

## Ministry inks Agreement for publication of India Rural Development Report

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March 26<sup>th</sup> 2012, New Delhi: Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, Government of India and Dr. Rajiv Lall, MD & CEO of IDFC, today presided over the signing of an Agreement at Krishi Bhawan for the publication of an annual India Rural Development Report by the newly created IDFC Rural Development Network. The Network shall serve as a knowledge platform of experts and academics to harness intellectual capital in the rural sector. The Agreement with the Ministry is for a period of 3 years starting 2012, and extendable for another 2 years.

The IDFC Foundation, which will anchor the IDFC Rural Development Network, has partnered with three of India's leading research institutes who are closely involved with rural development in the country – Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat and Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) in Hyderabad.

The India Rural Development Report is intended to assess rural development more broadly, and more specifically, the performance and progress of the initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development. The annual report would comprise two parts. Part I on 'The State of the Rural Economy' will assess progress in rural development and initiatives undertaken by the Ministry. Part II shall be thematic, focusing in-depth on a topic of importance for rural development. The Network has chosen 'Performance of MGNREGS' as the theme of its inaugural report. The Network aims to disseminate the work undertaken to a diverse audience covering policy makers, investors, researchers and the public at large.

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### **About IDFC Ltd.**

**Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IDFC)** was incorporated on 30th January 1997 as India's first specialized infrastructure-financing intermediary in order to address the growing requirements of the various infrastructure sectors. IDFC's mandate is to lead private capital flows to commercially viable infrastructure projects. In keeping with its Mission of 'being the leading knowledge-driven financial services platform, creating enduring value, promoting infrastructure and nation building, in India and beyond', IDFC has carved out its development agenda under the rubric of the IDFC Foundation (now a company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956). The IDFC Foundation contributes to IDFC's mandate of leading private capital to infrastructure projects by providing impetus to rationalisation of policy and regulatory frameworks, promoting PPP models, policy advocacy and special Foundation initiatives. The IDFC Foundation comprises the Policy Group, Government Capacity Building, PPP and Advisory Services, and iCare, the voluntary employee engagement in specific initiatives. The Policy Group, as India's unique infrastructure think tank within a corporate entity, provides thought leadership and cutting edge research in the areas of infrastructure policy and governance, with a thrust on sustainable infrastructure. The Group has also developed collaborative research platforms for reaching out to various stakeholders including academia, industry and government.

### **About the IDFC Rural Development Network Partners**

The **Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)** established in 1987 in Mumbai is an advanced teaching cum research institute involved in development issues from a multi-disciplinary point of view. IGIDR has been recognized as a Deemed University and aims to further develop as an Institute of high international standing and join the league of world class centres of excellence in theoretically informed applied research and teaching in development studies. The institute brings out the periodic India Development Report.

The **Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)** established in 1979 in Gujarat is a leading institute providing management education, training, research and consultancy support to co-operatives and rural development organisations in India. IRMA has become a frontrunner in professionalising the development of India's rural sector, and prepares 'rural managers' through its two-year diploma in rural management.

The **Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)** established in 1980 in Hyderabad is a leading research centre conducting interdisciplinary research in analytical and applied areas of social sciences, encompassing socio-economic and other aspects of development. The Centre's research has developed expertise on themes such as Rural Development and Poverty, Agriculture and Food Security, Irrigation and Water Management, Public Finance, Demography, Health and Environment.

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