



Institute for Integrated Rural Development

एकीकृत ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान

हम जानते हैं गाँव को बेहतर

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Dated: 29th October 2015

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General United Nations
New York, NY - 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) supports the ten principles of UN Global Compact with respect to Human Rights, Labour, Environment & Anti Corruption. With this environment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and general public.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the annual submission of the Communication of Progress (COP) that describes our effort to implement the ten principles. This is our second Communication On Progress.

We pledge to continue to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible - through for instance, participation of Country/ Local Networks, involvement in special initiatives and work streams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

Sincerely Yours,


Dr L C Sharma
Managing Director (IIRD)



A description of the practical actions that the organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact principles

Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) established in 2004 is not for profit organization. IIRD has been working towards rural prosperity through research & studies, training & capacity building, technical support & consultancies and institutional networking in the national and global perspective. IIRD is empanelled and approved for rural development by various departments and Ministries of Government of India and Department of State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

The main focus of all interventions of IIRD under different centres and missions is to create more employment opportunities to enhance the quality of life of the people it serves, besides remaining environmentally conscious. The organization endeavours to adopt innovative approaches in all its activities with maximum use of technology and optimum use of resources to make the operation impact oriented, transparent and participatory.

Institute for Integrated Rural Development (IIRD) is committed to support the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact with Respect to human Rights, Labour Rights, Environment and Anti-Corruption. IIRD supports the ten principles through day to day operation of the company, projects undertaken with the clients and its commitment to the local communities/general public.

A brief overview of some of the major initiatives of IIRD are as below:

1) Human Rights and Labour Relation: Safeguarding human rights has always been top priority of the organisation and this is reflected in providing conducive environment for the functionaries associated with the organisation for their personal as well as professional growth. The labour laws enacted by the government are well respected and rightly enforced within the organisational framework.

In order to eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labour, IIRD has laid down a transparent recruitment/ manpower engagement system. Through its Centre for Technology & Innovation (CTI), IIRD monitors and facilitates recruitment, employee engagement & management of Human resources. IIRD eliminates discrimination of any sort and ensures that equality of opportunity is an integral part of the recruitment practices and procedures. The organization also ensures prohibition of engagement of child labour in its office premises and has stipulated 18 years as the maximum age for employment as per its HR Policy / Manual.

2) Environmental Sustainability - IIRD entails a sustained effort to ensure environmental sustainability but focusing on community development and inclusive growth through training & capacity building; research and development. Major projects undertaken by IIRD are as below:

- a) IIRD has undertaken projects for "Dissemination and demonstration of water harvesting, conservation and ground water recharging technologies" and " Monitoring and Evaluation of Pattan Valley Forest Development Agency (FDA)" under its Centre for Environment & Climate Change (CECC).
- b) IIRD has also undertaken project for installation of Solar Street Lights in the remote villages of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh, India under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy of Government of India. These projects were undertaken to address one of the major challenges faced by the country that is to provide basic lighting facilities through renewable energy sources to the un-electrified rural areas. Absence of proper lighting facilities is a key issue in remote parts of the country leading increased concerns over accessibility, visibility at night and safety & security conditions especially for women, children & elderly. Solar energy is a great way to provide electricity in such areas as it is eco-friendly and self-sustainable.
- c) Under the banner of "Himalayan Safe Food", IIRD's Centre for Livelihood and Micro-Finance (CLMF) has worked on minimizing the cultivation cost for oyster mushroom without using any chemical or manure, so that small and

marginal farmers can cultivate this most nutritious and easy-to-cultivate mushroom for the dual purpose of their own consumption and the scope of improving their livelihood by marketing the produce.

Outcome of the Initiative:

- Under the project "Dissemination and demonstration of water harvesting, conservation and ground water recharging technologies", a roof-top rain water harvesting system was installed in the houses of beneficiaries in Sholi and three check dams were constructed to reduce soil erosion. Additionally, 500 saplings of multipurpose bamboo, i.e., *Dendrocalamus Hamiltonii* were planted in 10 bigha of barren land and fallow patches of the villages namely Sholi and Khong of Sholi Panchayat.
- Under the project of "Installation of Solar Street Lights", the rural population of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh shall avail the benefits. The Solar Lights have no adverse environmental impact and the renewable energy derived is carbon free and inexhaustible that will help combat the climate change while at the same time provide various environmental, social and economic benefits. The solar street lights will enhance the quality of life and improve living conditions of the people. Total 450 solar street lights were installed.

2) Improving Local Self Governance and Urban Governance

IIRD through its Centre for Local Self Governance aims at promoting Integrated planning and rural development, Panchayati Raj, Rural resource engineering for better provision of urban services in rural areas, public welfare.

Through its Centre for Urban Governance, IIRD aims at Urbanization, Public Administration, Governance, Private Sector Development, Liberalization- Privatization- Globalization of Economic Resources, Population, Public Finance, Civil Developments. Major project undertaken is as below:

- a) One of the initiatives of IIRD was the ULB Adoption Programme that pursues the adoptions of small and medium-size Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), like, Nagar Panchayat and Municipal Councils for a cost-effective outcome-based consulting services in order to ensure integrated development of the same. The areas in which consulting services were provided includes: diverse subjects, like, infrastructure, livelihood, governance, poverty services, environment & disaster management, etc.
- b) The capacity building programme was organised by IIRD with the objective of sensitizing the elected representatives, functionaries and planning team members of Panchayati Raj System and the municipalities about the integrated decentralized district planning; Capacity building of the participants on decentralized planning vs. horizontal planning; Orienting participants on the steps in integrated decentralized planning process, etc. **covering more than 30,000 participants.**
- c) IIRD has been entrusted as a National Level Field Verification Agency (NLFVA), by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to carry out verification of State recommended Panchayats for conferring Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP) and Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (RGGSP) under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in Kerala and Rajasthan. PSP and RGGSP are national awards given to encourage rural planning units to perform better and strengthen grassroots level democracy. IIRD successfully verified two Village Panchayats of Kerala State, for conferring the Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (RGGSP) under RGPSA. In Rajasthan, a total of 9 Panchayats, one District Panchayat, two Intermediate Panchayats and six Village Panchayats were verified for PSP.

3) Anti Corruption

The organisation has been facilitating in operation through automation and IT applications in order to minimise the red tapism and bring transparency in public service delivery. Apart from this, bringing public awakening through various initiatives has been the inbuilt component of the developmental initiatives of IIRD.