

Insight into Indian States (I3S)

Rajasthan Inception Workshop

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Insight into Indian States – An Overview

Insight into Indian States (I3S) Project initiated on October 01, 2013 in four States (Assam, Odisha, Karnataka and Rajasthan), supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India. The Project focuses on Rural Non-farm Livelihood with the objective to generate an interactive, coherent and user friendly online portal at the national level. The main aim is to research, document and highlight the successful as well as not so successful practices in the selected States and areas to enable policy makers to identify and acquire new skills and developmental activities as well as implementing current policies and programmes effectively and to facilitate the States by stimulating them and learning from each other's experiences to enhance the overall growth rate of the State.

The Project will cover Centrally and State sponsored schemes related to Rural Non-farm Livelihood Sector, such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, State Rural Livelihood and Skill Development/Promotion Council/Corporation/Mission, National Institute of Rural Development (Rajasthan and Assam), State Institutes of Rural Development, Department of Industry (Cluster Approach), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Non-farm Sector), Small Industries Development Bank of India, local or regional premier research institutes and specific initiatives taken by Non-governmental Organisations/Community based Organisations will also be explored. The Inception Workshop was one of the key activities, under the Project to formally launch the Project by State government officials and other stakeholders.

Launching I3S Project

The Inception Workshop was organised to formally launch the Project by State Government officials and other stakeholders to apprise about the objectives and activities of the Project and to acquire comprehensive information about the various programmes and schemes being implemented and the initiatives taken by the Rajasthan State in this direction.

Eminent Speakers and Large Participation

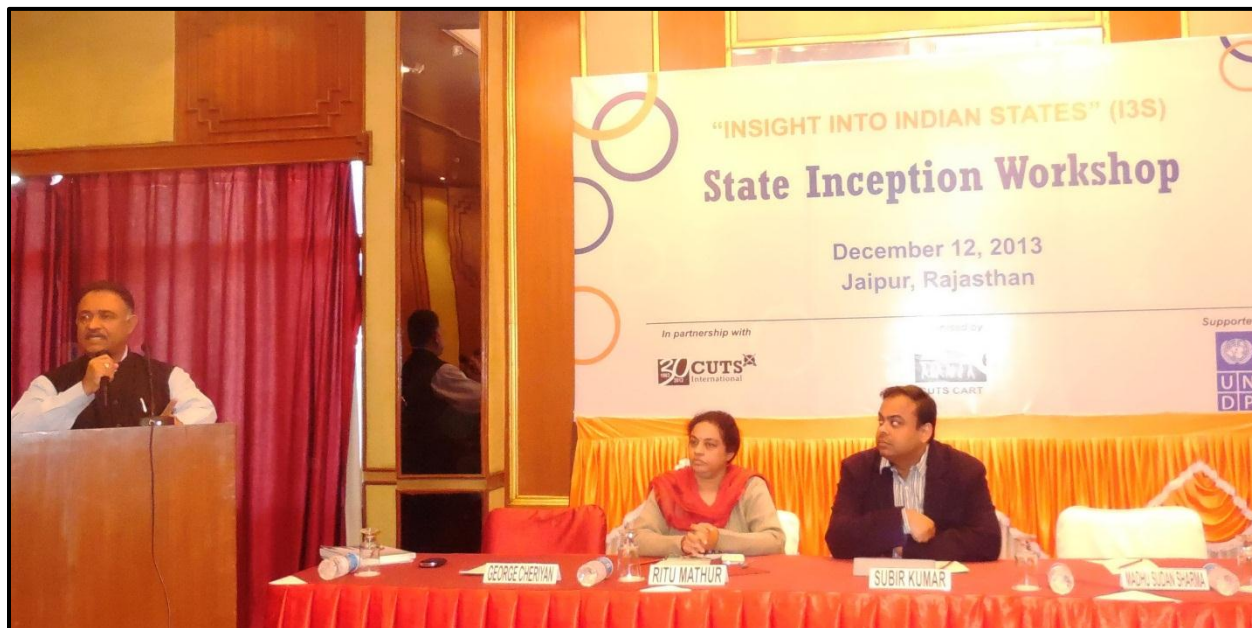
Subir Kumar, State Mission Director, State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), Rajasthan; Ritu Mathur, Programme Analyst, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New Delhi; M. L Mehta, Former Chief Secretary Govt. of Rajasthan and President CUTS International; T.S Raji Gain, General Manager, National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD); Jyotsana Bharadwaj Training In-charge, NRLM; K. L. Paliwal, General Manager, Rural Non-Farm Development Agency (RUDA); George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International and Madhu Sudan Sharma, Programme Coordinator, CUTS International.

