

DRAFT

ACTION POINTS OF THE DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION ON STRATEGY PAPERS AND ACTION PLAN ON SDGS HELD FROM 30TH March – 6TH April' 2016

KEY ACTION POINTS

30 March 2016 – Introductory Session

On behalf of UN, Dr. Joseph D'Cruz, Asia-Pacific Regional Team Leader for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development, UNDP, Bangkok and Dr. N.C. Saxena, Advisor UNDP India delivered presentations on SDGs and key challenges for Assam, respectively.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Directed all the departments to focus on 3 Ps
 - a. **People:** population groups that need to be targeted.
 - b. **Partnerships:** organisations and entities that need to be made partners.
 - c. **Projects:** that needs to be pursued to reach out to the people identified above while utilising partnerships.
2. Recommended that it is important to have a vision rather than plethora of schemes.
3. Encouraged departments to tap into community resources, including private sector, volunteers, and academic institutions among others.
4. Agreed to develop internal and external communications strategy including use of social media.
5. Recommended to focus on quality of expenditure rather than quantum of resources only.
6. Specific support from UN sought to identify partnerships to develop the Centre for Future Studies. *Government of Assam has established two new centres at the Administrative Staff College of Assam – Centre for SDGs and Centre for Future Studies.*
7. The strategies to achieve the goals should use back-casting methods to reach targets by 2030 with quantification of outcomes and corresponding required outputs and resources both financial and human starting from current levels till 2030. Gaps in resources both financial and human should be identified and strategies developed to fill them including (i) improvements in efficiencies; (ii) technological, institutional and organizational innovations and changes; (iii) partnerships with communities, civil society and private sector. Remaining gaps, if any, should be filled with resources generated internally, and external funding.

GOAL WISE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Presentations were made by three departments –Panchayati Raj& Rural Development, Food & Civil Supplies and Social Welfare. In addition, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development also presented key findings of the latest HDR for Assam.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Conduct third party evaluations for rural development, panchayati raj and agriculture to establish which initiatives have made a maximum impact on poverty and include in the strategy for attaining SDG 1 only the few critical ones that have the maximum impact and focus on those.
2. Explore use of treadle pump¹ in context of Assam. Benefits of using treadle pump have been observed in Bangladesh.
3. Replicate Amul Model for *Amar Dukaan*². Also, it was suggested to explore PPP model for *Amar Dukaan*.
4. Conduct GIS mapping of physical infrastructure (schools, health centres) to identify gaps. Mapping of human resources at schools and health centres also to be undertaken. In this context, it was suggested that a workshop can be organised by inviting Assam Science, Technology and Environmental Council and North East Institute of Science and Technology.
5. Prepare district wise map of hunger. WFP and IFPRI to advise.

GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Presentation was made by Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Study reasons for inadequacy/absence of “market for health” in Assam.
2. Map the work done by the health department.
3. Split the health budget in various categories regulation, service delivery, communication and awareness. Undertake prioritisation exercise for efficient functioning of the health department.
4. Critically assess the way in which administration and administrative processes are organised. Identify intermediaries in the health sector that might be adversely impacting the sector.
5. Focus on improving water quality work with PHE.

¹The treadle pump is a human-powered irrigation device that sits on top of a well. Pumping is activated by stepping up and down on treadles which drive pistons, creating cylinder suction that draws groundwater to the surface. Treadle pumps free farmers from dependence on rain-fed irrigation, provide capacity to raise crops in two growing seasons per year, and help farmers maximize return on their small plots of land.

² Amar Dukaan is a notified Fair Price Shop in [Assam](#) which, besides providing the regular subsidized items under the [Public Distribution System](#) in [India](#) to the [ration card](#) holders, also sells some other essential commodities at reasonable rates fixed by the state Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department to the general consumers.

6. Focus on motivation of ASHA workers.
7. Include costs of communication strategy directed at a particular objective in the programme instead of general costs towards awareness building.
8. Identify best institutes in all aspects of health sector.
9. Develop a greening plan for all the medical campuses, including clean water and sanitation.
10. Develop a plan for ISO certifications for health centres.
11. Partner with international centres on Public health.
12. Consider strategies to introduce health insurance particularly for urban and peri-urban population and the organized sector including in partnership with private health service providers; while expanding public health delivery in rural areas to achieve health for all by 2030.

GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Three separate presentations on school, secondary and higher education were made by the Department of Education.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Introduce early childhood education (ECD) to cover all children in the 3-5 age group in Assam by 2030. Coordinate pre-primary education needs with health and nutrition requirements of children in this age group and involvement of communities for efficient delivery and feedback of services.
2. Include Bachelor of Engineering as an eligibility qualification to apply for B.ED courses. This decision was taken to ensure that high quality science teachers are available and also it will help to reduce the number of unemployed engineers.
3. Create incentives for institutions that organise events to propagate science teaching for high schools.
4. Expand the vocational track in secondary schools as an important basis of imparting skills.
5. In addition to expanding public sector institutions to provide skills development, encourage private sector participation in vocational education (providing needed incentives so that they can expand significantly particularly in urban areas) with scholarship programmes for economically backward students.
6. Encourage creation of Vice-Chancellors Forum to discuss key challenges related to higher education and to provide suggestions to the government.
7. Develop text books that are rooted in State context and not necessarily adhering to NCERT.
8. Encourage peer to peer learning.
9. Organise motivation training for teachers. In this context, IIM Ahmedabad Leadership course for Principals was recommended. UNICEF to advise.
10. Explore possibility of extending Child Tracking System currently used by ICDS for monitoring schooling of children as well.
11. Create subject matter portals for teachers to share learning methods. Karnataka has already done this.

GOAL 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all women and girls

At the request of the Chief Secretary, special presentation to be organised led by UN Women and UNFPA.

GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all-

Presentation was made by Assam Public Health Engineering Department.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Target IAS officers colony to be a zero effluent locality.
2. Pass office order to ensure that safe drinking water, toilets with running water separate for men and women will be required for any new government building, including schools and health centres. At the same time, it should be ensured that existing schools and health centres also have above facilities.
3. Partner with IIT Guwahati to work on improving drinking water quality and sustainability of water sources. Also, engage with Karnataka Water Board and Tamil Nadu Water Development Board to learn from their experiences. Organise, exchange visits to these States.
4. Recommended that PHE should work with Department of Education to ensure safe drinking water in schools.
5. Develop partnership model that includes list of partners, mechanisms to engage with them. In this context, Assam Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department (responsible for water and sanitation) has been entrusted to draft a MOU that can be signed with PRIs and ULBs on water and sanitation.
6. Study viable and well-functioning models from other states with a view to introducing elements from them to achieve a viable and better functioning rural water supply system in Assam.
7. Convene meeting of State Water and Sanitation Mission which is chaired by the Chief Secretary to ensure that all participating departments (members of the mission) to identify their present and future contribution for SDG Goal 6. Also, include new members – CPCB, Forest & Environment, Soil Conservation and Director-General of Assam Water Centre (AWC).
8. Support sought from UN for the following:
 - Good examples on solid and liquid waste management
 - Advise on possible steps that government can take on this sector, including backcasting and financing for this sector in context of SDGs and
 - General guidance on water management.

GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all

Presentation was made by Assam Power Corporation.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Unpack the key words mentioned in the Goal 7-Ensure, Access, Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and how they can be translated into targets and plans for 2030.
2. Ensure power is Affordable – power regulator should play a key role in regulating prices and the state power companies to find ways in bringing production cost down.
3. Focus on quality and reliability of power supply. Conduct review of current capacity of hydro and solar power generation and increasing the proportion of renewable of sources in overall power generation and supply.
4. Energy experts from UN to help with a study that estimates the future needs with a focus on resource/ policy requirement to move from fossil to renewable source of energy.
5. Estimate current demands per household and work on the demand projections for 2030 factoring in increase in the number of HHs, rise in incomes and changes in consumption patterns in rural areas like greater uptake of white goods etc.
6. Estimate state capacity that will have to be supplemented by other power sector players to cater to increase in demand and address geographic limitations to reliable supply.
7. Review GOI's Hydrocarbon vision for North East drafted by the Ministry of Petroleum. Explore Natural gas as an option for meeting various energy needs.
8. Meet the international standards in generation and have the least Transmission and Distribution losses when benchmarked with the best in the world as a goal for 2030. Work out the financing requirements including external resources– ADB, World Bank in addition to budgetary support.
9. Engage with wind energy companies within the next thirty days to explore partnerships. In this context, invite National institute of Wind Energy and Solar Energy to make a presentation on estimating renewable energy potential in the state.
10. Undertake study on potential of biomass. Agriculture department to be brought on board, involving local community to stop agriculture residue burning practices following the Supreme Court ruling.
11. Directed Department to play a major role in solid waste management by converting biomass and solid waste into energy.
12. Plan to attain the best energy improvement index in the world.
13. Draft a comprehensive plan to include all sources of energy and identify the gaps and external financing sources to ensure supply to all households by 2030.

GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Presentation was made by Department of Labour and Employment.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Directed Assam Skill Development Mission to integrate all skill development schemes.
2. Revamp Council for ITI s to improve their management along the lines of IIT and IIM councils.

3. Formulate policy framework to engage and expand private sector participation for ITIs/vocational training institutions .
4. Requested UN to offer solution on linking and making online all the 52 employment exchanges. Employment exchanges to be based on a dynamic electronic platform similar to web portals like naukri.com, where each jobseeker registered is sent messages on skill training, available jobs and/or loans for entrepreneurs.
5. Requested UN to support development of a strategy for skill building of 18 million people by 2030.
6. Develop a roadmap for employment in allied agriculture and non-farm sector.
7. Track booster sectors in the economy that are likely to attract greater investments to project employment demand in these sectors.
8. Directed Planning & Development (P&D) Department to provide baseline figures on employment to labour department for demand projection on employment and backcasting.
9. Directed P&D department to conduct mapping on 'ease of doing business' to attract private investment in employment generating sectors, including tourism.

GOAL 9 Build Resilient Infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

Presentation was made by the Principal Secretary, Urban Development

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Ensure schools and health facilities in industrial corridors. At present, these facilities are rare.
2. Review the Ease of Doing Business Platform as several States are coming together for this assessment rather than approaching this issue independently.
3. Undertake mapping of GIS mapping of Missing Infrastructure with regard to health, education, markets and industrial clusters.
4. Review the potential of the Inland Water Transport.
5. Undertake backcasting of the infrastructure requirement till 2022 and 2030.

GOAL 10 Reduce Inequality within and among countries

UN to organise special presentation on this goal.

GOAL 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Presentation was made by Principal Secretary, Urban Development.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Undertake river cleaning efforts.
2. Plan for Guwahati to become a mega urban cluster till 2030 and a financial hub for the North –East and also for the neighbouring countries.

3. Work with organisations looking at “urbanism”. In this context, it was advised to link up with [Sustainable Urbanism International](#)
4. Prioritise solid liquid waste management.
5. Develop a plan for Greening of Cities.
6. Map the shadow areas in context of internet and electricity connectivity.
7. Focus should be on enabling private investment – review GIFT of Gandhinagar
8. Identify themes around which development of Guwahati can take place – for instance, Guwahati Pilgrimage Tour.

GOAL 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Presentation was made by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Organise a communication strategy for consumers to understand the importance of reduction, recycling and reuse
2. Ensure green procurement
3. Promote eco-tourism

Note: This group has presented extensive recommendations. Chief Secretary has requested for prioritisation of the initiatives.

GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Presentations were made by two departments - Environment and Forests and Water Resources.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Create Assam for Life Fund on the lines of Bhutan for Life Fund. This could be funded by tapping into Corporate Social Responsibility Funds and other source of funds to increase forest cover.
2. Create Assam forest management authority – as same lines as Assam State Disaster Management Authority. This should be created as an “integrative entity” to ensure that there is coordination and holistic planning for related SDGs goals.
3. Establish helpline to report illegal deforestation and other environmental violations.
4. Create a map to clearly depict demarcation of forest and revenue lands in form of a grid.
5. Create and offer an online programme on “Sustainability” by Administrative Staff College of Assam.

GOAL 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Presentation was made by the Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Home

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Undertake mapping of institutes working on peace issues.
2. Explore the possibility of engaging with experts on each of the social groups, neighbouring States and neighbouring countries
3. Develop an online system for continuous learning and mentoring for police officers
4. Customize Crime Criminal Network Tracking System (CCNTS) to needs of the State.
5. Establish Gandhian Study circles in each of the schools and institutions.
6. Undertake mapping of all laws and processes and identify the gaps
7. Strengthen State Commission for Women.

GOAL 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Presentation was made by the Representative of the General Administration Department

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Create a knowledge management portal at the Assam Staff College
2. Establish facilities for crèche and entertainment at the Secretariat
3. Undertake assessment of the Secretariat building to be the green building
4. Organise on year training for people who are getting promoted from Grade 4 to Grade 3.

Note: Chief Secretary has requested for another round of presentation with the General Administration Department.

Special Presentation on ICT by Additional Chief Secretary, Information and Technology Department.

Highlights of the discussion are provided below:

1. Make use of DIGITAL INDIA platform to train people.
2. Pursue idea of DIGITAL Village.
3. Work closely with Department of Education and Department of Revenue to introduce technology in their work.
4. Create web portal on SDGs, including dashboards clearly defining year wise targets and also mobile application for monitoring indicators.
