

# National Seminar on Convergence in MGNREGA



**24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Host: State Institute of Rural Development, Ranchi**

**Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj  
Government of Jharkhand**

## **NREGA: Introduction and Background**

The Government of India has adopted a multifaceted development strategy that promotes economic growth and also addresses the needs of the poor, by ensuring their basic rights. The Ministry of Rural Development has a gamut of targeted programmes, from providing direct employment, self-employment, social security, housing, building rural infrastructure and managing land resources for alleviating poverty. In this context, workfare programmes have been incorporating important interventions. Evolving the design of the wage employment programmes to fight-back poverty more effectively; Government of India has formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in 2005-06. During its first three years, NREGS has enabled itself to evolve management systems to implement it as a legal guarantee for employment and thus became NREGA an 'Act' transformed from a Scheme and further renamed as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) in the year 2008-09. MGNREGA is internationally a first-ever law that guarantees a right-based and time-bound wage employment at an unprecedented scale that aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Transparency and accountability are the backbone of this law.

## **MGNREGA: Need for Convergence**

The Ministry of Rural Development recognizes the need for convergence of various schemes for optimal utilization of resources for enhancing the productivity of available resources and improving the quality of life in rural India. Convergence through MGNREGA has the advantage of guaranteed resource support because MGNREGA is a statute and the legal framework of this act ensures transparency and accountability. Untied funds and the provision of decentralized planning enables the comprehensive need based planning at grass-root level. The Panchayati Raj Institutions have a pivotal role in MGNREGA and provides an institutional mechanism for convergence. MGNREGA with its inter-sectoral approach opens up opportunities for convergence. A taskforce was set up by Ministry of Rural Development to explore comprehensive and effective possibilities of convergence. The taskforce included representatives from the Ministry of Water resources, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Women and Child Development etc.

The MGNREGA Guideline conceptualizes convergence as a conglomerate of existing schemes and their resources, rather than creating a new scheme with additional resources resulting into duplication of work. The objective of convergence is to optimize public investments made under existing schemes through suggested ways of linking and driving them towards a common/shared recipient end, both physical (such as area, infrastructure, natural resource) and human (person, group, agency etc.) Convergence of inter-sectoral programmes with MGNREGA will enable better planning and effective investments in rural areas. This also brings synergy between different governmental programmes and schemes in term of their planning, process and implementation with resources of other programmes/schemes available with Panchayati Raj and other line departments. These resources may be financial as well as technical expertise and knowhow that officials of the line departments may be endowed with.

#### **Objectives of the National Seminar:**

To invite ideas and expertise regarding the possible extent of convergence in MGNREGA with the line departments and to bring together intellectual minds on a common discussion platform at national level so as to strengthen the concept of convergence in MGNREGA and to formulate new and innovative ideas on the basis of experiences so far and thereby make the process of convergence more effective and viable in Jharkhand.

#### **Important dates:**

Submission of abstracts : February 27th, 2017  
Intimating acceptance of the abstracts : March 7th, 2017  
Submission of full paper and travel plan : March 17th, 2017

#### **Theme Areas / Subjects:**

- Livelihood generation through MGNREGA assets.
- Land based livelihood through MGNREGA
- Integrated Natural Resource Management through MGNREGA
- Monitoring & evaluation of MGNREGA works through GP.
- Intervention of ICT in MGNREGA.
- Farm based & non-farm livelihood activities in MGNREGA.
- Technological innovations in MGNREGA to obtain sustainability.
- Forward & backward linkage with financial institutions in MGNREGA.

#### **Instructions for submitting Abstracts:-**

The paper must be based on empirical evidences, theoretical perspectives, methodological innovations, micro-level experiments, policies and programs relevant to the seminar themes and should be submitted in "Times New Roman", font size 12, 1.5 spaced with margin 1.5" on the left side and 1" on the other three sides. The abstract will be screened by review committee. Abstracts/papers in not more than 300/4000 words, in MS-Word format should electronically be sent to [sirdliterature@gmail.com](mailto:sirdliterature@gmail.com). For further details please see SIRD-Jharkhand website [www.sirdranchi.nic.in](http://www.sirdranchi.nic.in)

Selected papers will be considered for compilation in the proceeding of the National Seminar by State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Ranchi, Jharkhand.

#### **Venue of the National Seminar:**

The National Seminar on Convergence in MGNREGA will take place at Auditorium, SKIPA (Administrative Training Institute), Ranchi, Jharkhand.

#### **Registration:**

There is no registration fee. The organizers will make arrangements for the accommodation, food and local conveyance. For those who are contributing full papers, 2nd AC Train Fare will be reimbursed from the shortest route.

#### **Contact Details:**

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