



APRACA Newsletter

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Delegates of Global Dissemination Workshop on Rural Finance Best Practices held in Bangkok on 24-25 January 2019

GLOBAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON PRO-POOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE BEST PRACTICES

The global validation and dissemination workshop was held in 'The Sukosol', Bangkok during 24-25 January 2019, to bring in the relevant organizations and agencies offering or engaged in the process of providing sustainable rural finance across geographical locations within the Asia-Pacific region together. The core idea for the workshop rests on the foundation that apart from discussions in the dissemination forum on the results of the pilot testing on rural finance best practices, the workshop will also invite the experts from emerging areas of development finance and take stock on the financial infrastructure, rural transformation through innovative financial products and the technological innovations which will drive rural and agricultural finance in the next decades. The specific objective of the global dissemination workshop was to: (a) Identify the pro-poor rural finance business models and delivery systems which has the potential for scaling up in the Asia-Pacific region; (b) Understand the innovative and scalable financial products and services to cater the rural clientele and provide sustainable development of the local areas; (c) Take stock on financial infrastructure which may lead to transform the rural financial services; (d) Examine the emerging areas of disruptive

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technologies which are potential to upgrade the delivery of financial services and impact the development finance; (e) Deliberate on the process and the results of the pilot testing of identified good practices in China, Indonesia and Philippines and relate these good practices under their unique operating environment and their scalability in other countries of the region; (f) Analyze the results of the pilot testing of identified good practices in three focused countries and relate these good practices under their unique

operating environment and their relationship with the global good practices; (g) Generate inputs from the global experts to deepen the contents and strengthen the impact assessment documents; (h) Match the findings with the thematic focuses and issues of the selected countries for the future scaling up and (i) Identify the financial institutions at the country level who will lead the scaling up of the identified good practice.



Panel Discussions on Digital Financial Services during the Global Workshop held in Bangkok on 24-25 January 2019



Mr. Nigel Brett, Director, IFAD addressing the delegates of Global Dissemination Workshop



The participants of Global Dissemination Workshop are discussing on the way forward to pilot rural finance best practices

The global dissemination workshop was attended by participants from 16 countries from Asia-Pacific region and global participants from International Agencies UNCDF, World Bank apart from experts from IFAD. The workshop was participatory in nature and the participating country groups and experts were allowed to share the results from the pilot testing conducted in their provinces with the participants of the workshop, followed by in-depth discussions on the learning, scalability, effectiveness and impact of these interventions while also highlighting the specific risks and challenges faced during the course of undertaking these interventions. A key aspect of the workshop was the focus of the presentations and discussions by the

global and regional experts on the pro-poor rural finance best practices in their regions, while also identifying areas of innovations and avenues for implementation to support growth and development of Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop was spread over four technical sessions and three workshop sessions spread over two days. While the first technical session focussed on "Rural and Agricultural Finance impacting Sustainable Development" the theme for the second technical session was "Rural Transforming and enhancing capability of smallholders through Technological intervention. Likewise, technical session three

concentrated on "Knowledge Management in Rural and Agricultural Finance: A support service to link the demand and supply of rural and agricultural finance". Moving further the final technical session (session four) envisaged a theme pertaining to "Application of new financial tools and technologies to promote Sustainable Development". The deliberations on the workshop

sessions were on 'Impact assessment report of RuFBEP pilot testing: exploring area of improvement and scalability of the financial products and services. The participation of the delegates were with high commitments and meaningful discussions were taken place during the 2 days of the workshop.



