

# WORKSHOP ON “FRUGAL INNOVATIONS”

7 - 8 July, 2017

## CONCEPT NOTE

Indeed, the rate of creativity and technological innovations in the past fifty years has been breathtaking. Great transformations in human history have often been brought about by new ideas, viz. by new ways of seeing the world, and shattering the old certainties. Agreeably, a premise that remains absolutely valid is ‘*we create the worlds we live in, and the human world is created out of our minds as much as from the natural environment*’. We respond to the demands of massive shifts in population by discovering new ways of caring for natural resources; and innovating technologies for generating green energy; and sustainable methods of food production and so on. However, crucial issues such as shortfall of houses for the rural poor, inadequate drinking water / sanitation facilities, and indiscriminate waste disposal practices untiringly drive our creative mental facilities to innovate relentlessly.

No doubt it is quite visible that necessity driven innovations have been taking place and continue to take place but greater awareness about the same among the end users and the encouragement for such FRUGAL Innovations which are simple, affordable, qualitative and sustainable are found to be not to the extent which it ought to be. There is a need to create greater awareness for such “FRUGAL Innovations” and Innovators besides to elicit the problems/issues being faced by such innovators and facilitate exchange of ideas among all the concerned to the subject, it is felt that an organized platform need to be created.

It is in the above background, NIRDPR, INAE, Vijnana Bharati who have been working for the rural development/transformation recognizing the need to encourage and support the rural innovators and create greater awareness for such innovations, have come together for organizing the workshop on “FRUGAL Innovations” to provide an inclusive platform for ideas, innovations for facilitating new business models and workout the way forward.

## **NIRDPR**

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), 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.

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (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 an entrepreneur and utilise them as training-cum-production facilities for the respective technologies. NIRD&PR has provided hand-holding support along with the physical infrastructure to a private partner who operates and runs the unit. There are about more than 50 technologies that are being displayed and used for training-cum-production facility and large number of rural people are trained with successful outcomes.

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.

## **INAE:**

The Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) founded in 1987, comprises India's most distinguished engineers, engineer-scientists and technologies 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 their application to 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 the aim of encouraging inventions, investigations and research and promote their applications for development of both organized and un organized sectors of the national economy and to encourage and promote the pursuit of excellence in the field of engineering.

### **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 and 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 and some of them are Rashtriya Yuva Vaignanik Manch, Vijnanan Prasar Bharati, Energy Innovation and implementation foundation and International Institute of Waste Management.

Some of the very important aims and objectives of Vijnana Bharati are:

- To make villages self-reliant by imparting traditional and rural technologies to the people
- To conduct entrepreneurship development programmes on the theme industries with indigenous technologies
- To encourage 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:**

Since the Innovators deserve to be supported, to and fro travel by second class sleeper bus and hostel facility at NIRDPR will be taken care of by the organizers.

The student participants will also be provided the logistic support like to and fro travel and the hostel facility as is the case with innovators.

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.

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