

Conference on Microfinance

January 9th and 10th 2012

Microfinance: Translating Research into Practice

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Monday, January 09, 2012

Registration: 09.00 to 09.30 hrs

Inaugural Session: 09.30 to 10.30 hrs

Introduction

Mr. Satyajit Dwivedi, Faculty, College of Agricultural Banking

Welcome Address

Ms. Kamala Rajan, Principal, College of Agricultural Banking

Keynote Address:

Dr. Prakash Bakshi, Chairman, NABARD

Open House Discussion

Tea Break: 10.30 to 10.45 hrs

Thematic Session I: 10.45 to 12.30 hrs

Government's New Rural Employment Generating Initiatives and Programmes

The Government has increased effort and investment into development initiatives over the last few years. Programs like the SHG Bank Linkage, NREGA, NABARD's Rural Entrepreneurship Cluster Development program, SIDBI's Micro-entrepreneurship Development Program and many others have been striving to improve the fortunes of the poor. The coming years will bear witness to more of these programs like the newly launched National Rural Livelihoods Mission. However, the effectiveness of the programs, implementation methods, issues pertaining to governance are some open challenges. Can better local participation along with a well-placed HR/monitoring systems within the delivery mechanism of such programs give us better results? This session will bring in the perspectives of practitioners and academia on how things have been so far and what aspects need to be addressed to maximize the benefits to the poor.

Chair: Mr. Sudhir Thakre, Secretary, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Govt. of Maharashtra

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Lead Presentation:

Dr. Rohini Pande, Professor, Harvard University
Ms. Nilima Khetan, Country Director, American India Foundation
Ms. Priyanka Singh, Chief Executive, Seva Mandir

Panelist:

Mr. Ved Arya, Founder and Chief Executive, SRIJAN
Mr. Girish G. Sohani, President and Managing Trustee, BAIF
Mr. Manoj Mittal, General Manager, SIDBI

Open House Discussion

Lunch Break: 12.30 to 13.30hrs

Special Address: Self Help Group Programme II 13.45 to 14.15hrs

Dr. S L Kumbhare, Chief General Manager, Micro Credit Innovation Department, -NABARD

Open House Discussion

Thematic Session II: 14.15 to 16.00 hrs

The psychology behind mass default in joint liability loans

Over indebtedness and lack of economic opportunity are two examples of the many reasons cited for JLG loan defaults. However, getting to the bottom of mass defaults in the microfinance sector involves exploring various social, economic and psychological parameters that impact an individual or groups incentives for repayment. The recent Kolar crisis and its ramifications languish till date. Understanding the psychology behind such mass defaults is essential so that MFIs and Regulatory bodies have a better understanding of the client and the geopolitical factors surrounding these events. Does joint liability impact a clients decision to default during times of mass default? Does the loan size, loan cycle or prevalence of other MFIs influence a clients likelihood of repayment – what have research studies shown us till date? What measures should be taken by MFIs and other service providers in a scenario where the normal repayment environment is disrupted, is it possible to develop a strategic response? This session shall unravel this area.

Chair: Ms. Annie Duflo, Executive Director, Innovations for Poverty Action

Lead Presentation:

Mr. Suresh Krishna, Managing Director, Grameen Koota
Ms. Lisa Nestor, Researcher, CMF

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Panelist:

Ms. Bindu Ananth, President, IFMR Trust
Dr. Erica Field, Associate Professor, Duke University
Mr. M V Ashok, Chief General Manager, NABARD - Pune
Mr. Manoj Mittal, General Manager, SIDBI

Open House Discussion

Tea Break: 16.00 to 16.15 hrs

Thematic Session III: 16.15 to 17.30 hrs

Way Forward: Future of Financial Services for the Poor

Despite having seen various models for financial inclusion and talked about the same, the need to re-emphasize on the relevance of product and systems has arisen again. Are products in the market adequately serving financial needs of the poor? If not, what are the innovations required. This session shall throw light on state of the art in our understanding of the impact of financial services and new products/financial systems in the pipeline.

Chair: Ms. T. F. Thekkekara, Principal Secretary, Minority Development, Govt. of Maharashtra

Lead presentation:

Mr. Graham Wright, Programme Director, MicroSave
Dr. Erica Field, Associate Professor, Duke University

Panelist:

Dr. Alok Pande, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GOI
Mr. Anil SG, Chief Executive Officer and Senior VP, IFMR Rural Channels and Services
Mr. Samit Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Ujjivan
Mr. P N Vasudevan, Promoter and Managing Director, Equitas
Ms. Sudha Kothari, Founder and Chief Executive, Chaitanya

Open House Discussion

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DAY 2

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Thematic Session IV: 09.15 to 10.45 hrs

Financial Literacy: Can financial literacy accelerate financial inclusion and help customers make rational decisions?

Financial Literacy could be termed as a precursor to achieving total financial inclusion. Imagine a scenario wherein the poor both rural and urban are able to take decisions regarding their choice of financial services on an informed basis. On-going research studies have thrown light on various dynamics of this concern. The effects of general illiteracy and lack of basic numeracy skills have impeded the growth of the poor to a large extent. What needs to be seen is how should one devise the financial literacy program and who will play the role of a facilitator here? Can MFIs, Government institutions and other capacity building institutions work hand-in-hand to educate the customers in this sector? Are the providers adequately well-informed to provide financial literacy in the first place? Are we yet to explore a different mode of disseminating financial literacy, let alone give the term a proper definition? This session shall enlighten us on the results/perspectives from trainers and various financial literacy experiments.

Chair: Dr. J Sadakkadulla, Principal, RBI Staff College

Lead Presentation:

Ms. Deeptha C Umapathy, Policy Outreach and Research Manager, CMF

Ms. Parul Agarwal, Researcher, CMF

Panelist:

Ms. Frances Sinha, Director, EDA Rural System

Ms. Vijaylakshmi Das, Managing Director, Ananya Finance

Ms. Elaine Marie Ghosh, Executive Director, Parinam

Mr. Gregory Chen, Regional Representative for South Asia, C-Gap

Mr. Sanjay Arya, General Manager and SLBC Convener, Bank of Maharashtra

Open House Discussion

Tea Break: 10.45 to 11.00hrs

Special Address: Micro Insurance and Micro Pension 11-00 to 11.30 hrs

Mr. Arvind Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Gol

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Thematic Session V: 11.30 to 13.00 hrs

Financing Microfinance: Scope and opportunities

With the recent developments in the realm of microfinance making it difficult to get funding for many of the existing MFIs, the question now is are there alternate ways of financing. How feasible are these methods and can they really fulfill the needs of MFIs? Will the regular and more conventional sources of funding like banks change their stance soon and thus making funding easy – Is there any innovation waiting to be used in this region? Have MFIs actually tapped into potential sources or have the regulations made it hard for them to do the same? This session shall see the presentation and the panelists unravel the scope and opportunities that lie in financing microfinance.

Chair: Mr. S K Mitra, Executive Director, NABARD

Lead Presentation:

Ms. Sucharita Mukherjee, Chief Executive Officer, IFMR Capital

Panelist:

Mr. Sanjay Sinha, Managing Director, M-Cril

Ms. Jennifer Isern, Regional Business Line Leader, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Mr. V S Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, Janalakshmi

Mr. Shubhankar Sengupta, Managing Director, Arohan

Mr. Mahendran Ramasamy, Product Head (Sustainable Livelihood Banking), HDFC

Open House Discussion

Valedictory Session: 13.00 to 13.45 hrs

Mr. Anup Sankar Bhattacharya, Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of Maharashtra

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Ajay Tannirkulam, Executive Director, CMF