

Background

Various studies increasingly point to the fact that some Indian states are able to achieve better public policy outcomes manifested through increased levels of economic growth and governance while others continue to languish at substantially lower levels. The Twelfth Five Year Plan expressed concerns about public expenditure outcomes. Therefore, it recommends urgent need for reforming the implementation processes, on one hand, and provides additional provisions for encouraging innovation, good practices and creating inter-state synergies to improve quality of outcomes, on the other.

However, there is no platform, where the States can engage and learn from each other on issues of common interest. Documenting successful and not so successful practices across States in India has been undertaken sporadically.

To address the concerns, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi is implementing a project on governance.



About the Project

The main feature of the project is a coherent, user friendly, sustainable and interactive web portal, which would depict successful and not so successful practices adopted in the selected programmes and schemes of Rural Non-Farm Sector in selected States of India using standardised metadata, controlled vocabularies and qualified government sources.

The aim of the portal is to present an *independent and dispassionate* view of policies and practices which can help other States to imbibe and improve their own policies and practices. The portal will mainly focus on the important challenges faced by the country, in relation to the good governance practices in initiatives relating to people's livelihoods issues, which directly impact or are directly related to the areas for which State governments are responsible. The proposed portal will be centralised having state specific platforms with the State related details.

The project will document the information, collected by primary as well as secondary means, from the selected States on a dynamic basis. The learning will be facilitated by exchanges, dialogues, webinars, visits etc. and the expected outcomes of the whole process is expected to lead to knowledge enhancement of the selected States in India and project beneficiaries, through dissemination of action research results on the portal. Such learnings will help streamline actions, so as to achieve improvements over time, and thus add to the economic growth of the States, and in turn the country.

Objectives

- To generate an interactive, coherent and user-friendly online web portal at national level
- To research, document and highlight the successful as well as not so successful practices
- To ensure cross learnings from the practices to enable policymakers to identify and acquire new skills, developmental activities and effective implementation of current programmes/schemes
- To enable States to take inspirations and learn lessons from each other by way of intelligent discussions to enhance their growth rates

Activities

National Level

In addition to setting up of centralised web portal, other activities broadly include action research around the selected programmes and schemes of Rural Non-Farm Livelihoods coming under Rural Development Department. Dissemination of research, successful and not so successful practices and networking of key stakeholders across the states, and the country will also be done.

State Level

Other activities of the project will broadly include action research, dissemination and networking. In each of the selected States there will have a state partner organisation that will be providing inputs and support for carrying out all the state-specific project activities related to web portal, action research, networking, advocacy and ensuring the intended outcomes. In addition, 'State Performance Score Cards' will be prepared keeping in mind the performance of the selected programmes and schemes for each of the state.



Geographical Coverage of I3S Project



State Partners



Omeo Kumar Das Institute of
Social Change and Development
Guwahati (Assam)



Public Affairs Centre
Bangalore (Karnataka)



Centre for Youth and Social
Development
Bhubaneswar (Orissa)



CUTS Centre for Consumer Action
Research & Training
Jaipur (Rajasthan)

INSIGHT INTO INDIAN STATES (I3S)



Outcome

- Increased incidents of adopting the good practices by the states
- Enhanced public availability of good & not so good practices and its processes
- Increased civic review of good and failures practices
- Increased demand of innovating good practices for adoption and replication
- Strengthened Network of Practitioners
- Increased interest among state governments for Performance score cards



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