

Entrepreneurship Chaupal

Ecosystem Building at Meso Level

Background Note

5 February 2020

Concept

A *Chaupal* is a public place, fixed place in rural India, where community members sit and discuss their problems, celebrate their pleasures, share their pains and sort out their disputes, often in consultation with holders of traditional knowledge and carriers of new ideas. Social entrepreneurs, aggregators and other meso level actors often perform the function of a *chaupal* for large number of micro entrepreneurs, farmers, artisans and community groups. These stakeholders extend their services to fulfil finance, knowledge and technology needs of the groups. They also put forward their perspective, suggestions, experience and ideas adopted in building solidarity and synergy among different stakeholders. The Entrepreneurship Chaupal would bring together enablers working in different areas such as agriculture, construction, waste, energy, arts and crafts, etc. to share their experiences that empower enterprises and communities to engage with the dynamic socio-economic ecosystem of green enterprises.

Overview of the Entrepreneurship Chaupal

Local green enterprises are often set up by developing new products and services for their communities. But their sustenance is hampered by :

- Lack of access to knowledge and technology
- Social or Gender barriers
- Disconnect among partners and other key stakeholders involved
- Lack of access to financial support for viability of business

In the absence of meso level enabling agencies or mechanisms, a large pool of innovative ideas remains isolated, and an opportunity to improve livelihoods and manage natural resources thereby building a sustainable economy is being missed.

From the point of view of an 'enabler', we wish to, therefore, explore:

1. What are the risks associated with servicing of green enterprises?
2. How can a momentum be initiated to
 - Mainstream enterprises into new opportunities in green industries
 - Create an ecosystem to shift enterprises towards greener ways
 - Sustain green enterprises already involved at meso level
3. What is the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to overcome challenges related to the Local Green Enterprise ecosystem?

Expected Outcome

The Entrepreneurship Chaupal will help in intensifying the current paradigm of LGEs by finding solutions that can help in developing good practices and interventions to further strengthen the enterprise ecosystem in other areas.