More than 65 participants comprising government representatives from NABARD, RUDA, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), SRLM, research institutes, representative from UNDP, New Delhi, NGOs/CSOs, I3S Project team, electronic and print media attended the meeting. (Please refer Annexure 1 for list of participants)



RNFS Scenario in India

George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International and Head CUTS CART in his opening remarks shed light on overall scenario of the Rural Non-farm Sector (RNFS) in India. He spoke about the significance of RNFS and stated that it has been more dynamic than farm sector in terms of nurturing the financial sector, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and employment generation. He said that the income from farm livelihoods is no longer sufficient for household, especially for smaller and marginal farmers. Agricultural sector is declining and RNFS is growing with time. This is mainly attributed to the substantial shift to non-farm labour in rural areas. Further, he mentioned central and state specific sponsored programmes/schemes.



Referring to the recently released India Rural Development Report 2012-13, he said contribution of rural non-farm sector in GDP is 60 percent and one third of Rural Works force and 43 percent rural households rely on Non-farm employment as major income source, rural poverty has reduced considerably from 40 percent to 26 percent. Also, he highlighted the challenges/barriers in Rural Non-farm Livelihoods like financial exclusion, tough efforts have been taken to extend financial services to unbanked rural areas, and this remains a concern. Lack of marketing facilities is another major constraint, failure to adequately

develop the skills of rural dwellers has destroyed the livelihood prospects. There is no distinct relationship between state incomes and rural non-farm sector employment. Kerala, at 64 percent has one of the highest shares of non-farm employment whereas other high income States, such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka have small non-farm sectors.

After elucidating the importance and challenges of RNFS, he underlined the objective of the Project was to map RNF sector and put an interactive web portal in place as information sharing platform. Further, he stated the main objective of the workshop was to formally launch the Project and to invite suggestions/inputs from the government representatives, CSOs other stakeholders on the selection of programmes/schemes. In the end, he requested the participants to share their experiences, since the major challenges in the Project, such as knowledge management and getting government officials on board is the primary aim of this project.

Project Synopsis

Madhu Sudan Sharma commenced the presentation by briefing the current situation and analysis of RNFS and provided a detailed overview of the Project for better understanding. He drew attention towards the problem of having less avenues and opportunities for inter-state cross learning at national level and relevant national perspective. He shed light on the 12th Five Year Plan approach paper, which underlines the importance of having a web portal for interstate cross learning from each other's experiences. This can lead to scalability of innovations and replicability also resulting into the growth of States, which are lagging behind. He also added that it is in this context, the I3S Project has been formulated.



He also stated that there are three major activities, which are related to action research, web portal and networking of the practitioners across the four States. He also spoke about the Gender Equity, Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency & Impact, Sustainability and Scalability (GREESS) Model and explained the successful practices and not so successful practices, which will be relevant to the Project. Lastly, he also recommended useful links of few web portals similar to I3S initiative to be given on the mentioned web portal – Solution Exchange, India Urban Portal, Knowledge Governance Centre and Dec-Watch etc.

