

KPP-CMS Workshop on Role of Self Help Groups (SHG) in women empowerment in India: lessons for Lower Income Countries (LICs)

Catalyst Management Services (CMS) Private Limited (Lead Firm) and APMAS in partnership with IPE Global supported by DFID India under its Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP) held a Workshop on January 20, 2015, in Delhi. The welcome note was delivered by *Ms Tamar Bello*, Head, Global Partnerships Team, DFID India and *Mr. Sunil Mitra*, Team Leader, Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP), IPE Global.

The workshop focused on the research findings of the study '*understanding SHGs as programme for economic and social empowerment of women in India and LICs*' supported under KPP. Mr. S M Vijayanand, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) set the tone of the workshop in his opening remarks. Mr. C S Reddy from APMAS discussed the study findings and highlighted the need for SHG, as the basic unit to be recognized as an institutional mechanism in LICs as India had done through the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD. The workshop included a panel discussion on two important themes: (1) Has the SHG movement contributed to poverty reduction and women empowerment in India? Evidence and gaps and (2) What lessons does the SHG movement hold for low income countries? The panels initiated a lively discussion on the SHG movement and its contribution to women empowerment in India and lessons that can be useful for LICs, especially countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

More than 40 participants consisting of key stakeholders and experts in the field of Microfinance & Micro-Credit, Women Empowerment, Policy and Institutional Frameworks and SHG movement participated in the workshop.



Mr. P. Satish, Chief General Manager, NABARD chairs a panel discussion, with panellists *Mr. Ajay Tankha*, Independent Consultant; *Dr. C.K Gariyali*, Former MD TNCWD; *Mr. Arvind Risbud*, Executive Director, MYRADA; *Mr. Muhammad Musa*, CEO CARE-India and *Ms. Girija Srinivasan*, International Consultant.