

## National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

**Proceedings of the Sitting taken by the Hon'ble Chairperson Dr. Rameshwar Oraon on 02/07/2014 Representation Shri M. Alwas, Hon. Secretary, Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association, the Nilgiris regarding proposal for establishment of KVKs in Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu for Tribal Population separately.**

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Date of Sitting: 02/07/2014.

Lists of Participants: **Annexure I**

Chairperson NCST welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of this Sitting was to promote formulation of policies to create tribal-led institutions in different tribal pockets around the country that would facilitate a two-way relationship, for transfer of knowledge and its assimilation, between tribals and agricultural research institutions established by the State and Central Governments. He then requested Secretary/NCST to commence the discussion.

2. Secretary/NCST explained that the system of agricultural extension including KVK, has been operating in the country for more than five decades based on a Transfer of Technology model that assumes that the farmer was without any knowledge and all that was required was agronomic input of knowledge on farm inputs and practices from external agencies to improve agricultural productivity and variety in relation to market needs. This experiment in the form of Training & Visit system and more recently, ATMA, was based on the idea that the extension agency would identify a model/contact farmer who would then spread the technology to farmers in the area. This system has not worked and had now been reduced to distributing input subsidies in an inefficient manner while the object of listening to farmers and imparting advice was not given importance. The situation was greatly accentuated in the case of tribals who, by their very nature and characteristic, were shy and isolated and avoided contact with outsiders especially experts who had little knowledge or sympathy with tribal customs and practices. Therefore, even for normal farmers, an Action Research style comprising in a Farmer Participatory Approach had been found desirable. In the case of watershed development too, collective action was essential for its success and this was not possible without farmers participating eagerly and leading the process with officials participating in the farmers activities and assisting with funds, knowledge and technical expertise where sought or required. The absence of this approach and continuance of the current process had left the tribals in a very backward state which needs urgent attention. In the context of milk development under the Anand pattern, Kurien's motto "Putting the Tools of Development in the hands of Farmers" has led to growth in the milk sector since Operation Flood I begin in the early 80s. This sector now has a large number of farmer controlled institutions: Societies, Unions and

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