

## WORKSHOP ON “FRUGAL INNOVATIONS” 7 - 8 JULY, 2017

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### **NEED**

In view of growing pressure on dwindling natural resources and an urgent need to bring inclusive growth and development, there is an urgent need to encourage the innovations to address the challenges and to create simple, qualitative, affordable and sustainable products for the benefit of the end users in general and rural community in particular, in areas of agriculture, green energy, sustainable housing, drinking water, sanitation, waste management and artisan related activities.

Innovations are happening across the country irrespective of the educational qualification of the innovators, mainly ignited by an urge to solve a local problem or improve the efficiency of a service/operation using locally available tools and resources. Such innovations are not dependent on huge research and development investments, but on frugal resources and support mechanisms. Such frugal innovations are catching up with large corporates so as to create an inclusive innovation ecosystem.

Frugal Innovations can play an important role in rural transformation for sustainable development. However, most of such frugal innovations, due to lack of scaling up capabilities and support remain as prototype or idea. Many a times such innovations fail to take off due to adequate design improvement and material efficiency. There is an urgent need to create organized platform to support such frugal innovations. There is also a need to rope in voluntary effort in terms of technical /mentoring support for taking such innovative ideas/prototypes into a final usable product/service that is technically feasible, economically viable and socially acceptable. For such an effort, there is a need for large number of technical hands who are willing to work on voluntary basis to support such innovators. As part of this effort, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayt Raj (NIRDPR) has conducted “Rural Innovators Start-up Conclave” in March 2017. This has set in a momentum to connect with the innovators and the investment hands and mentors. However, there is a need for large partnership and roping in large number of willing experts for creating impact and enable rural transformation.

It is in the above background, NIRDPR is partnering with Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), Vijnana Bharati to encourage and support the rural innovators and create greater awareness for such innovations and organizing the workshop on “FRUGAL Innovations” to provide an inclusive platform for ideas, innovations for facilitating new business models and workout the way forward with possible mentoring support by the expert members of INAE.

## **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)**

The **NIRDPR**, an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj. Recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence, it builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through inter-related activities of training, research and consultancy.

NIRD&PR has initiated an innovative concept called Rural Technology Park in which the identified innovations / technologies relevant to rural development are demonstrated with the help of entrepreneurs and utilise them as training-cum-production facilities for the respective technologies. The entrepreneurs are provided hand-holding support along with the physical infrastructure to operate the unit on a business model. There are about 60 technologies that are demonstrated and used for training-cum-production facility and large number of rural people are trained with successful outcomes of setting up of similar units at various places.

The initiative of Rural Technology Park at NIRD&PR is a small step in this direction of identifying appropriate and sustainable rural technologies that can motivate large number of rural population to set up similar units after training.

The initiative of Rural Technology Park at NIRD&PR is a small step in this direction of identifying a few appropriate and sustainable rural technologies that could be demonstrated as a single window display of training cum production by the technology partners themselves so as to motivate those who are interested in adopting these technologies as part of their livelihoods. The NIRD&PR by playing the role of an accelerator, can really enhance interface, and enable tie-up with appropriate institutions that can cater to the entrepreneurial aspirations of the youth who have been mulling over innovative ideas.

## **The Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE)**

INAE founded in 1987, comprises India's most distinguished engineers, engineer-scientists and technologists covering the entire spectrum of engineering disciplines. INAE functions as an apex body and promotes the practice of engineering & technology and the related sciences for solving problems of national importance. The Academy provides a forum for futuristic planning for country's development requiring engineering and technological inputs and brings together specialists from such fields as may be necessary for comprehensive solutions to the needs of the country.

The aims and objectives of INAE are very large and broad and which includes inter alia., encouraging inventions, investigations and research, promote their applications for development of both organized and un organized sectors of the national economy, encourage and promote the pursuit of excellence in the field of engineering etc.

## **VIJNANA BHARATI:**

Vijnana Bharati launched in 1991 as a Swadeshi Science Movement at all India level is a Vibrant movement for the development of Swadeshi Sciences, a dynamic science movement with a Swadeshi spirit interlinking traditional and modern sciences on the one hand and natural and spiritual sciences on the other hand and a Swadeshi movement with modern sciences adopted to national needs. It has its units in 22 states across the country and contacts in four states and working in 11 different areas through autonomous institutions, independent organizations and also as project entities. Some of them are Rashtriya Yuva Vaignanik Manch, Vijnanan Prasar Bharati, Energy Innovation and implementation foundation, International Institute of Waste Management etc. The important aims and objectives of Vijnana Bharati are: making villages self-reliant by imparting traditional and rural technologies to the people, conducting entrepreneurship development programmes on the theme of industries with indigenous technologies, encouraging development of appropriate technologies suitable for the country, consuming less energy, less capital but maximum labour with due eco balance for meeting the rural needs in a de-centralized method to the fullest extent.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To bring all the people involved in the Innovations on Rural Development and to put them together.
2. To associate the students community and elicit their bright ideas and provide an interaction among the Innovators and students.
3. To work out a strategy/workable way forward to bring innovations/technologies to the reach of the common man.

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

The workshop will have Three (3 ) sets of participants viz., Rural Innovators on the one hand, eminent scientists who have worked in the prestigious organizations like DRDO, ISRO, CSIR and the members of INAE and the Rural Development Practitioners and Managers on the other, besides the bright students with innovative ideas from across the country.

## **FACILITIES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS:**

The participants from INAE will be participating on their own. However, the stay arrangements will be taken care of by NIRDPR.

**OUTCOME:**

1. Taking lessons from the success stories from the innovators and publicizing them for the benefit of the others.
2. Creation of greater awareness for the “FRUGAL Innovations”.
3. Critically examine the reasons for the failure of the Innovators and trying to find a solution.
4. Taking the views of the students community and putting across for discussion among the participants for applicability etc.
5. Working out a way forward for transfer of the technologies to the rural areas for the benefit of the common man.
6. Create market connect for the products.

**DURATION AND VENUE:**

It will be for the two days i.e., from 7- 8 JULY. 2017 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

