Workshop on National Rurban Mission
Status and Way Forward
(North and North Eastern Region)
22nd April 2016
New Delhi

Workshop Proceedings

A Regional Workshop was organized for the North and North Eastern states. Representatives from 13 States participated in this workshop. The primary objective of the workshop was to orient the states on ICAP preparation and various related modalities. The workshop also gave an opportunity to the States to share the work done under NRuM so far and the way forward.

Ms. Vineeta Hariharan, Chief Programme Manager, NRuM, MoRD, welcomed the participants and shared the objectives of the workshop.

Ms. Preeti Nath, Director, Rurban presented an overview of the Rurban Mission.

This was followed by a detailed presentation on ICAPs by the Chief Programme Manager, NRuM. She explained and presented the details of the 13 step process to be followed by the States for preparing and submitting the ICAPs to MoRD.

Mr. Rakesh Bangera, NRuM, gave a detailed presentation on procedural aspects of setting up of various institutional frameworks. He detailed out on the various processes that the States could adopt to put in place various institutions as explained in the State Institutional Framework document.

This was followed by a brief address by Mrs. Aparajita Sarangi, Joint Secretary, Rurban. Following are the highlights of her address.

- The Framework of Implementation is suggestive and States have been given the flexibility to implement this program.
- Convergence is possible through SLEC support. A meeting under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary should be organized for ensuring the support of various departments during the preparation of ICAP and for effective convergence thereafter.
- Timely completion of ICAPs will help the States in allotting funds in the budget of the current financial year.
- Planning of rural areas is the Prime Minister's priority. Therefore the process of delineation and notifying as planning area becomes very crucial.
- ICAP has to be prepared within 100 days. Secondary data is available for most of the parameters. The States may draw staff from other schemes including NRLM, MGNREGA etc for data collection at ground level.
- For the second phase clusters, the States shall prioritize the clusters and then send it to MoRD. The States may get these clusters ratified by the Chief Minister.
- Convergence within the department shall be taken on priority.

- MoRD team have made visits to States on invitation by States for hand holding support. A recent successful visit was done to Jammu led by Chief Programme Manager, NRuM on such an invitation by the State Government. During this meeting, the State enabled the team from MoRD to meet with the various levels of functionaries from the GP, Block, District and State level and culminated in a meeting with the RD Minister for the State. The meetings facilitated crucial decisions to be taken by the Secretary RD to expedite the implementation of this Mission in the State. Other State Governments may also replicate these visits in their States.

The Chief Programme Manager, NRuM then presented the findings of the secondary research done on each State Statute governing the delineation and notification process for the clusters. The process to be adopted for declaration of clusters as planning areas was then discussed with the town planning representatives of each State and a dialogue was facilitated between the RD department and the Town Planning department. This led to clarity on the way forward in the process of the declaration of clusters as planning areas.(The detailed findings of this session is presented in the Key Findings document and in the presentation)

This was followed by a presentation from each State on the steps taken so far under NRuM and the way forward. The States also gave a brief overview on the various clusters and their features. The presentation was prepared following the template circulated by MoRD. (The time lines committed are presented in the key findings note and the presentations are uploaded on the web site)

States shared the following points during the presentation/open house discussions:

Haryana:

- A meeting with the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi will be held soon to finalize the agreement with the STSA.
- An advisory may kindly be given on the payment to be done to STSA. In the absence of which the State may have to go for a bidding process which would delay ICAP preparation by 2-3 months.

Himachal Pradesh:
- Based on PMAGY experience planning will become complex if multiple components are involved. The timelines may be short for meeting various deadlines.
- It was clarified by MoRD that all 14 components need not be chosen for NRuM funding. 1 or 2 components only may be chosen which is arrived at based on the deficiency analysis done for the cluster in the ICAP.

Jammu & Kashmir:
- The nominated STSA does not have a planning department. Therefore a new STSA has to be identified by the State.
- A Facebook Page for the Rurban Mission is being launched for soliciting ideas from local public.
- The State has coined popular slogans for the cluster such "Gol Gujral ek Tara"

- Innovative methods of Stakeholder consultation is being done in the clusters through SMS and what's app.
- Funding from other sources including CSR is being explored. A meeting with leading CSR representatives is being planned by the State Government very soon.

Manipur:
- The timeline for preparing the Master Plan needs to be clarified.
- Remuneration criteria for experts in the SPMU/ DPMU may be clarified. MoRD clarified that the qualification has been detailed out in the State Institutional Framework and the remuneration has to be decided by the State.
- Since the State has few clusters, the State would like to have only SPMU and may not setup DPMU/CDMU.
- Manipur may select an agency as a STSA. Agencies which are already empanelled for the Smart City programme will be selected after due permission.
- One Gram of Panchayat, Wanging is at a distance from rest of the Panchayats in the cluster. Therefore this panchayat may be excluded to maintain the contiguity of the cluster. Decision will be taken based on the discussion with Principal Secretary and Chief Secretary.

Mizoram:
- The selected STSA, IIT Guwahati is non responsive and hence the State may change the STSA if no response is forthcoming within a week.

Meghalaya:

- The selected cluster falls under the parliamentary constituency where Bye - Election is scheduled on 16th of May. Therefore ICAP related work would start after the elections.

- The State doesn't have Gram Panchayats. For implementing MGNREGA, Village Employment Councils were formed. These are not an elected body. These VECs will be consulted while preparing the ICAPs.

- The focus in the selected cluster would be to promote setting up of food processing units. Zero Waste programmes would also be experimented in the cluster.

Punjab:
- MoRD may issue an advisory on capping the fees to be paid to STSA.
- MoRD can notify an empaneled pool of professionals for recruitment in the respective institutional frameworks to be set up in States (SPMU/DPMU etc)

Sikkim:
- The selected STSA, IIT Guwahati is non responsive and hence the STSA may be changed.

Uttar Pradesh:

- Certain components like irrigation, soil conservation may extend beyond the cluster. Therefore planning and preparing estimates will be difficult. To this MoRD clarified that components may chosen in such a way that the scope is limited to the cluster. However in case of irrigation projects, the areas falling within the cluster purview could be funded by the NRuM.

- The State would like to engage 3 STSAs viz. SPA, Delhi, National Institute of Technology Patna, Bihar and Faculty of Architecture, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University and the divide the clusters among them.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks by the Chief Programme Manager, NRuM.

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