**Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD)**

*(A Premier Learning Center of NABARD)*

**Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India**

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**Brief Course Design**

**International Program on**

**“Group Approach for Sustainable Development”**

India is a pioneer in adopting group approach for sustainable development of rural communities. In fact, it is operating the largest and the most successful micro finance program (Self Help Group – Bank Linkage Program : SHG-BLP) in the world. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) along with its partner institutions has pioneered this movement for the last 26 years and has reached over 100 million rural women. The success of the SHG BLP has led to innovating diverse products aimed at diverse clientele like Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Farmers Clubs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Water User Associations, Joint Forest Management Groups etc. These models present a bouquet full of learnings for replication.

**Aims & Objectives:**

At the end of the program, the participants would be in a position to understand and appreciate-

* Concept of Sustainability
* Individual Approaches vs Group Approaches
* Indian Experiments on Individual and Group approaches for sustainability
* Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainability through Group Approach
* Financial Products and Programs for Group Approaches
* Parameters for success & Objectively verifiable indicators and
* Graduating from Group approach to Community approach

**Course Content:**

The program will broadly deal with the following –

* Debates on Sustainability and growth
* Livelihood options and Sustainability – Desirability of linking with SDGs
* Groups Approaches (SHG/JLG/FC) – Concepts, Design, Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation, Feedback / Feed forward, Issues & Challenges
* Indian Experience in implementing various financial products (Individual & Group) – Product based & Program based
* Graduating from individual groups to community (Federations / FPOs / Area Dev Schemes / WUAs / JFMs)
* Sustainability of Group Approach (Livelihoods, Conflict Management, Issues of Governance)
* Measuring Success – Verifiable indicators

**Duration**

One week (residential) at Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow (10 June to 15 June 2019).

**Participants**

The program participants will be middle/senior Officers from ITEC member countries working in government, universities, banks, NGOs, MFIs and other institutions concerned with Micro Finance, Banking, Rural development and Financial inclusion with around 3 years’ work experience