



Madurai Symposium 2011
(Advancing Development: Towards Sustainable Livelihoods)

National Convention on Skill Building for Sustainable Livelihoods of Self Help Group Federations

Date: 15.09.2011 (Thursday)

Tamukkam Grounds, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Organized by
INFOS (Indian Network of Federations of Micro finance Self Help Groups)
Madurai
DHAN Foundation
Madurai

National Convention on Skill Building for Sustainable Livelihoods of Self Help Group Federations

Background

The Madurai Symposium is a development platform where development stakeholders-community institutions, civil societies, the Government, non-government organizations (NGOs), financial institutions and academia converge at Madurai for conventions and conferences. Four biennial symposiums were organised in Madurai between 2003 and 2009, each attended by over 15,000 participants. The 2009 Madurai Symposium brought development stakeholders together to share and learn from each others' experiences and practices with respect to *Advancing Development: Towards Millennium Development Goals*. It can be argued that one of the most effective methods for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is through livelihoods promotion. Building upon the experiences of the earlier symposiums, the theme for 2011 is ***“Advancing Development: Towards Sustainable Livelihoods”*** and will be held between September 14-18, 2011.

The majority of the productive population is either unskilled or under-skilled. The 11th Five Year Plan objectives envisage **inclusive growth**. While India's economy has been growing around 7-8% in recent years, this growth has not been inclusive to the desired level. One of the reasons for this has been the mismatch between the demand and supply of a skilled work force. The magnitude of unemployment and underemployment in India is considerably high. There is a shortage of skilled people across the country across all sectors including the agriculture sector. Unless intensive skill development initiatives for the people at the bottom of the pyramid are undertaken, inclusive growth may remain a distant dream ensuring social problems.

Under the poverty reduction programme, poor women are organized into self help groups (SHG), whereby a platform is created to bring unity among the poor to address the issue of microfinance and as well as to utilize the social capital for other development programmes like education and health

thus resulting in sustainable livelihoods of the poor. The self help groups are federated at the panchayat or block level. One of the objectives of the SHG federations is to address the issue of sustainable livelihoods for its members and these federations require guidance in this area as well as need to be sensitized about this concept. Hence, building the skills of these poor is of utmost importance for uplifting and sustaining their livelihoods.

The National Convention

Indian Network of Federation of Micro Finance Self Help Groups (INFOS), a networking organization, along with DHAN People Academy of DHAN Foundation and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) is organizing the ***“National Convention on Skill-Building for Sustainable Livelihoods of Self-Help Group Federations” on 15th September 2011*** at the Madurai Symposium 2011. The convention will facilitate as a platform in catalyzing skill development initiatives and provide momentum in developing partnership with stakeholders ultimately to address the livelihoods of poor through skill building. There will also be an exhibition on skill-building models so as to share the experiences of SHG federations with participants and the public.

Objectives

- To sensitize participants on the importance of sustainable livelihoods of the poor and its dimensions.
- To seed the concept of skill-building for sustainable livelihoods of the poor.
- To showcase various skill-building models and programmes.
- To assess the status and develop skill-building programmes.
- To network with federations and resource organisations for scaling up livelihoods interventions.

Agenda

- Welcome address
- Inaugural address
- Key note address
- Lead Paper on Sustainable Livelihoods of Poor
- Background Paper on Skill Development in India
- Lead paper on Perspectives of Various Skill-Building Initiatives
- Experience Sharing and Case Studies from the Field
- Best Practices in Skill-Building Initiatives
- Employment Linkages: Matching Employer Demands and Skills of People
- Brainstorming session:
 - Mapping existing livelihoods
 - Exploring possible areas of intervention
 - Developing skill-building programmes
 - Collaboration for increasing scale
 - Developing a plan of action
- Way forward: Declarations and Propositions for Skill-Building for Sustainable Livelihoods
- Concluding remarks

Participants

- A total of 500 participants are expected to attend this event. The participants include:
- SHG federation leaders from INFOS network.
- SHG federation leaders from government programmes including Mahalir Thittam, Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Kudumbashree and MAVIM.
- NGO representatives from INFOS network and other NGOs working in microfinance and skill building.
- Representatives from People Mutual Movement including Kalanjiam and Vayalagam
- Leaders from farmer's federation, fishermen federation, etc.

