NABARD has been working towards inclusive development through livelihood promotion, skill development, financial and digital inclusion, institution building, fostering of entrepreneurship, research support, and knowledge dissemination. These interventions have yielded positive outcomes at the grassroots, demonstrating NABARD’s success in fostering a sustainable development ecosystem for rural India and contributing to overall economic development.

In the 1980s, Vikas Volunteer Vahini was the first initiative in this direction. Later, NABARD promoted joint liability groups (JLGs), skill and entrepreneurship development, farmer producers’ organisations (FPOs), and off-farm producers’ organisations (OFPOs) to strengthen the community-driven institutions at the grassroots. Research plays an important role in strengthening NABARD’s ability to promote sustainable and inclusive rural development by enabling evidence-based decision making, policy formulation, sectoral analysis, innovation, risk assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge dissemination.
4.1 Scaling-up microfinance initiatives

4.1.1 Self-help groups
NABARD’s Self Help Group–Bank Linkage Programme (SHG–BLP) has helped empower rural women bereft of resources and access to formal banking through its innovative approach to financial literacy, group collateral approach, and purpose neutrality of loans.

This programme, since its inception in 1992, has assisted rural women to save, borrow, and build social capital and now includes 16.2 crore households in its fold. This programme has improved the lives of women and achieved several milestones in savings and bank linkage (Table 4.1). By helping their members to earn better and reduce their dependence on private moneylenders, SHGs have proven to be a sustainable option, particularly for rural women.

NABARD released ₹513 lakh as grant to SHG-promoting institutions in FY2023 leading to savings linkage of 4,489 SHGs and credit linkage of 9,305 SHGs.

4.1.2 Women self-help groups
NABARD has been supporting Women SHGs (WSHGs) in 150 districts (backward, left-wing extremism affected, or both) under the WSHG Development Fund since FY2013 (Figure 4.1).

4.1.3 Joint liability groups
NABARD is promoting livelihoods for small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, oral lessees, and share croppers by extending collateral-free credit through the banking system available to their JLGs (Figure 4.2).

### Table 4.1: Performance of the Self-Help Group–Bank Linkage Programme up to FY2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>As on 31 March 2023</th>
<th>Percentage change in FY2023 over FY2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of SHGs (lakh)</td>
<td>Amount (₹ crore)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans disbursed during FY2023</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>1,45,200.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans outstanding</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1,88,078.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings with banks</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>58,892.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-performing assets (%)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average loan disbursed per SHG (₹ lakh) during FY2023</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: As on 31 March 2023, the SHG-BLP programme covers 16.2 crore families through 134 lakh SHGs (84.3% of which are women SHGs).
Figure 4.2: Promotion of joint liability groups up to FY2023

It has also strengthened micro-enterprises in the off-farm sector to enhance opportunities in terms of income and employment.

4.2 Interventions for better livelihoods

4.2.1 Skilling and promoting entrepreneurship

NABARD has been promoting skill building and entrepreneurship through three programmes—micro-enterprise development programmes (MEDP), livelihood and enterprise development programmes (LEDP), and skill development programmes (SDP) for wage/self-employment (Figure 4.3).

NABARD has developed a structured approach for addressing the skill gap in rural India through demand- and outcome-based skilling programmes leading to wage/self-employment.

Since its launch in FY2007, MEDPs have been leveraged to impart skills to and upgrade capabilities of SHGs to serve as a foundation for setting up of micro-enterprises. The programme includes grant assistance for training in both farm and off-farm livelihood activities.

NABARD mainstreamed LEDPs in FY2016 for sustainable livelihoods among SHG members and creating maximum impact of skill upgrade.

Livelihood and enterprise development programmes target SHG clusters in contiguous villages involved in farm and off-farm activities and support intensive skill building, refresher training, backward-forward linkages, value chain management, end-to-end solutions, and handholding over two credit cycles.

