

Sustainable Development and Entrepreneurship with SFURTI by IMEDF

Col. Raman Thapar and Smriti Ahuja of Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF) gave an overview of the cluster development initiatives of IMEDF under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) programme of the Ministry of MSMEs at a webinar on "Sustainable Development and Entrepreneurship with SFURTI by IMEDF. This was hosted by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Bhubaneswar on 8 January 2021.

The session was chaired by Dharitri Patnaik, Chairperson, FLO Bhubaneswar, and provided a platform for both IMEDF and FLO to explore new opportunities for women-led clusters in rural and tribal areas of



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Odisha. The Bhubaneswar Chapter of FLO works towards creating the right thrust for women empowerment in the state of Odisha.

Col. Raman Thapar and Smriti Ahuja highlighted how IMEDF is contributing to accelerate the development of micro-enterprises at scale and is also empowering women in underserved areas of India by enabling them to pursue entrepreneurship. The presentation also focussed on SFURTI clusters which are involved with providing grants to clusters, especially for women-led livelihood activities. IMEDF currently runs a magic millets cluster in Odisha where over 1000 artisans are engaged in producing high quality and healthy food products from millets.

Dharitri Patnaik concluded the session by emphasising the importance of women entrepreneurship; she shared, "Empowering women entrepreneurs is essential for achieving sustainable development goals. Right efforts are required in the development of women entrepreneurs specifically and women in general and their greater participation in the entrepreneurial activities."

*IMEDF is a special purpose vehicle of the Development Alternatives Group and nodal agency for the development of clusters under SFURTI. FLO is a women wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and was established in 1983 to encourage and facilitate women to showcase their talents, skills, experiences, and energies across sectors and verticals of the economy, for a truly inclusive economic growth trajectory.

