

PRESS RELEASE

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**NABARD funds Tribal Development Projects**

NABARD has sanctioned six projects with a financial outlay of Rs.18.63 crore under its Tribal Development Fund (TDF). These sanctions will benefit 6000 poor tribal families in the states of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The Orissa project will benefit Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi region from where hunger deaths were reported. With this the total sanction from NABARD under the fund has reached Rs.70.76 crore for 28 projects in 15 states and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

The Tribal Development Fund, set up by NABARD with a corpus of Rs.50 crore during 2003-04, has been augmented this year to Rs.219 crore. The project involves implementing integrated tribal development programmes focussing on WADI (small fruit orchard) approach with peoples' participation. Other components like livelihood support for landless, health, women development and capacity building are also part of project. These projects are implemented through NGOs working in tribal areas with experience in Natural Resource Management.

TDF-assisted projects are sanctioned in each tribal-predominant State as a demonstrative model for adoption by the State Governments and its mainstreaming with their other tribal development programmes. A few State governments (West Bengal and Meghalaya) and NGOs have joined hands with NABARD for implementation of these projects under a cost-sharing arrangement.

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