

26 February 2007

NABARD's Commitment for Tribal Development

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned six projects with financial outlay of Rs.13.67 crores under its Tribal Development Fund. These sanctions will benefit 4,205 tribal families in the states of Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh (2 projects) and Assam. With this, the total sanction from NABARD under the Fund has gone up to Rs. 52.06 crore. This includes grant of Rs 47.19 crore and loan amount of Rs 4.87 crore to 22 projects benefiting 16,755 tribal families spread out in 15 States and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The State Government/ NGOs contribution to the project is around Rs 5.10 crore.

Tribal Development Fund (TDF) with a corpus of Rs. 50 crore set up by NABARD, aims at implementing tribal development programmes thru' the WADI approach with peoples' participation. With the objective of achieving sustainable development of the tribal poor, other components like livelihood support for landless, health, women development, capacity building, etc. are suitably incorporated in these projects. The WADI approach envisages cultivation of fruit trees (bounded by forestry species) in identified areas, and is being adopted in the tribal development projects implemented in association with BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune under the Indo-German collaboration, covering more than 30,000 tribal families.

In pursuance of NABARD's objective to replicate the successful WADI approach, 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 tribal development programmes. Further, the Governments of West Bengal and Meghalaya have joined hands with NABARD for implementation of these projects under a cost-sharing arrangement.