Figure 4.3: Skilling and entrepreneurship development programmes

Note: JLG = Joint Liability Group.
4.2.2 Pilot project for entrepreneurship development

A pilot project on ‘Nurturing Women’s Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship’ was sanctioned to Friends of Women’s World Banking, India in FY2022 with a financial assistance of ₹65.4 lakh for implementation in nine districts across Gujarat, Nagaland, and Manipur, including three aspirational districts and six others with WSHGs. In the districts with WSHGs, 800 rural women-led micro-enterprises were to be promoted, of which, 400 were to be linked with credit. Enhancement in family income by 25% was anticipated under the project.

As on 31 March 2023, 842 beneficiaries across the three states have been imparted training in bamboo craft, baking, pickle/jam/papad making, fruit processing, tailoring, etc. Of these, 570 trainees have also been credit linked.

4.2.3 Capacity building

NABARD has various capacity building initiatives to promote employability in the rural areas (Boxes 4.1 and 4.2).

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**Box 4.1: Capacity Building Fund–Social Stock Exchange**

During FY2023, Capacity Building Fund–Social Stock Exchange (CBF-SSE) with the corpus of ₹100 crore was created with funding contribution from NABARD, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Bombay Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange, and others.

The fund shall be utilised for awareness creation and capacity building of stakeholders such as non-profit organisations, for-profit enterprises, investors, funders, capacity builders, social auditors and information repositories, and administrators. Awareness will be built around the aims and objectives of the SSE, its functioning, the opportunities for funding that it offers, and its role vis-à-vis other stakeholders, and in understanding the need for and importance of accurately reporting on outputs, outcomes, and impact.

NABARD and SIDBI have released ₹2.5 crore each to kick-start the operations.

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**Box 4.2: Study on analysing micro-enterprises financed by public sector banks, small finance banks, and microfinance institutions**

Centre for Research on Financial Inclusion and Microfinance at Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow conducted a study covering 144 micro-enterprises that had received credit from 48 branches of public sector banks (PSBs), small finance banks (SFBs), and microfinance institutions (MFIs), located in eight districts across Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

The study examined

- key characteristics of the microenterprise sector;
- the demand, flow, and need gap of credit in the sector; and
- the experiences of micro-entrepreneur clients in terms of marketing and onboarding to digital platforms.

The key findings of the study are presented below.

- The average age of sample clients is 39.3 years and 57% clients have studied up to 10th standard, suggesting that the clients comprise of adult population and have sound financial literacy.
- Lending institutions offered credit to sample micro-enterprises through a group-based JLG/SHG model.
- MFIs constituted the largest micro-lenders in the microfinance segment followed by SFBs and bank-linked SHGs, constituting 37.5% of the overall debt supply from all the sample funding agencies.
- 62% of the micro-enterprises are engaged in retail or trading sector followed by manufacturing sector.
- Composition of credit supply in FY2022
  - MFI loans: ₹24.85 lakh (37.5% share of overall debt supply)
  - SFB credit: ₹24.12 lakh (36.5%)
  - PSBs loans: ₹17.14 lakh (25.9%)
- The SFBs (12,257) were found to have more outreach than the MFIs (4,737) and PSBs (1,463) as indicated by the number of loans outstanding.
- Customer relationship management was also found to be better in case of MFIs and SFBs. All the group meetings are invariably attended by the credit officers of MFIs and SFBs.
- Transparency in banking was found to be much greater in MFIs and SFBs due to the well-prepared and easy-to-understand loan book provided to clients.
4.3 Farmer producers’ organisations

Fragmented small farmer holdings pose major problems for on-farm productivity and farm income improvement. Farmer producers’ organisations have emerged as an effective mechanism to transform such small holding-based farming into a viable agri-business enterprise and to increase the net income of farmers. Through collectivisation and aggregation, FPOs acquire better access to credit, inputs, technology, market, post-harvest management, value addition, etc.

NABARD has been promoting and handholding FPOs under Producers’ Organisation Development and Upliftment Corpus Fund and Producer Organisation Development Fund (Table 4.2).

In February 2021, the Government of India (GOI) announced a central sector scheme for the formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs and NABARD has been selected as one of the implementing agencies.

