



CONVERGENCE WORKSHOP

Programme Guide

12th July, 2016 to 15th July, 2016
Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwahati

Organised by
The National Mission Management Unit, NRLM

Supported by:
Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission Society (ASRLMS)
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North East Centre
Kudumbashree - National Resource Organisation

Cover page picture:

Participatory Assessment of Entitlement (PAE)

Jhansi Rani Lakshmi SHG, Hoskera Gram Panchayat, Gubbi Block, Karnataka

Programme Guide Developed by:

Kudumbashree-National Resource Organisation, Trivandrum

Concept note for promoting Convergence using NRLP Convergence Fund

Context

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) aims to reach out to all poor households in the country and link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities by forming and nurturing institutions of people at various levels so that they are able to come out of poverty in a sustainable manner. This also underpins the belief that the poor have innate capabilities to graduate out of poverty. The challenge is to unleash this entrepreneurial spirit by complementing them with capacities (knowledge, information, tools, finance, etc.) to collectivise. Towards this, NRLM has already put in place a dedicated structure at various levels to help the poor build their institutions. These institutions are expected to provide services to their members – savings, credit, livelihoods support and accessing rights and entitlements.

To augment the social and economic benefits, NRLM is systematically investing in building human capital – Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who include theme-based activists and animators, community leaders; all those who are crucial in achieving the results and further scaling up.

NRLM is implemented by State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMS) set up in every state. The SRLMs have offices at the State, District and Block levels to support the community institutions.

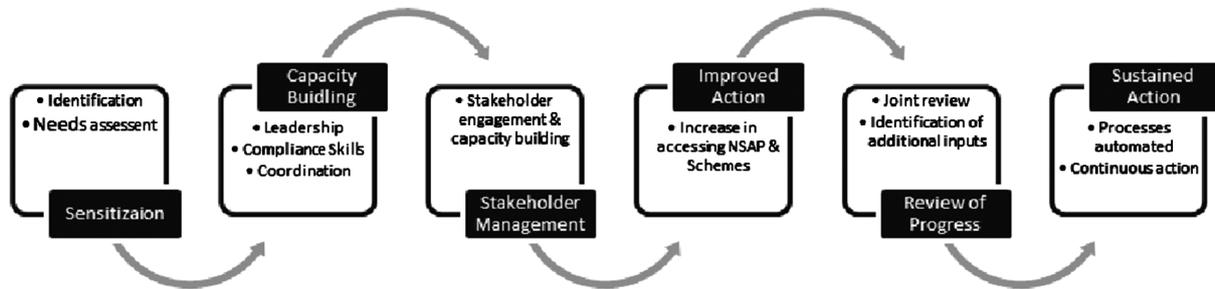
NRLM's credible gains also lie in extending facilitation support to get the poor out of poverty and achieve increased access to their rights, entitlements and public services. This is measured in the continued capacities of institutions of poor to grow and mature by accessing their rights and entitlements.

It is from the understanding that poverty is a multidimensional in nature and thus requires building capacities of the poor in accessing social security pensions and schemes meant for them. This would essentially require promoting convergent action at the ground level so that an effective facilitative environment is created.

This would invariably mean:

Promoting convergence through building capacities of community institutions/CBOs to effectively coordinate with PRIs, Block and district level line departments and offices for accessing public services and social security benefits and schemes. Accessing various schemes and NSAP that are centrally sponsored (CSS) and state sponsored (SSS) are the key focus of convergence. Apart from this, converge to tap various Mission/Schemes like Swachh Bharat, National Health Mission, National ICDS Mission, etc., would form the focus of convergence.

Convergence Action Flow



Key Domains of Convergence

SRLMs can focus on developing comprehensive convergent action plan which could be a mix of accessing entitlements and schemes in the domain of health, education, women and child development, agriculture, animal husbandry, creation of wage employment, creation of community assets, accessing credit for livelihoods and other needs, creation of water resources, etc. Since NRLM is developing convergence action plan with MGNREGS (which would be instrumental in the creation of individual and community assets, skilling, livelihood assets, etc.,) potential implementation of such plans in convergence with other entitlements and schemes may also be taken up.

Special effort needs to be taken to link it with GP development plan (with the increased untied fund to the tune of Rs.448/- per person per year) for improving the status of basic services including water supply, sanitation including seepage management, sewerage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths, street lighting, burial and cremation grounds, etc.

Target Groups:

- Households for mandatory inclusion (Households without shelter, destitute, manual scavengers, PVTGs, legally released bonded labourers) as top priority.
- Households with deprivation on any of the 7 criteria (only one room with kuchha walls and roof, no adult member, female headed household with no male adult member, disabled member and no able bodied member, SC/ST households, no literate above 25 years, landless households surviving through labour) as priority.
- Other poor households as identified by CBOs
- Other households as per eligibility criteria for accessing various NSAP and other benefit schemes.

