

Recommendations Poverty, Unemployment And Rural Development Programmes

All the participants were divided into three groups and asked to make policy recommendations for their group. The three groups were:

1. Standard Definition of Poverty and Poverty Alleviation.
2. Unemployment Reduction.
3. Measures for strengthening of various Rural Development Programmes.

Group-I on *Standard Definition of Poverty and Poverty Alleviation* has presented their recommendations and after the discussion following recommendations were finalized.

Recommendations for Standard Definition of Poverty and Poverty Alleviation

Standard Definition of Poverty:

“Non-accessibility to basic necessities of life for himself and for his family. Economic as well as social deprivation through assetlessness, social discrimination, lack of human capability, depleted skill base, high vulnerability to shocks and risks and poor capability to cope up with shocks and risks”.

During discussion it was decided that there should be standard and proper measure and scale for the poverty measurement.

Recommendations for Poverty Alleviation:

- Ceiling surplus land embroiled in litigation should be disposed off by fast track courts/ land tribunals.
- Sharecroppers should be recorded as done in West Bengal which has shown rise in agricultural productivity.

- Massive surveys should be conducted in tribal pockets to identify land alienation and ensure restoration of land to tribes.
- Improving the quality of land held by the poor and enriching through inputs and incentives.
- Re-emphasis on basic literacy, health and job skills should be improved among the poor to ensure jobs in agro-based industries to begin with. For ex. TVE – Town Village Enterprises models of China.
- Rural non-farm activities in the form of animal-husbandry, poultry, piggery, artisans, cottage industry, small business and tertiary sectors need to be developed.
- Strengthening, monitoring and evaluatory mechanism be developed to avoid the pitfalls of the existing rural development programmes.
- Increasing the productivity of agriculture through extension services and appropriate low cost and subsidized technology.
- Ensuring conservation and optimal use of available water.
- Scope of horticulture in dry and hilly areas may be explored and promoted through processing, storage and marketing network.

Group-II has presented their recommendations for *Unemployment Reduction*. The following recommendations were finalized after the discussion:-

General Principles:

- Non Farm rural employment is essential for poverty alleviation.
- Scope for basic employment in the farm sector.
- Different kinds of unemployment
 - Not willing to work
 - Not able to work
 - Disguised employment

- Under employment

- Non-farm employment critical in poverty alleviation.
- Private capital investment necessary for rural areas to stimulate employment.
- Building up of partnership with private sector.
- Induction of panchayat in PPP Model for facilitation.

- Linkage with farm/SHGs
- Linkage with government
- Negotiation
- Enforcement of Contracts
- Mobilization of public opinion
- Conflict Management

Farm Sector:

1. Diversification to upper end products necessary.
2. Use of fallow and waste land for higher value crops e.g. Jetropha.
3. Value addition to the farm produce
 - preliminary agro-processing
 - upgradation of skills
 - dissemination of skills/technologies
 - grading
 - packaging
 - storage
 - transportation
 - marketing
4. Access to Finance
 - technology
 - information
5. Organization
 - SHGS
 - Cooperatives
 - Panchayats
6. Role of Panchayats
 - Enabling conditions

Non Farm Sector:

1. Tourism

- Enormous scope
- Creating awareness
- Creating infrastructure
- Providing support services
- Training/ skill formation
- Inter-linkage with other industries
- Use of IT/ other
- Private sector/ NGO support

2. Micro Enterprise Development

- SHGs/Cooperatives/NGOs
- Support system
- Training/entrepreneurship
- Infrastructure support
- Linkages
- Marketing support
- Brand equity
- Use of IT/technology

3. Service Sector

- Marketing centre/work place
- Marketing of rural goods
- Building of infrastructure
- Training/skill formation
- Certification of training
- Creating information flow

- Innovative approach
- Flexibility in programme structure
- Learning from the people
- NGP/PPP
- Trusting the people

Group-III on *Measures for strengthening various Rural Development Programmes* has presented their recommendation. The following recommendations were finalized.

The following Thematic areas are identified for *strengthening various Rural Development Programmes*.

- Employment
- Resource base Activities
- Infrastructure
- Social Security

Employment:

- Wage Employment
-NREGA & SGRY
- Self Employment
-SGSY (microfinance)

Recommendations:-

Wage Employment

- Generate awareness mechanism
- Capacity building of all the stake holders
- Need based activities
- Realization of appropriate wages/ increase number of days

Self Employment

- Thorough exercise for the need based and appropriate enterprise
- System for marketing
- Special efforts to get poor on the board
- Capacity building

Resource Based Activities:

- Land-watershed, wasteland development programmes
- Water-Irrigation, APID
- Forest-Social forestry & JFM
- Road and Power

Recommendations:-

- Dove tailing of different schemes
- Institutional linkages
- Encourage collaboration
- Emphasis on development of CPRs
- Ensuring equal representation from women and weaker section

Infrastructure:

- Water & Sanitation
- Health
- Education (SSA)
- Road
- Energy

Recommendations:-

- Capacity building of PRIs to handle these programmes
- Monitoring and administrative flexibility
- E-governance at PRI level/GIS based P&M

Social Security:

- Insurance
- Old age pension
- Nutrition management
- SC, ST and minority welfare
- PDS

Recommendations:-

- Coverage of family benefit schemes to 100%
- PDS and procurement at PRI level
- Micro insurance should be facilitated, Insurance cover to be provided on pre-decided share of rural areas