Section of delegates listening to the panelists and speakers during the Global Dissemination Workshop on Rural Finance Best Practices



ACTIVITIES OF APRACA SECRETARIAT

- APRACA Centre of Excellence (ACE) in Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) organized International Training Programme held in Lucknow, India during 14-18 January 2019

ACE-BIRD in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Financial Inclusion and Microfinance (CRFIM) has conducted an international training programme for APRACA member countries on "Self Help Groups (SHGs) – A tool for Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment", during 14-18 January 2019. The programme was inaugurated by Shri. H R Dave, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD in the presence of Smt. T. S. Raji Gain, Director BIRD and Shri Raj Kumar, Joint Director, BIRD and Dr. Prasun Das, Secretary General, APRACA. Eighteen (18) officers involved in microfinance activities of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Afghanistan, Aga Khan Foundation, Afghanistan and commercial bank viz., Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank and Janata Bank of Bangladesh have participated in the programme. In addition to the classroom interaction, the programme included field visit to rural branch in Agra and interaction with SHGs and second tier institutions promoted by Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna, Raebareli. The programme



Inauguration of International training programme in BIRD Lucknow on 14 January 2019



Group photo of the participants and trainers during international programme on 'Self Help Groups: A tool for financial inclusion and women empowerment'

helped in sharing the best practices of SHG Bank Linkage Programme gained over the last 25 years with the participants.

- **APRACA participated in Asia Finance Forum held in Bangkok during 22-23 January 2019**

The Secretary General of APRACA was invited to speak on the Asia Finance Forum 2019 held in Bangkok during 22-23 January 2019. He delivered his presentation on the emerging business models and opportunities for investment, successful initiatives and options for scaling up, Key barriers and solutions across the region and outlook for a changing FI landscape. The Forum gathered more than 250 delegates from financial institutions, FinTech companies, international development agencies and civil society organizations.

- **IFAD Invited APRACA to present its experience of RuFBEP Project implementation of rural and agricultural finance in 'Annual Country Programme Review (ACPoR) of Philippines during 5-8 February 2019**

Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General who is also the IFAD Project Manager was invited to the IFAD Annual Country Programme Review (ACPoR) of Philippines held in Sagada, Mountain Province. The review workshop and learning visits were designed to bring together IFAD's partners and counterparts in Philippines and other parts of Asian countries to discuss a roadmap to sustainable, inclusive and innovative rural transformation in the Philippines and to identify the way forward in terms of innovative approaches in operations and knowledge development and partnerships. The SG along with the representative from ACPC, Philippines presented the APRACA's experience on implementation of pilot project on value chain finance with the Multi-Purpose Fruits and Vegetables Cooperatives in La Trinidad, Benguet .

- **The IFAD country office Bangladesh invited APRACA Secretary General to be the member of project design mission in Bangladesh during 15-22 February 2019**

The Bangladesh country office of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invited the Secretary General of APRACA to be a member of the IFAD project design mission in Bangladesh to support PKSf (member of APRACA) to develop the Rural Microenterprise

Transformation Project (RMTP) to be implemented by them. The project will support marginal and small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs (or their organisations) and agribusinesses to improve their operations and develop commercially beneficial linkages within selected value chains. It will prioritise commodities that respond to growing demand from domestic, regional and global markets, ensure nutritional benefits for both producers and consumers, and can be aligned to comply with food quality and safety standards.

- **APRACA Secretary General was invited by Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha, Nepal to Join 'Small Farmers Summit 2019' in Kathmandu, Nepal during 28 February to 01 March 2019**

Dr. Prasun Kumar Das was invited by SKBBL, Nepal to deliver a presentation on 'Cooperative Enterprises: Process, Practice and Challenges' during the Small Farmers Summit 2019 focused on 'Agriculture Transformation and Entrepreneurship Development for the Prosperity of Small Farmers' held in Kathmandu. The Main Objectives of the Summit was to support small farmers for agriculture transformation and



Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, APRACA Secretary General sharing regional experiences in the panel discussions during small farmers summit- 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal



Secretary General, APRACA participating in the discussions on way forward to support the small farmers and their cooperatives

entrepreneurship development through a dialogue among practitioners, regulators, specialists based on concrete research findings as well as through best practices. About 1000 delegates and leaders from Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperative Ltd. (SFACLs) participated in the summit.