<p>| Table 4.2: Promotion of farmer producers’ organisations |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>PRODUCE</th>
<th>PODF-ID</th>
<th>CSS</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FPOs sanctioned (no.)</td>
<td>2,154</td>
<td>3,296</td>
<td>1,651</td>
<td>7,101</td>
<td>• Nearly all FPOs have market linkage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 1,500 have bank credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2023 target</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>• Details of over 4,200 have been onboarded and updated on NABFPO portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2023 achieved</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPOs registered (no.)</td>
<td>2,094</td>
<td>2,103</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>5,613</td>
<td>Of the 1,416 FPOs registered under CSS, 717 have been provided equity grant assistance of ₹27.7 crore till 31 March 2023.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In FY2023</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>887</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant sanctioned (₹ crore)</td>
<td>214.4</td>
<td>332.1</td>
<td>685.5</td>
<td>1,232</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>292.1</td>
<td>342.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In FY2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant utilised (₹ crore)</td>
<td>193.1</td>
<td>172.1</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>494.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>143.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In FY2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers covered as shareholder (lakh)</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>• 82% are small and marginal farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative share capital collected by FPOs (₹ crore)</td>
<td>109.2</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>238.8</td>
<td>• 30% are women farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance corpus, 31 March 2022 (₹ crore)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>332.7</td>
<td>154.7</td>
<td>502.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus used during FY2023 (₹ crore)</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>143.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance corpus, 31 March 2023 (₹ crore)</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>292.9</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>299.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*includes interest.
unused funds are returned to Government of India.

4.3.1 Strategies adopted to strengthen FPOs
Besides capacity building, NABARD has been adopting different strategies to strengthen FPOs including bank linkage, digitalisation, linking FPOs to commodity markets, etc. These include:

- handholding, capacity building, and digitalisation of FPOs;
- engaging with banks to play an active role in extending credit to FPOs, leveraging the available credit guarantee and promotional support from GOI, NABARD, and other players;
- collaborating with value chain players to leverage the FPO’s strength in aggregation and marketing;
- linking FPOs with commodity markets to enable...
price discovery and enhance connectivity with national and global markets;

- identifying and engaging with local agencies for the promotion of FPOs under the supervision of resource support agencies while offering specific support on governance and statutory compliances; and
- saturating natural resource management programmes, such as wadi, watershed, and climate change, with new FPOs.

### 4.3.2 Initiatives in FY2023 for FPO promotion and development

For the promotion and development of FPOs in FY2023 NABARD has

- conducted several training programmes for bank officials, FPOs, producer organisation promoting institutions, NGOs, etc., on business planning, FPO financing, capacity-building programmes for board of directors and chief executive officers of FPOs, hi-tech agriculture, value chain management, linking FPOs with commodity exchanges, etc.;
- developed a guidance note on FPO financing for use by financial institutions, member banks, and state cooperative banks;
- signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority to enhance the export-orientation of FPOs through joint interventions on capacity-building of farmers on good agricultural practices, packaging, branding and exporting protocol, convergence of schemes of the respective institutions, and promotion of FPOs in identified agri-export clusters;
- initiated and developed other capacity building tools under the Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Aquaculture Project in collaboration with GIZ Software, such as FPO Manak (an automated FPO grading tool); FPO Junction (one-stop knowledge resource on FPOs); FPO business plan toolkit (a mobile application for capturing baseline data of FPOs and evolving a business plan); and FPO MOOC (self-paced learning course in English and Hindi for all stakeholders); and
- set up a credit guarantee fund of ₹1,000 crore under NABSanrakshan, a subsidiary of NABARD, with matching contributions from GOI and NABARD; credit guarantee cover of ₹138 crore has been sanctioned to 703 FPOs (786 guarantees) during FY2023.

### 4.4 Strengthening the off-farm sector

Since FY2017, NABARD has been supporting the mobilisation of rural off-farm producers to collectivise, formalise, and enter businesses, thus leveraging the economies of scale, better bargaining power, and opportunities through collective sourcing of inputs and raw material, improved production practices, designing, marketing, etc.

