

Governing Board



Chairperson

Dr. Anil K Khandelwal, Ex CMD Bank of Baroda

Vice Chairperson

Dr. Ashok Agarwal, Trustee, Institute of Health Management and Research (IHMR), Jaipur

Members

N S Sisodia, Former Secretary, Government of India

Prof V S Vyas, Eminent Economist and Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

M L Mehta, IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan

Vipin Sharma, CEO, Access Development Services New Delhi

Rajesh Singhi, Executive Director, IBTADA, Alwar
Principal Secretary, DWCD, Govt. of Rajasthan*

Executive Director, NABARD, Mumbai*

Representative of Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai*

Member Secretary

Jai Pal Singh, Executive Director, CmF

*Ex-Officio Members

Contact

Executive Director, CmF

30, Jai Jawan Colony II, Tonk Road, Jaipur 302 018

Tel and Fax: +91-141-2546037

E-mail: cmf@cmfraj.org website www.cmfraj.org

- Registered under Sec. 80G of income tax Act.
- Registered under Section 12A of IT Act.
- FCRA Registration applied for

Photographs: Sakh Se Vikas partners & CmF

Designed by: Crossmedia Solutions



....an initiative to catalyse the microFinance sector



"We strive for timely availability of microFinance services to the poor and marginalised on fair terms and with dignity to help them to enhance their livelihoods."

Seeded under



Sakh Se Vikas

Development Through Finance

microFinance initiative of The Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Centre for microFinance (CmF)



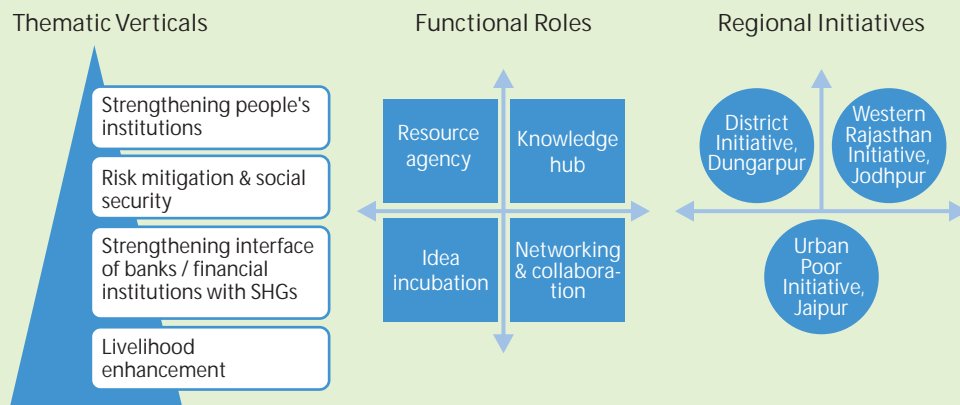
We believe that financial inclusion of the 'poor and marginalised' is necessary for inclusive growth and the poor need access to credit and other financial services at equitable and fair terms.

With a mission to uphold and further this belief, Centre for microFinance (CmF) was established in 2005 to catalyse the growth of the microFinance sector in Rajasthan. Formally registered as a society in 2007 under Rajasthan Societies Act, 1958, CmF plays a significant role in upscaling and deepening of microFinance in the state.

CmF strives for:

- Increasing the outreach of microFinance services to the poor
- Enhancing the quality of Self Help Groups and other community based microFinance institutions
- Encouraging innovations in microFinance products and delivery channels
- Creating a conducive policy environment for microFinance in the state

CmF is structured into different thematic verticals with cross-cutting functional roles; and has taken up regional initiatives for learning and demonstration.



Strengthening People's Institutions



Quality of People's Institutions like Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations is critical to ensure timely and sustained delivery of financial services to poor. To improve the quality of people's institutions in Rajasthan, we have designed and initiated several capacity building services for Self-Help Promoting Institutions and community based organisations.

We provide

- Technical support as 'Nodal Agency' for the 'Sakh se Vikas' (SSV) initiative seeded by Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) in Rajasthan.
- Technical Support to Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) to improve quality of SHGs as part of a pilot project
- Technical and knowledge support to Mitigation of Poverty in West Rajasthan (MPOWER) project of Government of Rajasthan

Our Services

- Trainings on financial literacy, SHG federations, quality standards, SHG record-keeping, Training of Trainers
- Handholding support to SHPIs in designing and implementing mF programmes
- Impact assessment, evaluation and benchmark studies
- Business planning and visioning of SHG federations
- A six-month certificate course in microFinance Development and management (mFDM).



We are establishing Community Finance and Livelihoods Resource Centers in Alwar, Dungarpur and Jodhpur to provide training and capacity building support to NGOs, Banks, Government and community based institutions

Strengthening Interface of Banks and Financial Institutions with SHGs and SHPIs



Building and sustaining linkages of community institutions with formal financial agencies is core to the success of the microFinance movement. CmF works closely with banks and other financial institutions to forge collaborations between SHG Federations, SHPIs and Banks for smooth and enhanced credit flow to the poor.