Fund Objectives

This special fund is created to fast track the process of convergent action resulting in increased demand generation and supply management with specific focus on:

- Promoting convergent action of CBOs and PRIs to help deprived families to come-out of deprivation (poverty) as per SECC data and as identified by the GP and NRLM CBOs.
- Evolve scalable approaches and strategies for promoting convergence across NRLP/NRLM Blocks through the active participation of PRIs.

The fund is intended to help the SRLMs to develop and implement comprehensive convergent plans resulting in creating “model convergence blocks”. These convergence blocks are expected to demonstrate comprehensive convergence planning processes, creation of adequate social capital to play the catalytic role as “convergent workers” with various stakeholders and deprived households.

This fund would help the people’s institutions created under NRLM to emerge as sustainable community platforms for bridging the gaps between schemes and entitlements by reaching out to the vulnerable and needy. This fund may essentially be utilized for evolving vibrant “convergence model blocks” for demonstration and subsequent scale up.

It is important to note that the special fund is meant for convergence demonstration so that SRLMs can subsequently follow the support plan. These community led processes like preparation of block level convergence plan, stakeholder management plan, plan for helping households with multiple deprivation to access multiple schemes and entitlements could be possible areas of intervention. Basically this fund could be utilized to cover:

- Preparation of comprehensive “Model Block Convergence Plan”, capacity building of community institutions, resource persons for facilitating convergence, training and sensitization of key stakeholders, viz., departments or Ministries, capacity building of target beneficiaries to be aware and act as pressure groups, and in particular mobilise PRI institutions to achieve positive outcomes. The Convergence Plan should be able to clearly identify target households with multiple or complex deprivation issues and list households in order of priority.
- Accessing resource organizations for technical assistance, development of locally relevant IEC materials, including developing resource pool for such planning exercises.
- Arranging implementation architecture to roll-out the plan
- For capacitating the community in demand generation and provisions for funds for leveraging benefits and schemes.
- Review and reflection for positive course corrections

Context of the workshop

This workshop is essentially organised to provide an overall approach and specific support in establishing a baseline, roll-out project activities in a systematic manner and learn from various approaches to promote convergence for the SRLMs who have received the special project fund.

The key focus of these projects is on special efforts and strategies to promote convergence of RD programmes as well as enhance the uptake of NSAPs. The learning from these projects over the next 20 months is expected to guide SRLMs on the process required for mainstreaming convergence. All SRLMs have planned for rapid baseline, MIS and monitoring and evaluation systems, including dedicated convergence facilitating architecture from State to District and Block levels.

The workshop is also intended to provide the participating SRLMs the insights gained through the experience of supporting PRI-CBO convergence across various SRLMs by Kudumbashree NRO learnings.

Specific Purpose of the workshop

- Orient the participants on various facets of Convergence
- Development of community centric strategies for fostering convergence
- Exposure to field level experiments, interactions with change agents and use of Participatory Assessment of Entitlement (PAE) tool for promoting convergence
- Interactive Agreements on baseline and monitoring system, including mainstreaming of Participatory entitlement mapping as a common baseline tool dialogue on SRLM Specific action plan for convergence interventions and way forward, including identifying specific technical assistance required

Structure of the workshop

The workshop will be conducted over a period of four days. The workshop is designed to give the participants an understanding about the various facets of Convergence including PRI-CBO (Panchayati Raj Institutions- Community Based Organization) Convergence and the participatory tools adapted to achieve it.

On Day 1, the workshop objectives will be shared by the NMMU, NRLM. The day is devoted to understanding and discussing on the concept of Convergence. Three case studies will be provided by organizations implementing Convergence on field. These case studies from the field is expected to give insights into the various initiatives of converging institutions, resources and schemes for poverty reduction

It will give the participants an understanding about the institutional support structures and processes for PRI engagement with CBO network and how Convergence of various schemes can be used for enhancing access to social security schemes and livelihood promotion opportunities.

Day 2 is planned for exposure visit. For the visit, three Gram Panchayats from Laharighat and Bajiagaon blocks of Assam where PRI-CBO Convergence project is undertaken in partnership with Kudumbashree NRO is chosen. The State teams will get an opportunity to understand about various aspects of Convergence, the tools for Participatory planning and interact with the beneficiaries of the CBO network, elected representatives of the GP and officials of the line department.

Day 3 will focus on sharing and discussing the experiences from field. NRO will facilitate the session on the participatory tools developed as baseline for planning at various levels and enhancing the community participation in the process. The session may be used for bringing more conceptual and methodological clarity on appropriate participatory tool development for implementing the sanctioned projects under convergence. The State teams will then work to develop their own participatory tool in accordance with their project and formulate strategies for implementing Convergence approach in their respective blocks. This will be mainly through participatory breakout sessions and discussions.