Focus on Skill Development

Ritu Mathur, Programme Analyst, UNDP in her key address mentioned that with the rapid economic growth, inequalities are also increasing. She illustrated that due to lack of effective and efficient delivery system the efforts taken for development are not turning into desired outcomes. The schemes and programs are not implemented properly, but in records we find the utilization of total allocated budget this happens because people are not aware about their rights and entitlements, thus resulting into poor implementation.



Further she mentioned the need of capacity building of the people in the livelihood sector and importance of monitoring of the public schemes. There are several successful models but are they being followed? Each state is different from each other in various aspects, that's why scaling up a model is a problem, we lack platform for across nation learning. Relating to the project she said that after mapping out the activities and validating the collected data with qualitative study, the findings will be disseminated over virtual platform. The project will take cases from four states, which can turn out to be a road map to make changes in lives of people

Plea to Promote Livelihood Sector

Subir Kumar, Mission Director, SRLM as chief guest of the Programme delivered the inaugural lecture and congratulated CUTS for taking up such an innovative initiative and said that "Insight Into Indian States (I3S) Project is going to conduct critical analysis of the some of the schemes, under the Rural Non-farm Sector,. He stated that there are many programmes and schemes under implementation and they can be enriched through appraisal".



He also suggested that there is need to focus on skill development in addition to education for promoting the livelihood sector. In the end, he mentioned that recommendations of this project should be very specific, so that corrective measures can be taken appropriately at the policy level. He highlighted remarkable initiatives in Rajasthan and there is enthusiasm in the people towards development.

Non-farm Development Policy

Arti Pandey Tiwari of CUTS CART commenced her presentation by briefing about the state profile. She spoke on the overall scenario of RNFS in the Rajasthan and informed that Rajasthan is the first State in the country to have announced the Non-farm Development Policy in 1995 and established Rural Non-farm Development Agency in 1997, under the Department of Industries for promoting the non-farm sector as an alternate strategy for generating alternate avenues of employment in rural areas. She narrated sub-sectorial approaches of Non-farm Development Policy. Further, she explained about the major key players in RNFS like Rural Development Department, RUDA, NABARD, Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC), State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD)/National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), SRLM, Rajasthan Grameen Aajevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP).



She said that Rajasthan was the pioneer in India to establish the Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods (RMoL), in September 2004 in order to address the challenges of unemployment and ensuring profitable and sustainable employment. Later, RMoL was renamed as Rajasthan Mission on Skill and Livelihoods, by adding the word skill in 2009-10, to provide further impetus to the Skill Trainings. She also spoke about Rajasthan Grameen Aajivika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP) registered as society, under Rajasthan Societies Act 1958. Honourable Chief Minister being the Chairman of the Society. State Mission Director (LPs and SHGs) is the Member Secretary of Society. All rural livelihood programmes in the State will be henceforth implemented, under the aegis of the RGAVP and NABARD implemented programmes and schemes in Rajasthan.

Rural Non- farming Sector in Rajasthan

The panel discussion was chaired by M.L Mehta, Former Chief Secretary Government of Rajasthan and President, CUTCs; T S Raji Gain, General Manager, NABARD; Jyotsana Bharadwaj, Training In-charge, NRLM; and K L Paliwal, General Manager, RUDA shared their experiences in their respective field and gave their valuable comments on the Project.



Schemes for Development

T S Raji Gain, General Manager, NABARD spoke on schemes of NABARD focused on non-farm like Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme (SCCS), Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), and Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS). She elaborated these schemes and said that SCCS is there for providing adequate, timely and uninterrupted credit, i.e. working capital including consumption needs and/or block capital requirements to the small artisans, handloom weavers and other self-employed persons including micro-entrepreneurs, SHGs, etc. She said that NABARD is designated as one of the nodal agencies for channelising subsidy, under the CLCSS scheme through Cooperative Banks and RRBs; and Commercial Banks.