- IFAD invited APRACA Secretary General to be the member of implementation support mission to Myanmar during 11-15 March 2019

The Philippines country office of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invited the Secretary General of APRACA to be a member of the IFAD implementation support mission to assess the implementation of actions in FARM project being implemented in Myanmar. The other objectives of the mission was to provide the way forward to achieve the objective of the project being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), the Ministry of Finance (MoPF) and the FARM Project Coordination Unit (PCU) based in Naypyitaw.

- ACE-BIRD organized International Training Programme on “Embracing Digitisation for Finance and Governance” during 25-28 March 2019 in Lucknow, India

ACE-BIRD has organized an international training programme on “Embracing Digitisation for Finance and Governance” during 25-28 March 2019 at BIRD, Lucknow. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. T. S. Raji Gain, Director BIRD and graced by Dr Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General, APRACA and Shri Raj Kumar, Joint Director, BIRD. Twelve executives from three countries namely Cambodia, China, and Nepal from the organization like, Sathapana Bank, Huainan Tongshang Rural Commercial Bank and Chhimek Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd. have participated in the training programme. In addition, to the classroom training, the programme included interaction with Board Members of Agra District Central Cooperative Bank. The programme helped in sharing various aspects of digitisation used for financing and good governance practices with the participants.



Inauguration of International training programme on ‘Embracing digitization for finance and governance’ held in BIRD, Lucknow, India during 25-28 March 2019



Group photo of the participants and trainers during international programme on ‘Embracing digitization for finance and governance’

- **APRACA Secretary General called on the Officials of Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Welfare and Cooperatives, Government of India on 26 March 2019 to discuss regarding organization of 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance**

The SG visited New Delhi to meet the officials from the Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Welfare and

Cooperatives, Government of India and NABARD, Regional Office to discuss on organization of 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance to be held in New Delhi during 12-14 November 2019. The invitation to the Departmental Secretary was handed over and detailed discussions were held on participation of the Government officials in the global event. The meeting was fruitful and the department committed to support the endeavours of APRACA and NABARD to make the programme successful.

NEWS FROM APRACA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- **News from Bank of Papua and New Guinea:**

BPNG's Award for Excellence Officially presented at Note Printing Australia (NPA), Melbourne-K100 Commemorative Banknote (2018 APEC):

The Bank of Papua New Guinea's achievement as a Finalist in the globally recognised IACA Awards for Excellence was today recognised at Note Printing Australia when the CEO, Mr Malcolm McDowell officially presented the award to Deputy Governor, Mr Joseph Teria on behalf of IACA – the International Association of Currency Affairs. The award recognised the Bank's issue of the new K100 banknote, with the commemorative 2018 APEC Summit overprint, in the category of 'Best New Commemorative or Limited Circulation Banknote'. Along with the K50, the K100 also featured the world's first application of a SPARK® Live TRUSPIN feature contained within the large window area.

"It takes courage to embrace innovation, to address the fear of failure. But we had confidence in our partner and we rely and trust on their expertise to make the banknote a reality," said Mr Teria, in reference to NPA. "Papua New Guinea is the land of the unexpected – you often never know what to expect – and there is much to be proud of in our nation," he continued. "After winning an international award for one of our coins in 2016, the Bank is pleasantly surprised to be recognised for the K100 banknote."

The 2018 Award category received a record of 10 nominations, with BPNG being short-listed as one of three Finalists. "These awards are a celebration of the endeavour of pursuing excellence in the delivery of a new banknote, and to that end this award recognises that the K100 was a leader in its class in 2018," said NPA's CEO, Malcolm McDowell. *for more information please click the link: [https://www.](https://www.bankpng.gov.pg/announcement/bpngs-award-for-excellence-officially-presented-at-note-printing-australia-npa-melbourne-k100-commemorative-banknote-2018-apec/)*

