

PRESS RELEASE

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
PR Division, HO, BKC, Bandra(E), Mumbai 400051

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NABARD Supports IIT, Kanpur for Biometrics Project for Financial Inclusion

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended grant support of Rs.33.09 lakh to IIT, Kanpur out of its Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) for a research project to study the method of interoperability of fingerprint stored in minutia by different vendors.

Indian Banks Association and Institute for Development & Research in Banking Technology (IBA-IDRBT) Committee have finalised Open Standards for the Smart Card based Operation System for Financial Inclusion to enable delivery of banking service at doorstep through technology platform. The standard for "Fingerprint Storage and Identification" is ISO-19794-2. An earlier study undertaken by IIT, Kanpur showed that not all fingerprint scanners presently used by Banking institutions or their Business Correspondents are ISO 19794-2 compliant. The present study will benefit Banks and other financial institutions in their Financial Inclusion goals.

The study will be undertaken under the overall guidance of Dr. Phalguni Gupta, Professor at IIT, Kanpur. The process would involve identification of 1000 villagers of different age groups, dividing these villagers into groups and each group be linked to fingerprint scanner of different service provider for the study purpose. The study is to be completed in 4 months. IDRBT, State Bank of India and other banks would also be collaborating in this R&D study.

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