Off-farm producers’ organisations promote rural enterprises in handloom, handicraft, and agro-processing sectors and generate local employment through value addition, design innovation and development, creation of storage and logistics infrastructure, and mechanisation and development of technology along with strong forward and backward linkages.

As on 31 March 2023, NABARD sanctioned a grant assistance of ₹37.9 crore for the promotion and development of 72 OFPOs in 27 states covering 22,530 beneficiaries, of which 18 are all-women organisations with a total of 6,890 members.

In FY2023, NABARD introduced a scheme for follow-on support to existing OFPOs. The scheme will provide flexibility to the regional offices to support required interventions which were not part of the original sanction to enable the OFPOs to attain sustainable business level. Only those OFPOs that meet the criteria defined under the scheme can avail the benefits of the scheme.

NABARD has also introduced a scheme to support rural innovations in the off-farm sector in detailed project mode to promote livelihood opportunities, employment creation, access to financial and business promotion services, technology upgradation, certification, quality control, credit, and environmental issues. Seven projects have been shortlisted in the areas of eco-homestay tourism, farm tourism, banana fibre extraction, start-up accelerator programmes, etc.
4.5 Supporting rural entrepreneurs, start-ups, marketing, and branding

4.5.1 Rural/Agri-business incubation centres
Agri-start-ups create connections across farmers, input dealers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers, and provide strong marketing linkages and quality produce on time. To alleviate the challenges faced by these start-ups, NABARD provides end-to-end technical assistance in setting up rural/agri-business incubation centres at agriculture universities/similar institutions to extend business support services and resources to agri-start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs (Figure 4.4).

4.5.2 Catalytic Capital Fund to support agri-/rural start-ups
NABARD established the Catalytic Capital Fund (CCF) with a corpus of ₹100 crore to support rural and agri-start-ups through incubation centres and NABARD subsidiaries. Of this, an amount of ₹18 crore has been sanctioned to NABKISAN Finance Limited and three incubation centres.

SHOWCASE 4.2: Aari embroidery OFPO—AVSAR initiative

A. Women’s Mini-OFPO: Swavalambi Sakhi Producer Company Ltd. (SSPC)

B. Location: Dharwad, Karnataka

C. Producer organisation promoting institution: Deshpande Foundation

D. Intervention
• NABARD partnered with Airport Authority of India, Hubballi and Deshpande Foundation to promote a retail outlet at the Hubballi airport, which operates nine flights daily.
• Named AVSAR (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region), the outlet commenced operations on 15 August 2022.
• On display are a wide range of embroidered goods, including kids’ clothing, sarees, and sling bags produced by SSPC.

E. Output>>Outcomes>>Impact
• Turnover of ₹21.4 lakh between August 2022 and March 2023.
• Rise in customer outreach, with orders coming from various states through circulated flyers.
• Increase in self-confidence of OFPO members and improvement in marketing skills, soft skills, and language skills.

Note: OFPO = Off-Farm Producers’ Organisation.

Figure 4.4: Promotion of rural/agri-business incubation centres as of 31 March 2023

Notes:
1. RBIC = Rural Business Incubation Centre.
2. Start-ups are registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Of these, till date
• Madurai Agri Business Incubation Forum has supported seven start-ups with a cumulative funding of ₹1.9 crore;
• NABKISAN has supported two start-ups with ₹1.1 crore;
• a-IDEA has shortlisted four start-ups for onward funding of ₹1 crore; and
• AgHub has shortlisted four start-ups for onward funding of ₹1.6 crore.

During FY2023, ₹97.5 lakh was disbursed under CCF to support five start-ups.

4.5.3 Marketing initiatives
Marketing is a critical challenge for producers; SHGs seek greater focus on developing marketing skills and avenues. To help producers with better marketing, NABARD has been extending support for setting up rural haats and marts and increasing the participation of artisans and craftsmen in national and regional exhibitions and melas (Figure 4.5).

