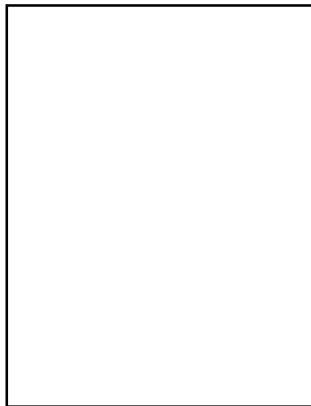


Polytechnology transfer centres

India's CSIR works for sustainable rural development

M.S. Viridi

The Indian rural industry has a crucial role to play in the development of the country's economy as a majority of the population depends on this sector. In order to grow, rural industry needs the application of modern science and technology. National policies take this need seriously and, in keeping with them, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has set up a number of polytechnology transfer centres in various parts of the country. This article discusses how these centres work in practice.



Mr. M.S. Viridi

*Project Director & Head
(Scientist G)*

CSIR Polytechnology

*Transfer Centre (Council of Scientific
and Industrial Research)*

A- Block, G. T. B. Complex, T. T. Nagar

Bhopal 462 003, India

Tel: 554327

Fax: 0755 554327

Introduction

No nation's development can be considered to be complete unless its rural population is also developed. Traditionally, 80 per cent of India's population has lived in rural and tribal areas. This figure has come down to 75 per cent during the last 10 years on account of the continued migration of rural populations to urban areas. A major cause of this migration is the lack of employment and means of livelihood in villages. But, apart from the employment problem, there is shortage of drinking water and fuel; lack of sanitation and hygiene; and inadequate infrastructure, like roads and electricity. There is urgent need to look into these socio-economic problems, which can only be checked by the application of science and technology.

Urban areas also suffer. Migration from rural to urban areas has resulted in ecological imbalances and a

proliferation of slums in all Indian cities.

Twenty-five years ago, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) set up Polytechnology Transfer Centres (PTCs) in the capitals of the states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Bihar, Andhra Pradesh (AP), West Bengal (WB), Karnataka, Gujarat, etc. Their twin objectives were to undertake industrial and rural development of the states in which they were located.

Agro-processing

CSIR has developed nearly 3,000 technologies for small, medium and large scale industries. Some of these have potential to alleviate poverty, generate employment, provide potable drinking water, improve sanitation, build rural roads using locally available materials and resources, develop low cost housing, utilize agri-produce, etc. In fact, 17 or 18 labs have contributed to rural development. PTC Bhopal has been pursuing activities in rural development for two decades.