



IMEDF Conducts Virtual Training on Cluster development through SFURTI

Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF) conducted a 12 days long virtual training on the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). Held under the guidance of AICTE, the training was given to 20 faculty members from various Polytechnic Institutes of 4 states in the North-Eastern region of India i.e. Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur. The course module was designed and delivered by the IMEDF team as its first pilot project, through live sessions on Zoom and hosted on Universal Technical Systems (UTS) learning platform.

The objective of the course was to train the participants in identifying and presenting a project proposal through an understanding of SFURTI scheme, develop in depth understanding of project management and challenges prevalent in their communities, and further understand resource management for building a project with technological and social innovations. For this pilot project, technical institutes were chosen as they possess a fair understanding of technologies that can be utilised in clusters to enhance processes and productivity if they represent themselves as Technical agencies to SFURTI clusters.

The module is divided into 4 capsules with a detailed day-wise plan to ensure smooth covering and delivery of each topic. The pedagogy used for the training was a mix of (i) lecture (ii) group discussion and presentation by participants (iii) audio-visuals (iv) case studies (v) doubt clearing sessions and feedback (vi) assimilation exercises, all of which was available on UTS learning platform in online and offline (downloadable) version. At the end of the training course, IMEDF graded all the participants and received 14 concept notes and 11 detailed project reports (DPRs) written and presented individually by participants based on their experiences and research on clusters that can be formed in their region. These DPRs and concept notes were prepared on diverse sectors like Agro-based cluster (food

processing, coffee plantation, cardamom processing, maize), Handloom (natural dye, weaving), Handicraft (bamboo products, pottery, woodcraft, and carving), etc.

As a result of successful completion of the training program, feedback received from participants, and appreciation from AICTE, IMEDF plans to float this course in more educational institutes in the coming months and pitch the module to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the training of implementing agencies (IAs) and Technical Agencies (TAs).

IMEDF is a special purpose vehicle of the Development Alternatives Group that accelerates the development of micro-enterprises at scale. It is also the nodal agency of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India for the development of clusters under SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries).