowledge dissemination from both ways (traditional and modern) with better agricultural practises. Also, this has encouraged ecologically sustainable livelihood practises thus making the local community ecological responsible. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/states/story/20181231-foot-soldiers-of-the-forest-boom-towns-1414384-2018-12-23>]
- ✚ **Identifying Potential** – Bixa orellana (lipstick tree) growing as a unwanted bush for decades in various parts of West Bengal with crimson red fruit when crushed produce a riot of sunset orange. Dr Anupam Paul found new potential to these trees for its colour. Thereby it is been cultivated in Purulia, Birbhum and Bardhaman. Whilst the block development officer of Purbasthali in Bardhaman has popularised the plantation under MNREGA. It is been used for colouring laddoos, boondis, biryani and meat curry. It also has great marketing potential in cosmetics as it is 100 per cent safe and the colour fulfills all the permissible limits certified for no objection under the Food Adulteration Act. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/states/story/20181231-fortune-seed-boom-towns-1414407-2018-12-23>]
- ✚ **Bin and Win** – Handling Municipal Solid Waste resulting in landfills has remained a challenge. A report on the Sustainable Solid Waste Management in India, 2012, estimates that 31 per cent of MSW is inert waste while 60 percent is either bio-degradable or recyclable. The moto is the only the inert waste should reach the landfills. Alappuzha has proved to be a model for zero landfills, which was achieved waste generators responsible for segregation at source, composting and sending the rest for recycling. A similar social as well as technological strategy is been promoted by Ganesh ecosphere by setting up recycling plants. Also initiatives like E-collectors (vending machine) for garbage collection and app integrating informal recyclers are

getting good response showing a promising future for fighting the cause. [For further reading: <https://www.theweek.in/theweek/specials/2018/12/20/bin-and-win.html>]

✚ **Can we afford C-Section?** – Lancet report, 2018 recorded that the Caesarean deliveries have doubled in India between 2006-2016. In reference to the increase in Global scenario, 18.6% is that in India. Otherwise prescribed during medical complication for safe delivery of child, it has its own share of side effects due to the kind of incisions made for easing the process. Telangana ranks first among the states with highest number of C-sections in 2017 with 58% of women undergoing it. Also private hospitals record higher number of C-sections performed per year. The cost involved for recovering from a C-section is heavy. A serious introspection on rising number of unnecessary C-sections is the need of the hour. [For further reading: <https://healthcheck.indiaspend.com/caesarean-deliveries-have-doubled-in-india-mostly-in-urban-private-hospitals/>]

✚ **Carbon Polluters of the World** – India stands the 14th most vulnerable country on the event of Climate Change. On the recent winding up of the 24th Conference of Parties session in Katowice with 196 countries and EU brainstorming, a consensus to sign the Katowice Climate Package came as an output. The scenario still seem bleak as a study identifies that inspite of all the nations abiding by their commitments with respect to the global emissions, the earth would still get warmer by 3 degree Celsius by 2100. In these times of criticality India and Canada, two of the most carbon polluters of the world are appraised as the countries working essentially towards meeting the global commitments. However, a study identifies that no matter what the effort wouldn't suffice to limit the global warming. Amidst farm crisis getting no better and the rising inequalities, can we afford a bit more? [For further reading: <https://www.indiaspend.com/india-among-top-10-carbon-polluters-to-show-progress-but-farm-crisis-will-worsen-with-earth-on-course-to-get-3c-warmer/>]

✚ **Gender Budgeting impacts well being** – Gender lens is a popular and evolving terminology in terms of perspective. A study identifies the states which undertook appropriate planning with respect to gender contributed better in minimizing the spousal marriage which positively affected the well being of women. In India there are 16 states that have incorporated gender budgeting, Odisha being the first having appreciated in 2004. Gender inclusion and Gender targeted budgeting in purview of health, education, safety are the dimensions taken care of. A positive impact was observed in maternal health and women safety outcomes when compared between Non-genders budgeted and Gender budgeted states. [For further reading: <https://gendercheck.indiaspend.com/gender-focussed-budgets-can-reduce-spousal-violence-improve-womens-well-being/>]