On the final day, the State teams will present their plans for Baseline, M&E and Convergence promotion architecture, including any fine-tuning required in their approved action plans.

As a result of the workshop, each State will have a concrete plan about the way forward in their respective State. The workshop will be concluded by NMMU team.

Participants

Participants in the workshop will be:

- SMMU and BMMU representatives from SRLMs
- Representatives from National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) of NRLM
- NIRD NERC
- Kudumbashree NRO

Facilitators

The workshop will be facilitated by National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) of NRLM and Kudumbashree NRO. Kudumbashree-NRO and representatives from the field will provide technical support for the workshop.

PRI-CBO Convergence Project in Assam

Empowered Committee of NRLM, has recognised Kudumbashree as a National Resource Organisation via No.J.11011/28/2012-RLRL on 29th of January 2013 mandated to provide technical support to SRLMs in Converging Panchayati Raj institutions with Community based organisations for Poverty alleviation. Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission has entered into a partnership with Kudumbashree NRO for implementing Convergence project in Bajiagaon (Nagaon) and Laharighat (Moregaon) blocks, for developing ways and methods for enabling the poor to access their schemes and entitlements by closely working with the panchayat and the departments.

In the first phase of the project a total of 14 Panchayats have been taken up and in the second phase it has been extended to another 22 panchayats, thereby saturating both the blocks.

In the past two years, the partnership has worked towards achieving the following:

- Creating of local resource groups(LRG) in every Panchayat,
- Capacitation of the SHGs and the LRGs for access to entitlements.
- Capacitation of Gram Panchayat for collaboration with SHG network for development interventions
- Improving the access and reach of centrally sponsored and state sponsored schemes
- Improvement in the governance process through effective participation in Gram Sabhas
- Participatory assessment of entitlement exercise by the SHGs
- Preparing poverty reduction action plan for the Panchayats
- Creation and institutionalisation of Convergence Committees at the CBO and with the panchayats

As a part of the workshop field visit will be undertaken on the second day to Bharaguri Panchayat in Bajiagaon Block of Nagaon District and Kushtoli and Kathani panchayats in Laharighat Block of Moregaon District

DAY 1 (12-07-16)

S. No	Time	Topic	Resource Person
1	10:00 am - 10:30 am	Inaugural Participants' introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JS (RL) & NMD• Director- NIRD- NERC• Mission Director, ASRLM
2	10:30 am - 11:00 am	Convergence Framework and Expectations	Shri. KP. Rajendran Lead IB-CB ,NMMU
3	11:00 am 11:20 am	Tea Break	
4	11:30 am - 1:0 pm (45 minute presentation, 15 minute Q&A)	" Schematic Convergence for GPDP: Case Study and Discussion	Shri Zakir Hussain Director SIRD Assam
5	1.00 pm - 02:00pm	Lunch Break	
7	02:00 pm - 03:30 pm	Convergence and Yojana Banao Abhiyan: Case Study and Discussion	Shri Siraj Dutta Department of Rural Development, Jharkhand
8	03:30 pm - 04:00 pm	Tea Break	
9	04:00 pm-05:00 pm	PRI-CBO Convergence: Case Study and Discussion	Manu Sankar Programme Manager, PRI-CBO Convergence Project, Kudumbashree- NRO
10	05:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Orientation to the field visit	Kudumbashree- NRO

DAY 2 (13-07-16)

S. No	Time	Topic	Facilitator
11	10:00 am- 04:00 pm	Exposure to Convergence on Field	ASRLM and Kudumbashree- National Resource Organization

DAY 3(14-07-16)

S. No	Time	Topic	Facilitator
12	9.30am - 10:00 am	Recap and Reflection	NMMU
13	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Discussion and Sharing based on the field experience	NMMU
14	11:30 am - 11:50 am	Tea Break	
15	11:30 am - 01:00 pm	Consolidation of process of Convergence from PAE to GP2RP	Shri Liby Johnson Chief Operating Officer, Kudumbashree-NRO
17	02:00 pm - 03:30 pm	PAE as baseline & M&E tool reflection from SRLMs	Group Work
18	03:30 pm - 05:30 pm	Presentation on group work	SRLMs

DAY 4(15-07-16)

S. No	Time	Topic	Facilitator
19	10:00 am - 10:30 pm	Presentation of Road Map, Milestone, reporting requirements	
		NMMU	
20	10:30 pm - 12:00 pm	Group work on outputs, milestone timeline	
		SRLMs	
21	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Presentation of State Specific Output, milestone and reporting system	SRLMs
22	01:30 pm - 02:30 pm	Lunch	
23	02:30 pm - 03.30 pm	Sum up, Feedback Vote of Thanks	NIRD NERC Cell

Contacts

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