[bankpng.gov.pg/announcement/bpngs-award-for-excellence-officially-presented-at-note-printing-australia-npa-melbourne-k100-commemorative-banknote-2018-apec/](https://www.bankpng.gov.pg/announcement/bpngs-award-for-excellence-officially-presented-at-note-printing-australia-npa-melbourne-k100-commemorative-banknote-2018-apec/)

- **News from Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Ltd. (NULBSL) Nepal:**

NULBSL conducted Financial Literacy & Skill Development Trainings for its clients/members:

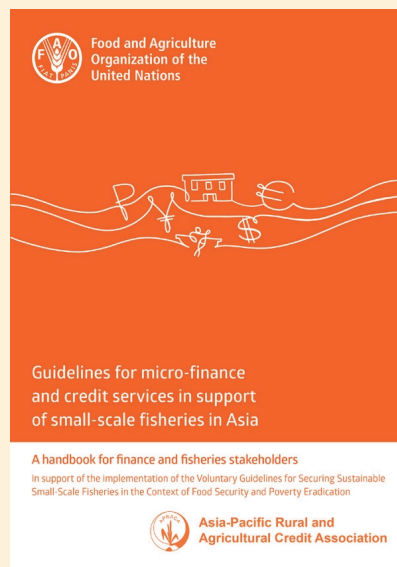
Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited organized 70 training programs during the month of Falgun (Feb-Mar 2019) for enhancing the financial literacy, capacity and knowledge level. of its clients. These training programs benefited a total of 4026 Nirdhan members. Nirdhan continuously provides different types of trainings such as skill development, entrepreneurship development and financial literacy trainings alongside providing sponsorship to the clients for professional training programs such as tailoring, driving etc. During the month, under Skill Development Training; Commercial Livestock (Cow/Buffalo) Farming, Commercial Goat Raising and Commercial Vegetable Farming trainings were conducted to benefit the members of Nirdhan through various branch offices. Nirdhan officials conducted 7 Skills Development Trainings at different places around the country. There were a total of 233 member clients who benefited from the skills development trainings organized by Nirdhan. The trainings were organized on the basis of need identification carried out by the branch offices of

Nirdhan. Commercial Vegetable Farming & Commercial Livestock (Cow/Buffalo) Farming trainings were the most popular training requested by the clients so Nirdhan provided 3 Commercial Vegetable and 3 Livestock Farming Trainings during this month benefiting 203 clients. The vegetable farming training programs were conducted by 3 branches within the working area of Birgunj and Bardibas Area of the institute. The training programs provided insights on commercial vegetable/livestock farming by experienced resource persons which is expected to change the traditional way of farming and use modern techniques, equipment and resources for better profitability for the clients.

Similarly, Nirdhan also organized a Commercial Goat Raising Training to its 30 clients from Chandranigahapur Branch of Rautahat District during the month. These training programs were intended to make Nirdhan clients more focused towards their business with new ideas and right way forward. Furthermore, Nirdhan provided 63 Financial Literacy Trainings through various branches of the institute to bring financial services awareness to the members during the month of Falgun (Feb-Mar 2019). These programs provided financial

literacy to 3793 members of Nirdhan. The financial literacy trainings are focused to provide much needed basic knowledge on financial services available to them and the benefits of proper utilization of these services. The main topics discussed during the training program included Savings services, Loan Services, Long term pension plans, insurance facilities to the members and their biological assets and remittance services. The training program included explanation of these services by the resource person as well as through financial literacy videos. Further, discussions with the clients were also held during each program to answer the unanswered questions in the same matter. The programs were designed in a way which facilitates easy understanding as most of our clients are illiterate. Nirdhan organizes these trainings through out the year to help develop the capacity and skills of its member clients to make them self dependent and help them walk out of poverty zone. These training programs are very beneficial for start up clients as well as clients who are in the building stage of their businesses.....for more information please click the link: <https://www.nirdhan.com.np/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Nirdhan-Newsletter-Feb-Mar-19.pdf>

Recent FAO-APRACA Publications



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