Government of India’s vision for driving inclusivity, efficiency, and transparency through technology has led to the launch of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portals, providing opportunities for exponential growth of e-commerce and the sale of products by SHGs, FPOs, and OFPOs. NABARD has played a crucial role in facilitating the onboarding of FPOs and OFPOs to the ONDC network, enabling rural producers to sell their products through digital modes and providing better market linkages (Box 4.3).

**Figure 4.5: Progress of marketing initiatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Haats</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Financial assistance (₹ crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2023</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Marts</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Financial assistance (₹ crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick &amp; mortar</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile vans</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2023</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative</td>
<td>1347</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Box 4.3: Onboarding of community organisations to Open Network for Digital Commerce**

NABARD conducted pilots with sector experts to train SHGs and JLGs for onboarding to e-commerce platforms and ONDC. SHGs successfully started onboarding their products on commercial digital marketplaces, iTokri, GoCoop, CraftsIndia, Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp.

NABARD has conducted awareness programmes covering around 800 FPOs to build knowledge on e-commerce and disseminate benefits of onboarding to ONDC. Partial reimbursement of the expenditure for developing and designing the catalogue of products has also been agreed upon. As on 31 March 2023, 454 FPOs, 19 OPPOs, and 12 SHGs promoted by NABARD have been onboarded to different seller applications on the ONDC network. The onboarding will be scaled up in the next fiscal.

Overall, the onboarding of SHGs, FPOs, and OFPOs onto the ONDC network reflects an appetite for reimagining the status quo and ushering in structural reforms through technology, which promises inclusivity, efficiency, and cost savings for all stakeholders involved.

4.5.4 Promotion of geographical indications products

‘Geographical indications (GI)’ is an intellectual property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location with distinct nature, quality, and characteristics linked to that location. As on 31 March 2023, NABARD has supported the registration of 211 products under GI and has secured GI tags for 49 products.

During FY2023, NABARD facilitated the GI-certification of 21 products, including the following:

- Banda Shazar Patthar Craft (Uttar Pradesh)
- Gond Painting (Madhya Pradesh)
- Ujjain Batik Print (Madhya Pradesh)
- Ladakh Wood Carving (Ladakh)
- Kari Ishad Mango (Karnataka)
NABARD has entered into an MOU with the Textiles Committee, GOI, to register 30 products with GI tag. A GI marketing outlet has been established in Ernakulam district of Kerala in November 2022 to facilitate the marketing of 21 GI products of Kerala. This is the second such outlet in the country, the first one being a NABARD-supported outlet in Varanasi.

4.6 Promoting farm sector development
NABARD’s Farm Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF) supports farm innovations, technology transfer, and capacity building. The fund has a corpus of ₹60 crore and is replenished annually by appropriation of NABARD profits. The cumulative disbursement under FSPF is at ₹214 crore as of 31 March 2023.

4.6.1 Projects implemented under detailed project report mode
The projects related to innovations, productivity enhancement, value chain development, piloting technologies developed by research institutes, integrated farming system, hi-tech agriculture, internet of things, etc., are supported under the detailed project report (DPR) mode. These projects are sanctioned normally for a period of 2–3 years. Since the inception of fund, 1,810 projects were sanctioned under the DPR mode and a grant assistance of ₹104 crore has been disbursed. During FY2023, 190 projects were sanctioned with disbursement of ₹18.6 crore.

4.6.2 CAT—Capacity building for adoption of technology
The CAT programme provides grant support for skill-based training to farmers through exposure visits for adoption of new technology/best practices in agriculture and allied sectors. Since the inception of FSPF, 2,592 exposure visits have been supported to build the capacity of 77,300 farmers. Grant assistance of ₹19.5 crore has also been provided. During FY2023, about 359 such visits were undertaken and about 9,400 farmers trained at an expenditure of ₹4.7 crore.

