



## Background

Free and open-source software (FOSS) is computer software that can be classified as both free software *and* open-source software. Free refers to 'Freedom to use'. These software are freely licensed to use, copy, modify by any user. The source code is openly shared so that people are encouraged to voluntarily improve the design of the software. This is in contrast to proprietary software, where the software is under restrictive copyright and the source code is usually hidden from the users.

The benefits of using FOSS can include decreasing software costs, increasing security and stability, protecting privacy, and giving users more control over their own hardware. Free, open-source operating systems such as Linux and its family like CentOS, Debian, Ubuntu, Mint are now widely used, powering millions of servers, desktops, smartphones (e.g. Android), and other devices. Rural development sector can use and popularize open source software among the functionaries and general masses. The powerful office suites like LibreOffice, OpenOffice, WPS Office can be utilized in place of proprietary software available in the market. In the effort to provide ICT benefits to all and thus delivering e-Governance services to every citizen living in the rural areas of India, free and open-source software can play a pivotal role. Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Govt. of India as a policy, emphasizes use of open source software in all government departments and e-Governance applications. So this training programme has high relevance in rural development.

Under the above scenario, it is the priority need to understand, learn and implement open source software environment and to enhance skills of functionaries working in rural development and line departments. The training programme on **“Orientation on Applications of Open Source Software in Rural Development”** is proposed mainly for the functionaries of Northeast India serving in the rural development sector. This course shall provide the RD/PRI and line department functionaries a platform to

learn various open source software and their applications in various electronic information generation, transactions and management which in turn shall facilitate better planning and management of various programmes and activities of rural development.

### Objectives:

The main objectives of this training programme are:

- To develop understanding about open source software
- To compare the proprietary software and FOSS
- To familiarize with the functioning of open source OS for system management
- To acquaint with the use of open source application packages in RD

### Broad Content

- Concept and need of FOSS
- Hands on procedures in use of open source software comparing with proprietary software
- System management using Linux Mint, Ubuntu, CentOS operating systems
- Installation procedures of various open source software
- Practical application and Hands on in office suites like LibreOffice.
- Electronic documentation, presentation design, spreadsheet analysis using Libre Office
- Database applications using MySQL.
- Hand on exposure to various utility application software under open source.

### Training Methods

The methodology set for the proposed training programme includes Lecture-cum-Discussion, hands on, live demo. This will be supported by Audio visual aid and PowerPoint presentation. The programme input will be delivered with the

faculties of NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati, and also the resource persons invited from government and other organization.

**Duration : 3 days (March 5-7, 2019)**

### Participants Level

State and District Level Officers from Rural Development and Line Departments, IT Officers, Programmers, and Representatives of District Level NGOs

### Course Director(s):

**S.K. Ghosh**

09435551185 (M)

email: skghosh.nird@gov.in

### Course Fee & Travel

**There is no course fee.** However, the sponsoring authorities will have to bear the travel expenses to and fro and DA (as applicable) of their nominees.

### Board and Lodging

The programme will be organized at **NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati**. Board and Lodging facilities to the participants will be provided **free of cost** by NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. In view of Resource Constraints, participants are advised **not to bring their families**.

### Nominations

In view of limited Seats (Maximum Intake Capacity: 32), acceptance of nominations will be on first come first serve basis, which will be intimated to the participant concerned. Nominations in the prescribed format should reach the address given in the nomination format on or before: **February 28, 2019**

### Course Details

The course details and nomination format can also be downloaded from the website of the regional centre i.e **www.nirdnerc.nic.in**