

Press Release**Release of digital book “Romance of Innovation” by Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan, Maharashtra**

Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), a rural NGO in Phaltan, Maharashtra has published a book on the renewable energy (RE) work done at the Institute since 1981.

It was released in Pune on 20th October 2014 by Padmavibhushan Dr. R.A. Mashelkar and Dr. Rajat Moona the Director General of C-DAC.

The digital book entitled “Romance of Innovation – A human interest story of R&D in rural setting” has been written by Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi, the Director of NARI and presents a brief history of renewable energy work carried out under his guidance.

“The aim of the book is to inspire youngsters to enter the field of rural innovation and to provide challenging ideas for research and development to those who already are converts”, said Dr. Rajvanshi.

NARI has done pioneering work in all aspects of renewable energy affecting the lives of rural population, specifically in alcohol production from sweet sorghum, development of electric cycle rickshaws, biomass gasification and production of excellent devices like lanstove™ for rural households. NARI is also the principal author of national policy on Taluka energy self sufficiency. In all these technological developments Dr. Rajvanshi and his team have followed a unique approach of using sophisticated technology for development of rural products as opposed to the tinkering approach, sometimes called Jugaad, which is generally followed in this kind of work.

“Too often the record of research and development (R&D) is written up as articles in journals and books. The human interest story of the way the research was done, interactions with the stakeholders and the pushes and pulls in doing it are left out of the record”, said Dr. Rajvanshi.

“This book is an attempt to record these details. It also shows how R&D can be done in a small rural institute and should provide inspiration to other NGOs who want to do a similar type of work”, said Dr. Rajvanshi.

Dr. Rajvanshi has written in an engaging style about the romance of doing research in rural setting and has shown that with meager resources and few members of staff, very meaningful and satisfying work can be done. “It is often said that good R&D requires lot of equipment, money and manpower. Work on renewable energy at NARI has shown that it is possible to do good work in little money and resources”, said Dr. Rajvanshi.

There are six chapters in the book, out of which five describe the hardware development work carried out in household energy (cooking and lighting); gasification; Taluka energy plan; electric cycle rickshaws and water-related problems. The last chapter deals with the philosophical issue of rural development and is aptly titled Roadmap of rural India.

The book is a very interesting read as it emphasizes the human interest aspect of problem solving for rural India. The future research areas described at the end of each chapter will certainly be very useful for persons who are planning to develop a career in research and development for rural areas.

The book is available free of cost and is available on NARI website <http://www.nariphaltan.org/roi.pdf> (with chapter links) and the full book is available at; www.nariphaltan.org/roibook.pdf. Dr. Rajvanshi explained that there is a need to inspire and get bright young engineers for rural R&D and thus making the book available free may help in this effort.

A nice story on the book [recently appeared in Daily Mail](#).

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