District initiatives with banks: Through a partnership with Bank of Baroda under its Centenary Year Project, CmF seeks to facilitate delivery of Rs 54 crore of credit to the rural poor in Dungarpur through SHGs in three years. Rs 26 crore credit has already been provided to 12,000 SHG members during a two-year period of 2007-09. CmF is working to develop similar regional partnerships with other banks in Rajasthan.

Designing and piloting innovative credit products through SHGs: CmF in collaboration with Boruka Charitable Trust and Safe Water Network is piloting a unique credit product—*Jalnidhi*—through SHGs for rooftop rainwater harvesting in Churu district to ensure safe drinking water to the poor.

Our Services

- Microfinance Immersion Programme for Bank Managers
- Training of Individual Rural Volunteers (IRVs), Business Facilitators and Business Correspondents for banks
- Designing and piloting microFinance Products
- Organising Interface Meetings between Banks and SHPIs & Community based Institutions



Risk Mitigation & Social Security



Most poor lack access to adequate risk coverage mechanisms. This makes them extremely vulnerable to life cycle as well as enterprise risks. Even a small accident can erode the entire asset base of poor family and push them into perpetual poverty.



We have initiated a pilot project with SHPI/SHG federations in Rajasthan to develop a comprehensive intervention on risk mitigation for SHG members. It involves micro insurance, ensuring access to social security schemes and promoting peoples mutual where formal risk mitigation instruments do not exist.

Livelihood Enhancement

Impacting livelihoods of the poor demand interventions beyond access to financial services. There is a need to intervene in other areas such as technology, inputs, skill enhancement and marketing linkages. CmF is working towards developing a comprehensive credit based livelihood enhancement programme through SHGs.

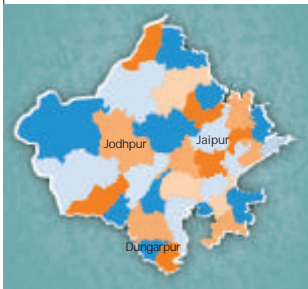


CmF conducted a state level sub-sector study on livestock based livelihoods. Following the study, CmF is currently working on designing a pilot on small ruminant-based livelihood promotion in central and eastern Rajasthan to cater about 2,000 families.

Regional Initiatives: Learning and Demonstration fields ...



CmF is working directly in three locations to enhance its own learning and to demonstrate new innovations. CmF's field teams are working in Dungarpur, Jodhpur and urban slums of Jaipur.



District Initiative, Dungarpur:

CmF has taken up Dungarpur as a learning ground for first-hand experience and to demonstrate effective community based microFinance in collaboration with partner NGOs (PEDO) and Bank of Baroda.

CmF has a spearhead team in Dungarpur which is working in collaboration with local voluntary agencies and

bank to strengthen SHG-Bank linkage for enhancing credit flow to SHG members. In Sagwada block, CmF has initiated the formation of a model SHG federation. It also plans to set up a regional resource center in Dungarpur.



Urban Poor Initiative, Jaipur:

The urban poor continue to remain financially excluded. A cash flow study conducted by us in urban slums of five major towns of Rajasthan substantiated the need to evolve an integrated microFinance and livelihoods enhancement model for the urban poor.

We have initiated a pilot at Jagatpura, a slum in Jaipur city. The pilot envisages addressing poverty of about 3,000 poor slum dwellers through facilitating their access to financial services and enhancing their income through self employment and skill development.



Western Rajasthan Initiative, Jodhpur:



With an objective to address poverty through diversification and enhancement of livelihood options, the Government of Rajasthan has initiated a project – Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan (MPOWER) with financial support from IFAD and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai. The project is expected to impact 87,000 households across 1,400 villages in the region.

We are working as a technical support agency to the project and we have placed a team at Jodhpur to work closely with the State Project Management Unit of the project. Our role is to anchor the capacity building component for implementing partners, bankers and project staff personnel and in piloting innovations within the project.



Sector building through networking and forging alliances

Besides impacting practice at field level, we also work intensively to influence policy issues concerning microfinance at the state and national level. Few initiatives undertaken by us in this regard include:

- The Annual MicroFinance Colloquium : a state level forum where all microFinance stakeholders- Community leaders, Bankers, Senior Government Representatives, NGOs, Researchers and Academicians come together to discuss key issues concerning microFinance in the state.
- The MicroFinance Discussion Forum (mFDF) : an internet based forum moderated where over 400 members regularly share their experiences; seek guidance and feedback from others.
- Through our membership of the National Network of Resource Organisations (ENABLE), we are able to work at the national level through collaborative research, policy advocacy and sharing our expertise as a resource agency in microfinance.
- We publish Rajasthan microFinance Sector Report every two years. The last Sector Report highlighted that most districts of West Rajasthan have less presence of SHGs.