

## **Minutes of RuTAG Meeting held at Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2010**

The first meeting of RuTAG was held at Punjab Technical University campus on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Rajneesh Arora in which 60 participants from different NGO's, Engineering Colleges of PTU and other state departments as well as officials from PTU participated. The meeting was started at 11:00 Am. The meeting started with formal introduction of all the participants and then Dr. Chander Parkash introduced the concept of RuTAG and aims & objectives of meeting. He explained that the meeting will help in fostering collaboration among NGO's, PTU and its associated engineering and management colleges and various state departments along with state Public Administration Institute to work for rural development in Punjab. He told that IIT Delhi and Office of Prinicpal Scientific Advisor of Prime Minister are the key institutes who are taking this initiative in all the major states of India.

Dr. Rajneesh Arora, the Vice Chancellor of PTU then explained the role of PTU and its colleges can take up to address the issues of rural development through research and their intervention in improving rural technology. He stressed that this is high time that technical institutes should take a lead in this pursuit and explore the areas with the help of NGO's and other above mentioned institutes. He also explained how the IIT's are playing an important role in rural development in other parts of India. He proposed the establishment of rural technology cell in each of its associated engg. College whereas management colleges can take up management related issues of rural development.

After this all the participants were asked to give their suggestions for the same.

Mr. Surinder Singh from Kheti Virasat and Mr. Jagmohan Singh from Lok Kalyan samiti both are NGO's discussed that in rural sector particularly in agriculture there is a dire need for technology improvement. Mr. Surinder Singh gave a presentation on Agriscenario of Punjab and asked the participants from engineering colleges that an immediate technology intervention is required for water conservation & management and agriwaste management. He said that water scarcity and water pollution are two major problems that have been rendering Punjab a waterless state.

Another presentation on Post Harvest Technologies was given by Mr. Rajneesh Sachdeva from Punjab Agriculture University where he explained various technologies being proposed to increase the shelf life of agriculture produce.

Mr. Gurmit Singh from an NGO named Palahi spoke on Ferro Cement Technology, Fuel Efficient Crematorium, Solar Technology and Duckweed Technology.

Dr. M.S. Grewal, Principal of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engg. College expressed his views on role of Youth in Rural development.

Mr. Balwinder Singh from ETRDI an NGO spoke on organic agriculture and its relevance in modern agriculture practices.

A movie on Hiware bazaar was also showcased. At the end Mr. Jaspal Singh, Joint Registrar moved a vote of thanks.

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