She mentioned the promotional and developmental programmes, cluster programmes, rural tourist programmes, etc. She also discussed the schemes for women entrepreneurship, such as

Assistance to Rural Women for Non-farm Development (ARWIND) Scheme and Dcheme for Marketing Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA), *Pashu Sakhi Yojana*, etc. She mentioned the new initiative Common Facility Centre (CFC). She also talked about Rural Tourist programmes of NABARD. She cited the example of Shanti Niketan and said that good practices can be adopted in Rajasthan as well.

Dr. Jyotsana Bharadwaj, training in-charge, NRLM and Asst. Director, SIRD informed about the objective of the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Project for India which is to enhance economic opportunities and empowerment of the rural poor, with a focus on women and marginalised groups, in the 17 targeted districts of Rajasthan. The objective related to this new innovative I3S Project is to facilitate promotion of small and micro enterprises in the areas of farm and non-farm sectors for enhancing income of the poor. She further said that they mainly provide training for capacity building and foster the skills for employment generation. In the end, she said that adding few chapters on livelihoods in College and High School curriculum is the need of the hour.



K. L. Paliwal, General Manager, RUDA spoke on the history of establishment of RUDA. He



elaborated the fact that it was established by GoR as an independent agency to promote the rural non-farm sector by following a cluster based approach in the State. RUDA is known for its path breaking innovations – using value chain method for the first time, seeking not only cooperation of the private sector but also establishing collaboration as it was a big issue as to how how a government body can work with private sector. He also mentioned a few export initiatives establishing a sustainable channel of exports for its artisan

groups. He quoted example of *Kota Doriya*, *Jaipur Blue Pottery*, etc., which are known now

recognised in the international market. The agency also takes efforts in improving the quality of products. In the end, he mentioned that though lots of initiatives and innovative steps were taken but the documentation standard is very poor therefore, no documents or records are available. He suggested that through this ambitious Project old and new initiatives can be documented as successful practices.

M. L. Mehta, Former Chief Secretary of Rajasthan while facilitating the panel discussion summarized the key points of all the speakers; He said that employment has always been a big challenge in front of any government. Every year more than ten lakh of people are becoming unemployed at the age of 21 and the government can provide jobs hardly to more than thirty thousand people in a year. That is why more emphasis lays on livelihood generation activities. Agriculture



sector is no more a profitable sector, as in Rajasthan there is scarcity of water, which is a serious issue for agriculture, that's why people are shifting to other sectors

For the development of rural non- farm sector skill development and market orientation is required.

Government should think about the convergence of various programs and schemes being implemented by different departments. There are agencies like RUDA, IICD and EMI, which can really be instrumental in RNFS. Further, he informed that 160 trades have already been identified in RNFS. There is a need to create linkages in skill development agencies, credit agencies and rural artisans. He also informed that every year there are approximately 11 lakh people in the job market who are in search of jobs, but hardly 30,000 to 40,000 jobs are created and rest become the backlog, so the RNFS is the only way to control unemployment .

Research and Documentation

During the open discussion many participants made remarks on the project and raised their queries to key speakers. Points covered in the discussion were:

- T.S Raji Gain answering to one query on other activities of NABARD, said that they keep organising awareness programmes for common masses, bankers et. . Financial literacy programmes are also being taken up. Latest technologies are being applied to maintain and enhance quality, for this NABARD has collaborated with agencies like Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai etc.
- Nissar Ahmed from BARC suggested that there is need of conducting research on policies macro and micro economic which will enable and disable the livelihood initiatives being taken up by various agencies at state level and also to explore the problems and their solutions.
- Ambuj Kishore from ARAVALI, Rajasthan said that ARAVALI has already documented 48 case stories related to Rajasthan rural livelihoods and practices those can be referred in this Project.

The workshop concluded by summing up the session and vote of thanks given by Amar Deep Singh, Senior Project Officer, CUTS. He summarised the key points that emerged in the discussions during the course of the event. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude towards all the dignitaries and thanked the participants for taking active part in the workshop and providing valuable inputs and giving commendable contribution.

