



National Conclave of RRBs and Review Meet for ‘RRBs in Focus’

06 & 07 December 2021

Institutional Development Department (IDD), NABARD organised a two-day National level event for RRBs comprising “National Conclave for RRBs” on 06 December 2021 followed by a “Review Meet for ‘RRBs in Focus’” on 07 December 2021.

The event was launched on 06 December 2021 by the respected Chairman, NABARD, Dr. G R Chintala in the presence of dignitaries, Shri Shaji K V, DMD, Shri Mihir Mishra, CGM, SBI and Shri. Kuldeep Singh, CGM, IDD at a ceremony held in the auditorium of NABARD, Head Office. The conclave was attended by Chairmen of all the RRBs, GM/DGM in-charge of RRB divisions in Sponsor Banks, representative of RBI, MD & CEO, CGTMSE, CFO, MUDRA and CGMs of other departments of NABARD.

The National Conclave was a thinking and sharing forum so as to arrive at a better understanding of the prospects of sustainable business for the RRBs in the changing milieu of finance in rural areas.

In his keynote address at the Conclave, Chairman drew attention to the fact that it was heartening to note that during 2020-21, RRBs had recorded more than 12% credit growth which was more than double of the credit growth recorded by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) as a whole. He exhorted the RRBs to look for the untapped opportunities existing in SHG and FPOs financing. He spoke about emerging challenges in climate change and asked RRBs to explore opportunities in green financing projects contributing to the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He advised RRBs to go for convergence of services available now in the rural financial landscape. He encouraged RRBs to listen attentively to the voices on the ground, while designing their products and work flows, to keep their business meaningful and efficient and adopt technology as per their requirement. He recognised the role of bankers as ‘covid warriors’ because of the services delivered during the COVID period. He later unveiled the flagship publication of IDD on Key Statistics & Financial Statements of Regional Rural Banks, 31 March 2021.

Shri Shaji K V, DMD, congratulated RRBs for posting a consolidated net profit during FY’21 after registering consolidated net losses for two consecutive years. He observed that while banking is here to stay, banks may not be here to stay with the advent of Fintechs. He also pointed to the increasing trend towards urbanisation and urged the RRBs to find their niche, innovate on products and internal processes and focus on operational profits by managing manpower, tightening audit processes, leveraging the power of BCs and bringing in nimbleness in the adoption of contemporary technologies, fully harnessing new trends of API based utilities.

Shri Mihir Mishra, CGM, SBI spoke of how SBI sees RRBs as an important development partners and CGM, IDD apart from welcoming all the participants reiterated all NABARD’s support and assistance to RRBs with the common objective of rural development.



During the conclave, department-wise Presentations were made by Mrs. S Vijayalakshmi, CGM-MCID, Shri Vivek Krishna Sinha, CGM-DoR, Shri R Sankar, GM-DoS, Smt. Anjana Lama, GM-DFIBT and Shri. Pankaj Kumar, CEO-NABSankarshan

A detailed presentation on the financial health of RRBs was also made by Shri Sheetanshu Shekhar, DGM and a presentation on HR and other issues was made by Shri Ranga Rao, DGM.

The following sessions were also organised in the conclave for the benefit of the participants.

- Interaction session with MD & CEO CGTMSE
- Interaction session with CFO MUDRA
- Session on treasury management by SBI Mutual Fund Team led by CBO and COO.
- Session on trending topics on Fintech/NBFC partnership/Account aggregators

On the second day of the conclave RRB Chairmen, which were formed in six groups, made thematic presentations on the following topics for exchanging information and sharing of ideas.

- 1 Agri-Term Loan Financing
- 2 SHG Financing
- 3 MSME Financing
- 4 PSLC Trading
- 5 Impact of Amalgamation
- 6 Technology Adoption

The Review Meet of the 'RRBs in Focus' on 7 December 2021, was a thorough exercise where each of the 23 RRBs falling under "RRBs in Focus" category presented their financial status and also presented its achievement vis a vis the Monitoring Action Plans (MAPs). Shri Shaji K V, DMD and Shri. Kuldeep Singh CGM discussed in detail, individually with the Chairmen of the RRBs and GM/DGM in-charge of RRBs in Sponsor Banks, regarding strategies to improve the financial viability of the RRBs.

Shri Shaji K V, DMD emphasised the need for Chairmen of RRBs to maintain a long-term perspective in terms of strengthening of balance sheets. He advised the Chairmen to work towards centralisation of loan decisions through use of appropriate technologies and strengthening of branches, robust loan management and NPA management. He emphasised that Govt. of India views RRBs as important vehicles for implementation of GoI schemes and reminded RRBs of their strength in terms of outreach and granularity of advances. He also cautioned that with changing times, RRBs now have to compete with SFBs, NBFC-MFIs, Fintechs and in coming days the cooperatives are going to be strengthened as well with support for PACS computerisation. Thus RRBs are going to face challenging times and he assured them all support from NABARD in rising up to the emerging challenges.

Shri. Kuldeep Singh CGM, DMD in his valedictory address, thanked all the participants for active participation in the conclave. He summarised the key learnings and the action points.



He expressed hope that the deliberations of the conclave and “RRBs in Focus” meeting will have a positive impact on the functioning of RRBs.

The programme was anchored by Smt. Probodhita Pande, DGM-IDD.

A few photographs taken during the meeting are appended below.



Dr G. R. Chintala, Chairman, NABARD, delivering Keynote Address



Shri. Shaji K V, DMD, NABARD, delivering Special Address on ‘Expectations from RRBs’ and reviewing the performance of ‘RRBs in Focus’



Dr. Kuldeep Singh, CGM, IDD, delivering Welcome Address and reviewing the performance of 'RRBs in Focus'



Shri Mihir Mishra, CGM, SBI delivering the address on Sponsor Bank's Perspective



Mrs. S Vijayalakshmi, CGM, MCID, NABARD addressing on issues pertaining to micro credit innovations



Shri Vivek Krishna Sinha, CGM, DoR, NABARD addressing the participants on the refinance schemes of NABARD



Senior Officers from Sponsor Banks of RRBs participating in the conclave



RRB chairmen participating in the conclave



Chairman, NABARD having a candid conversation with RRB Chairmen



Chairman, NABARD, joined by RRB Chairmen, while unveiling the publication on Key Statistics & Financial Statements of RRBs, 31 March 2021



A panoramic view of the National Conclave of RRBs in progress