

# Insight Into Indian States (I3S)

## Odisha Inception Workshop

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DRTC- CYSD, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



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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, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Non-farm Sector), State Rural Livelihood and Skill Development, , local or regional premier research institutes and specific initiatives taken by Non-governmental Organisations/Communit 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 Participation**

Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, State Programme Officer, UNDP, Prof. (Dr) Anup Kumar Dash, Professor in Sociology, Utkal University Odisha, Jagadananda, Former State Information Commissioner, Debaraj Behera, Mission Manager, NRLM, P. K Sahoo, Chairman, CYSD, M.C Sahu, AGM, NABARD, K K Jha, Dy. Chief Executive (Marketing), ORMAS, D. Nandy, Deputy Director, Directorate of Textiles and Handloom, Abdul Hai from OBDA and Madhu Sudan Sharma, Programme Coordinator, CUTS International.

More than 35 participants comprising government representatives from NABARD, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), ORMAS, Directorate of Textiles and Handloom, research institutes, OBDA, UNDP, New Delhi, NGOs/CSOs, I3S Project team, electronic and print media attended the meeting.

## **Inaugural Session - Launching of the Project**

### **Farm and Non-farm Sector**

Prof. Anup Dash flagged off the first session by thrusting upon the fact that the dichotomy between the farm and non-farm sector has eventually been blurred and they are considered to be in a continuum. He simultaneously stressed on the issues that hover on the non-farm sector wherein the success stories and the critical gaps aren't properly disseminated and shared. He urged for a user-friendly portal, which he also mentioned as a means of livelihood promotion. With such a mechanism, the success stories could be shared and if possible, replicated in other areas. His views were carried forward by other panellists in the session.



## **I3S Project – An Overview**

Madhu Sudan Sharma, Projector Coordinator, CUTS gave a detailed and thorough functioning and work frame of the organisation as well as of the Project. His presentation encompassed a historical background of CUTS and provided the trajectory of the relentless work that it has been doing, over the years.



He provided key insights into the significance of RNFS in the current scenario where agriculture is failing and unemployment rate is exploding. However, he also mentioned about the barriers related to RNFS that he broadly classified under capacity related, equal access and assets. Sharma streamlined the Project design in terms of its scope, duration, intended beneficiaries, challenges and key outputs.

## **Capacity Building Initiatives for Women**

Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, State Head, UNDP, categorically mentioned about a paradigm shift from the welfare based employment schemes to the capacity building programmes in the RNFS.



In his key note, he said that there is an increasing need for the capacity building of women in the rural non-farm sector. The restructuring of SGSY to NRLM considers this aspect and hence there is an enhanced focus on capacity building initiatives for women in NRLM. Though he echoed in a similar voice that success stories, if disseminated, could be replicated elsewhere for better results, he also stressed on the programme monitoring and evaluation aspect.

### **Key Challenges in INFS**

Debaraj Behera Mission Manager, NRLM, GoI also pointed out that the contribution of women in both the farm and the non-farm sector has gone unaccounted for.

The key challenges in RNFS that needs to be tackled comprise of institutional development, skill enhancement, book-keeping, a proper MIS and establishing market linkages. He also opined that any project, if successful, needs to be scaled up and the results should be well-documented and shared.



## Rural Non-farm Sector in Odisha

The second session comprised of presentations and views expressed by representatives from various organisations. Seema Gupta, Programme Manager, CYSD opened up the discussion by giving a detailed presentation on the RNFS scenario in Odisha.

She also concretely mentioned about the significance that the sector holds in lieu of the declining agriculture share in the State. She highlighted the Institutions/Policies/Schemes in place in the RNFS in the State. In addition, she stated about the proposed government departments and schemes, which can be followed closely to be a part of



the central web portal, under the I3S Project. She concluded the session by sharing about the challenges envisaged in the Project, such as building ownership among the stakeholders, information dissemination regarding the website and data collection.

## Schemes for Farm and Non-farm Sectors

M.C Sahu, AGM-NABARD, suggested that NGOs have a significant reach out at the grassroots



level and is a key link between the government and the rural masses. He also provided information on the various schemes and programmes that NABARD is providing for both the farm and non-farm sector, i.e. Loan and Grant Scheme, Rural Innovative Project, Sponsoring Melas (fairs) and other marketing activities and training and capacity building

initiatives.

## Initiatives by ORMS

K.K Jha, Dy. Chief Executive, ORMAS/OLM took forward the issues concerning marketing and mentioned about the initiatives taken up by ORMAS with regards to promoting hillbroom brand in Rayagada, Odisha as well as agarbatti making in collaboration with the ITC. Keeping the quality intact of the products is crucial and hence, all the raw materials used are approved by the ITC.

ORMAS has also been pioneering honey preparation in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha with the technology adopted from Wardha, Maharashtra. This indicated the replication of success stories from other parts of the country. However, he also suggested some measures needed to be taken up



to mitigate the prevailing constraints in the RNFS. The steps include:

- Social Mobilisation of excluded/vulnerable groups.
- Organising such groups into successful Producer Groups (PGs)

- Training and capacity building of such PGs
- Employing trained resource persons to train the PGs and
- Linking the PGs to various markets and technical institutions.

He concluded the session by expressing his view that funds are adequately available but there needs to be proper channelisation of such funds to make any programme, under the RNFS outcome based.

## Aid to the Handloom Sector

D. Nandy, Dy. Director, Directorate of Textiles and Handloom, Odisha briefed about the various facets of the handloom sector and also the prevailing types of handloom in the state of Odisha. He gave a detailed annexure of the steps that the government of Odisha has undertaken for the benefit and welfare of the weavers engaged in handloom work. The assistance includes:



- The weavers are provided with nearly Rs 70,000 per shed where they can comfortably work
- Raw material banks have been established
- The government employ the policy of revival, reform and restructuring

- Weavers Credit Card has been provided to the weavers
- Banks have been asked to provide loans at concessional rates to them
- Issue of collateral security and market support is also taken care by the government without burdening the weaver and
- The weavers have also been covered under Health and Life Insurance Schemes (For E.g. *Mahatma Gandhi Banika Bima Yojana*)

## **Bamboo Workers in Odisha**

Abdul Hai, RO-OBDA, also provided key information regarding the bamboo workers in Odisha. His brief talk comprised of various on-going schemes and key outputs.

## **Ensuring Effective Implementation of Schemes**

Taking cue from the above discussants, Jagadananda (former State Information Commissioner) critically mentioned that there is no dearth of welfare schemes for the people engaged in the RNFS. But he figured out the crucial disconnects between the schemes and the target group for whom such schemes aim at.



He highlighted the following of the crucial issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that the schemes actually reach and benefit the people as well:

- Information Dissemination of the scheme to the target population
- Formulating a robust accountability mechanism for regular evaluation of the scheme
- Timely support from the government
- Identification of the existing issues at the group level and
- Capturing voices outside the bureaucratic set up

He strongly emphasised on the advocacy component for adequate and timely budgetary support and articulation of voices from the ground level.

## **FES Recommendations**

N. Jyotishi from Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) stressed upon the fact that there is a noticeable transition from the farm to the non-farm sector. He pointed out that the capacity building exercise is only limited to the production based activities. The major concern, however, lies in the TOT aspect i.e. training of the trainers who are responsible in providing key information to the people engaged in the RNFS. He urged upon the fact that the affinity SHG groups should be replaced by the activity based SHG groups in order to get easier access to bank loans. Apart from skill building and marketing, group management is another challenge that needs to be taken care of. He also mentioned about an innovative step i.e. creating a cadre between the SHGs and the academic professionals who would be termed as ‘para-managers’ and can effectively manage the groups. He also stressed that the excluded groups (for e.g. manual scavengers) need to be rescued from their ghastly occupations.

Other views that flew in the discussion were from people from various organisations who, apart from the aforementioned thoughts, also stressed on the fact that the youth need to be oriented towards rural entrepreneurship. A robust and sustaining infrastructure needs to be formulated that would help in retaining rural people from mass exodus. They also voiced for a stringent cooperative legal framework.

## Making I3S Successful

P.K Sahoo, Chairman, CYSD concluded the second session by providing key ideas that, if incorporated, would aid in success of the project. He urged for the following measures:

- Documentation of success stories with a view to replicate elsewhere.
- Collaborating with various agencies
- Creation of a well-designed portal
- Addressing issues of the marginalised communities and
- Regular dialogue, discussion, documentation and response sharing



He opined for strong advocacy of the issues that prevail at the grassroots and simultaneously affecting the rural population. The issue of ‘scheme non-penetration’ to the intended lowest rung of the society also was a major challenge that Sahoo addressed. In order to keep the process in a continuity, he urged all the participants present to work in proximity and keep sharing the success (or even the failure) stories. While the success stories would be reproduced in other places, the failures would help in mapping out the disconnects and gaps, which would aid in the repairing and re-implementation of any project.

The workshop concluded by summing up the session and vote of thanks given by Jai Shree Soni, (Project Officer, CUTS). She summarised the key points that emerged in the discussions during the course of the event. Lastly, on behalf of CUTS she expressed her gratitude towards all the dignitaries and thanked the participants for taking active part in the workshop and providing valuable inputs and giving commendable contribution.

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