

Annual micro Finance Colloquium 2008

On

9th January

(At State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Jhalana
Institutional Area, Jaipur)

And

10th January 2008

(At SMS Convention Centre, Tonk Road, Jaipur)

Organized By:



Supported by:



The Rajasthan microFinance initiative of The Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Background

micro Finance sector has emerged as a potent strategy for addressing poverty and empowering poor, mainly women in India. A large number of institutions like banks, government departments, voluntary organizations and micro Finance Institutions have increased their engagements for providing microFinance services like savings, credit, insurance and money transfer to people who have been so far excluded from formal financial sector.

In Rajasthan, the progress of microFinance sector in last 5-6 years has been commendable. The number of Self Help Groups linked with banks has increased from 22,742 in year 2003 to 1, 37,000 by March 2007. In the same period, in terms of the amount of credit disbursed through SHGs the increase has been from Rs. 21.8 Crores to Rs. 144 Crores.

Banks are increasingly working towards total financial inclusion of people. State government departments are actively pursuing the agenda of poverty alleviation and women empowerment through Self Help Groups. Voluntary Organizations have made steady progress in organization or SHGs and nurturing them. A few VOs have formed second and third tier organizations (SHG clusters and SHG Federations) to set up institutional mechanism for sustainable growth of microFinance in Rajasthan. Recently a few MFIs who were so far working in southern India have started their operations in Rajasthan and also a few local NGOs have been in process of setting up separate organizations for financial intermediation.

Though these developments are commendable but there is lot more to be done. Even now, there are about 3-4 million households in rural areas and about 1.5 million poor in urban areas who do not have access to financial services from formal or semi formal sources. The quality of Self Help Groups is another area of concern. The potential of these groups can only be harnessed if they are of good quality. For example, the average bank loan to an SHG in Rajasthan is only Rs.26, 000.

The need of the hour is to arrive at a shared vision and action plan for extension and development of mF services in the state. As a step towards this Centre for micro Finance, Jaipur is organizing a **two-day micro Finance Colloquium on 9th & 10th January 2008.**

Objectives

- ❖ To reflect on the status of mF sector in Rajasthan and identify the potential of its development
- ❖ To understand the perspective of community, practitioners and policy makers on the areas of concern / issues and challenges that constrains the development of the sector.
- ❖ To develop a state level vision of the sector and strategy for widening and deepening the sector.

Expected Outcome

It is expected that the colloquium will provide an opportunity for key stakeholder groups (such as policy makers, apex institutions, banks, SHPIs, insurance companies and community) to review the status of micro Finance sector in the state and have a broad plan for widening and deepening of the sector.

Schedule

| # | Duration | Topics |
|--|---|--|
| Day 1 - 9th January 2008 | | |
| Consultation with Community , SHPIs & Bankers | | |
| I | 10: 30 -11.30 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome ❖ Sharing the programme design |
| II & III | 11:30 am- 1:30 pm & 2:30 pm -4:30 pm | Parallel Discussions will be held with 2 groups: (1) Community representatives (2) Self Help Promoting Institutions (region wise representatives of (banks, DWCD, NGOs) on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Impact of SHGs ❖ Regional disparity/outreach of mF services ❖ Quality and Sustainability of SHGs ❖ SHG Bank linkage ❖ SHGs/mF and Livelihoods of poor |
| IV | 4:30 pm-5:30 pm | Preparation of presentation on issues discussed & future strategy on each issue |
| Day 2 – 10th January 2008 | | |
| Stock Taking of the Status of micro Finance | | |
| V | 10:00 am-11: 30 am | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome by Sh N S Sisodia Chairman CmF ❖ Key Note Address ❖ Release of state of micro Finance sector report by Hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan ❖ Address by Chief Guest |
| VI | 11:30 am-1:30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Presentation & discussion on key findings of the report ❖ Presentation of outcomes of discussions on Day 1- issues |
| VII | 2:30 pm-4:30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Open discussions to formulate vision, strategy & action plan |
| VIII | 4:30 pm-5:00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Closing address |
| Unique features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Release of the state of the sector report ❖ Showcasing of the efforts of different stakeholders of MF through stalls put up by each at the venue. | | |

Kindly confirm your participation by 30th December, 07 so that necessary arrangements can be made.

Contact for further details

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** The participants have to bear their own cost of travel. SHG members will be reimbursed travel cost in actual.*

** CmF will arrange boarding and lodging for out station participants*