

## SIRD claims 4,206 youths benefited through its schemes



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Guwahati : The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) at Khanapara here has arranged institutional credit of Rs 40.48 crore for assisting 4,206 educated unemployed youth of 1,341 self-help groups (SHGs) to gainfully employ themselves in income-generating activities since November 2005 till June last under the Chief Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Swaniyojan Yojana.

According to SIRD, it has also imparted training to 15,041 youth in management development, skill upgradation and application of technology for capacity building to undertake income-generating activities, the institution's director K Kalita informed.

Further, the institute arranged improved training and exposure visits for 679 beneficiaries outside the State at national-level organisations like the Ahmedabad-based National Institute of Design; Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering Technology at Ludhiana, National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research at Chandigarh, University of Agricultural Science at Bangalore, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, National Institute of Dairy Research at Karnal and National Institute of Fashion Technology at Kolkata respectively.

Under the Yojana, a target has been fixed for assisting 15,000 youth of 5,000 SHGs of the State within four years with a total institutional credit of Rs 140 crore.

In all, training too will be imparted to around 25,000 youths. Rural or urban youth who have studied upto Class X and are within the age group of 18 to 37 years may avail benefits under the project, the release added.

Loan is usually sanctioned by the participating financial institutions only after considering, the aptitude, interest, eligibility, viability of activities, credit worthiness, service area, cluster approach, etc of the applicants.

The project is treated as demand-driven to ensure sustainability and continuity. Assistance from the State Government is in the form of margin money on 15 per cent basis of the schematic cost.

However, sanctions of loans are subject to fulfillment of terms set by the financial institutions.

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editor

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