4.7 Supporting research and sharing knowledge
NABARD leverages a dedicated research and development (R&D) fund for applied socio-economic studies, seminars, publications, student engagement schemes, and trainings to expand the knowledge base in agriculture and rural development. It supports research on agriculture and rural development issues to share insights with policymakers, other stakeholders, and the public.¹

4.7.1 NAFIS 2.0
The NABARD All-India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2016–17 covering 40,327 sample households offered a comprehensive overview of the rural population in terms of livelihoods status and level of financial inclusion. The NAFIS report was well received by all the stakeholders including academicians, policymakers, researchers, scholars, etc. Recognising the usefulness of NAFIS 2016–17, NABARD has initiated NAFIS 2.0, covering one lakh households for a more comprehensive view of the livelihood and financial inclusion aspects for rural and semi-urban households of the country.

4.7.2 Supporting research studies, seminars, and conferences
NABARD has been conducting research, both in-house and by partnering with reputed research institutions, to generate ideas, fine-tune existing policies, and provide policy inputs towards operational objectives. There are 24 ongoing studies as of 31 March 2023, of which seven studies were sanctioned during FY2023.

Under the R&D fund, 181 seminars/webinars/conferences were sanctioned for deliberations on topics such as agricultural marketing, agri-exports, tribal development initiatives for sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion, reimaging rainfed agro-ecosystems, global food security, sustainable crop intensification for climate-smart livelihood, and nutritional security, etc. Under FSPF, ₹5.4 crore was disbursed for knowledge dissemination and technology awareness among the farmers along with financial support for organising krishi melas/fairs, seminars, workshops, etc.

4.7.3 Student engagement schemes
To obtain a fresh and innovative perspective on our ground level interventions, NABARD has been engaging with the student community (through schemes like the NABARD Student Internship Scheme and NABARD Citation for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis) through field-based studies for formulation of new policies and fine-tuning our existing ones.
4.7.4 Publications

NABARD has consistently published reports, research papers, and articles for dissemination of information to keep all its stakeholders abreast of developments regarding latest studies and research. Some of its publications are given below.

- Research bulletins like EcoThink (monthly), EcoWatch (weekly), Rural Pulse, and other publications serve as inputs for Asset-Liability Committee, Investment Committee of NABARD, and other user departments.
- Insight presents short research reports based on the primary data collected through district development managers on issues of topical interest. During FY2023, two reports titled Agriculture in India@75 and Women Empowerment: A Reality Check were published.
- The Sustainability Report provides information on economic, environmental, social, and governance performance of NABARD.
- In-house research papers are published on various aspects such as Indian agriculture, rural credit, and food and nutrition security.
- Authoritative papers by eminent scholars and domain experts under the Research and Policy Series highlight issues of policy relevance, prescriptions, and suggestions for future research. During FY2023, 11 such papers have been brought out.
- Research Chronicle, a new biannual series, presents a collection of articles based on completed R&D studies, summarising the research findings and recommendations, thus providing a platform for knowledge dissemination. The first issue covering five studies was released on 2 January 2023.

4.7.5 Maintaining the resource pool

NABARD’s Central Library located at its Head Office in Mumbai is stocked with 25,791 books, 85 journals/periodicals/magazines, 14 newspapers, 35 web-based/online databases/dailies/magazines/journals from 15 different agencies. The library at Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow also has a huge collection of books and periodicals to cater to the knowledge needs of trainees and faculty members.

4.8 Inclusive development through sustainable livelihoods

Inclusive growth is a multi-dimensional framework that aims to reach the unreached—particularly women and children, minority groups, and the extremely poor in rural areas. In line with its principal mandate of achieving inclusive and equitable rural development, NABARD-driven developmental/promotional programmes offer sustainable livelihood, community development, and income generation opportunities (especially in agri-allied micro-industries and rural entrepreneurial services) supported by skill development, creation of marketing platforms, promotion of OFPOs, and facilitation of micro-finance initiatives for rural poor, especially women.

In future, NABARD’s interventions will be analysed and mapped against the Sustainable Development Goals under impact balance sheet reporting. Research and development will strengthen existing schemes, support policy formulation for start-ups, and promote technology development.

Notes