



Promoting Technology driven MSME Clusters for Sustainable Livelihoods

Col. Raman Thapar, General Manager, Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF), participated as a panellist in the “Science & Society Setu for Atmanirbhar Bharat (S34ANB)” web clinic series on 6 November 2020. 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).

S34ANB is a virtual platform developed by the Science for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) Division of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, to fulfill the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat through Science, Technology and Innovation. The series was jointly organised by the DST, Office of PSA, FICCI, AGNli, WWF-India, and HESCO with the objectives of harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for a better quality of life and livelihoods for socio-economic wellbeing, and strengthening S&T capacity of NGOs and communities.

Col. R. Thapar participated as a panellist under the theme “**MSME and Economic Sector**” on the topic “Technology-driven MSME Clusters for Sustainable Livelihoods in Rural Areas/Landscape” and highlighted the need for Science and Technology-based solutions and presented the emerging technologies developed and field-tested by IMEDF along with implementing agencies (IAs) and technical agencies (TAs) for community development. He also talked about exploring opportunities for collaboration for the improvement of technologies in terms of affordability and appropriateness at the community level.