

National Seminar on Best Practices under RIDF at BIRD, Lucknow– 01 March 2019

National Seminar on Best Practices under RIDF was organised at Bankers' Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow on 01 March 2019. It was inaugurated by Dr H K Bhanwala, Chairman, NABARD and attended among others by Shri T Venkatesh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Dept., Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and Shri K Vohra, Commissioner (SPR), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt. of India and Shri H R Dave, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD. The other participants included senior officials and technocrats from various State Governments. The Seminar provided a platform to share innovative/impactful models and best practices in effective planning, designing and execution of rural infrastructure projects.

In his address Chairman, NABARD spoke on the need for developing rural areas to address the issue of unchecked urbanisation and provide necessary infrastructure to enable people at large to contribute to the GDP and to the nation building. He also emphasised on the need to give increased focus on related infrastructure to promote diversified livelihood opportunities for rural youth under animal husbandry, food processing etc. as also on activities like education, drinking water, health sectors, ecotourism, village knowledge centres.

Shri T Venkatesh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Dept., Govt. of Uttar Pradesh while appreciating Govt. of India and NABARD for introducing various innovative products like Long Term Irrigation Fund, Micro Irrigation Fund, Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund apart from RIDF, also emphasised that RIDF should continue to act as a catalyst in reducing the rural urban difference and bring about an improvement in the development of the rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh indicated that the major problem in implementing infrastructure projects is the capacity to ensure optimal utilisation of funds through adoption of advanced technologies in the process of implementation. Shri K Vohra, Commissioner (SPR) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR), Govt. of India shared the process adopted

by the Ministry for monitoring of projects on digital platform which enabled real time tracking of the progress in implementation of PMKSY projects under LTIF.

Shri A K Mohanty, CGM, SPD, Head Office made a presentation on the Status, Impact and Implementation Issues under RIDF.

The inaugural session was followed by release of a Coffee Table Book on RIDF showcasing select successful projects from all the States and UT of Puducherry covered under RIDF.

Thereafter brief presentations were made by State Govt. officials from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Odisha and Tamil Nadu on important themes such as (i) Improvement in Water Use Efficiency – Adoption of Innovative Practices/Technologies (ii) Social Infrastructure for inclusive and speedy economic development (iii) Improvement of Systems & Process in availment of assistance under RIDF (iv) Climate resilient infrastructure in vulnerable areas. Further, presentations were also made on the proposed digitisation plan under RIDF in collaboration with CDAC, Pune and the monitoring of progress of AIBP projects on digital platform.

In the stakeholders interaction senior officials of various State Governments shared the best practices and innovative models successfully adopted under RIDF projects.

In the valedictory address, Shri H R Dave, DMD observed that the sharing of model projects and best practices among the stakeholders would certainly help in replication of the same and enhancing the overall effectiveness of RIDF.

Smt. T S Raji Gain, Director, BIRD, Lucknow offered the vote of thanks. The participants included CGM and other officers from Uttar Pradesh Regional Office, Principal, NBSC, Lucknow, Faculty Members and other officers from BIRD, NBSC as well as officials from SPD, HO.

A few photographs of the event are attached.

Team SPD