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'Insight into Indian States' (I3S)' project launched in in Rajasthan

Jaipur, December 12, 2013

To promote the livelihood sector, there is need to focus on skill development other than education, said Subir Kumar, Mission Director, SRLM. He appreciate the initiative of CUTS to do critical analysis of the some of the schemes under rural non-farm sector, is a good initiative. There are many programme and schemes under implementation but need to improve their quality. Positive criticism helps to improve the quality of programme. He mentioned that suggestions of such study should be very specific, so that corrective measures can be taken properly. In Rajasthan there is enthusiasm in the people towards development. He was delivering the inaugural address as chief guest of the formal inception meeting of the project named 'Insight into Indian States' (I3S) on December 12, 2013 in Jaipur.

CUTS International in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has initiated a national intervention 'Insight into Indian States' (I3S). The main feature this project is a coherent, user friendly, sustainable and interactive web portal, which would depict successful and not so successful practices on governance especially of Rural Non-farm Sector in the selected four States i.e. Assam, Odisha, Karnataka and Rajasthan. Different partner organisations in other state, CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research and Training (CUTS CART) will be responsible for undertaking project activities in the state of Rajasthan.

While making opening remarks, George Cheriyan, Director CUTS mentioned, Rural non farm sector is fast growing and the contribution of rural non-farm (RNF) sector in rural NDP is more than 60%. 43% of rural households rely on non-farm employment as the major income source. Under this project, idea is to map RNF sector and put an interactive web portal in place. Knowledge management will be the key component where dissemination of the knowledge will be one of the important aspects.

Ritu Mathur, Programme Analyst, UNDP mentioned that with the economic growth, the inequality is also increasing. Capacity building of the peoples in livelihood sector is required and monitoring of the public schemes is important. Schemes may be not implemented properly but the money may spend. People are not aware about rights and entitlements, which is also a reason for poor implementation. This project will take cases from four states of Rajasthan which will be a good learning. It will be road map to make life better.

While chairing the panel discussion, M.L. Mehta, Former Chief Secretary of Rajasthan mentioned that employment is a big challenge for any government. Every year more than ten lac people are reaching the age of 21 and the government is not able to provide jobs more than thirty thousand in a years. That's why the more emphasis on livelihood is need of the hour. Agriculture sector is not a profitable sector and people are moving to other sector. If we talk about Rajasthan there is scarcity of water which is big challenging issue for agriculture. Skill development, market orientation is required for the development rural non farms sector. Government is also need to think about the convergence of various programmes and schemes being implemented by different departments.

Other speakers also shared their work and experience during the panel discussion including T.S Raji Gain of NABARD; Jyotsana Bhardawaj of SIRD and KL Paliwal of RUDA. Madhu Sudan Sharma mentioned about the project and gave a overview I3S project.

More than sixty participants from took part in the event including officials of State Institute Rural Development (SIRD), NABARD, Rajasthan Skill and Livelihood Development Corporation (RSLDC), Rural nonfarm Development Agency (RUDA), Entrepreneurship and Management Development Institute (EMI), representatives of various civil society organisations working on rural non-farm livelihood sector, research institute, media etc.

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