

Chairman launches first-of-its-kind accelerator project for FPOs in Karnataka



On 9 May 2024, Shri Shaji K V, Chairman, NABARD launched the first-of-its-kind Accelerator Project for FPOs in Karnataka at Bengaluru. The project, sanctioned by



Launch of the FPO accelerator project

NABARD to Krishikalpa Foundation, aims to transform FPOs into sustainable rural businesses, thereby driving positive change in the agricultural ecosystem. The launch event was graced by the presence of Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, ACS&DC, GoK, Shri L K Atheeque, IAS, ACS, Finance, GoK, Shri. Raman Reddy, Retd. IAS, Ex – IT&BT Secretary, SLBC Convenor, CGM SBI, Shri Prashanth Prakash, Chairman, Krishikalpa Foundation, senior bureaucrats and bankers, representatives from Agri Start-ups, and members from FPOs shortlisted for the project. Shri. T Ramesh, CGM, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted NABARD's achievements in the FPO space, setting the context for the accelerator project.

In his address, the Chairman discussed issues regarding value chain disintermediation and emphasized the need for FPOs to transition from the hand-holding phase to the growth phase. He emphasised



Shri Shaji K V, Chairman, NABARD delivering the key-note address

that in order to achieve this, it is vital to engage with industry players and facilitate easier credit access by instilling confidence in financing institutions through viable business plans and demonstrating FPOs' potential as sustainable business entities. He also emphasized that post-harvest losses present both a challenge and an opportunity for innovation and credit growth.

Highlighting that about two-thirds of the value in agricultural production is accrued to intermediaries, Chairman stressed the need to

strengthen the agri-value chain including solutions for value addition at near farmgate levels and adequate credit linkage to accentuate the income of small and marginal farmers. He said that this accelerator program will serve as a testing ground to assess the impact of collaboration of FPOs, tech & agri startups in addressing multidimensional challenges in the agri-value chain.

Commenting on the larger vision of the project, Chairman said that NABARD aims to create an enabling ecosystem for the sustainability of FPOs by bridging critical gaps in the agricultural value chain, promoting knowledge sharing, and fostering strategic partnerships. He envisioned that the success of the FPO Accelerator Project shall pave

the way for FPO-bank linkage programme, farm income enhancement and transformation of agriculture into agribusiness.

Smt. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS ACS&DC, GoK appreciated the efforts of NABARD in overall rural development of the State. She dwelt upon the importance



Chairman's byte to the media



Smt. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS, ACS&DC, GoK addressing the gathering

of processing and value addition to ensure better income realization of farmers and called for concerted efforts by all stakeholders. She assured NABARD of all possible support and convergence for making the FPO Accelerator project a success.



Snippets from the event

During the event, a panel discussion was held on the subject of facilitating better credit and market linkages, wherein FPO members engaged with panelists including CGM, NABARD, SLBC Convenor, Representatives from an Agri Start-up and an FPO. The programme concluded with interactive sessions between agri-startups and FPOs, which facilitated various tech-based agri startups to showcase their solutions for the benefit of FPO farmers.