- Resource persons from Government programmes, NGOs, academia, etc.

Expected Outcomes

The federation leaders and NGO representatives from more than 125 SHG federations will be sensitized about sustainable livelihoods and the importance of skill-building in addressing livelihoods issues. The participants would identify relevant leads and plan of action for skill-building. It is also expected that networking will occur across organizations, for cross learning and collaboration. The convention would bring out the declarations and propositions in taking the skill-building initiative forward.

Registration

For NGO representative: Rs. 300 per participant

For SHG federation leaders: Rs. 300 per participant

Participants should send their filled in registration form along with fee by demand draft (DD) favoring "INFOS" payable at Madurai to the Madurai Symposium 2011 Secretariat.

Date

15th September 2011 (Thursday)

Venue

The Madurai Symposium 2011 is held at Thammukam Grounds, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. This is located about 4 km from Madurai Railway Junction / city bus stand and Arapalayam bus stand and 3.5 km from Mattudhavani bus stand. The venue is about 14 km from the airport.

Accommodation & Travel Arrangements

INFOS & Dhan People Academy shall arrange simple and shared accommodation for the SHG leaders and NGO representatives on a first come first served basis. Local travel from the hotel to the venue shall also be arranged. Participants are requested to take care of their travel from their place to Madurai and return journey.

About Sponsors & Supporters



NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)

NABARD is set up as an apex Development Bank with a mandate for facilitating credit flow for promotion and development of agriculture, small-scale industries, cottage and village industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts. It also has the mandate to support all other allied economic activities in rural areas, promote integrated and sustainable rural development and secure prosperity of rural areas



Indian Network of Federation of Micro Finance Self Help Groups (INFOS)

Indian Network of Federation of Micro Finance Self Help Groups (INFOS) is a national network of Self Help Group (SHG) Federations which aims at sharing a common mission of contributing towards growth of the member federations through capacity building and policy advocacy initiatives, facilitating co-learning and through inculcating self-regulation with the view of strengthening the SHG movement in the country. The network has now a membership of 65 SHG federations across the country promoted by various promoting organisations from seven states of the country and another 35 federations likely to get enrolled during 2011 thus reaching out to 100 federations.



DHAN People Academy (DPA)

This educational initiative of DHAN Foundation was promoted in December 2003. It aims at providing development education to the people in the grassroots. Creating a right kind of attitude and enhancing the knowledge and skills of the participants through training and education programmes is the primary focus of DHAN People Academy. Livelihood Initiative with Functional Education (LIFE) is one of the centers of DHAN People Academy which aims to give livelihood oriented skills to women, men and youth through vocational education thus making them employable and building their entrepreneurship skills

Event Anchor

Mrs. N. Shanthi Maduresan

Chief Executive Officer

Indian Network for Federation of Self Help Groups (INFOS) &

Director, Dhan People Academy

DHAN Foundation, Madurai

Email: shanthim@dhan.org & dpa@dhan.org

Ph: 0452 2475416, 2475305, Mobile: 0 9715195099

Co Anchors

Mr. P. Premanand, Mobile: 0 9443274198

Mr. Piyush, Mobile: 0 9753953987

Secretariat Address

Facilitation Committee - **Madurai Symposium 2011**

DHAN Foundation

18, Pillaiyar Kovil Street, S.S. Colony, Madurai - 625 010, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Ph: + 91-452- 2610794, 2610805, Fax No: 2602247

E-mail: maduraisymposium@dhan.org Website: www.maduraisymposium.in & www.dhan.org