

**A NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**TRANSFORMING RURAL INDIA 2030:  
STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**FRIDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2019**



**ORGANIZED BY**

SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (SSE) &  
SYMBIOSIS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (SIIB)  
SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), PUNE

**IN COLLABORATION WITH & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM**  
NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MUMBAI  
(NABARD)

# BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Moving ahead from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been evolved, that include a set of 17 Goals and 169 targets to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Being a signatory, the Government of India is committed to work to achieve these goals and targets.

In India, achieving the SDGs to end hunger and extreme poverty by 2030 depends crucially on developing rural areas. Over 850 million people in the country live in rural areas, with livelihoods dependent on agriculture-based activities like crop husbandry, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry etc. Furthermore, around 80 per cent of India's poverty concentrates in its rural areas. Poverty eradication and ensuring food and livelihood security will, therefore, not be possible unless agricultural productivity and rural incomes increase, which further depends on development of rural infrastructure especially irrigation, agricultural logistics and social infrastructure (i.e. health and education).

With this background, a one-day National Conference on 'Transforming Rural India 2030: Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals' is organized by the Symbiosis School of Economics (SSE) and Symbiosis Institute of International Business (SIIB) of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) in collaboration with the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai and also with its financial support on 18 th January 2019. The prime objective of this conference is to identify key challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in rural India and to provide solutions to attain the targets of SDGs within stipulated time. In order to accomplish the above objective, policy makers, practitioners, academicians, researchers, students and farmers are invited to exchange and share their experiences and research results on aspects related to sustainable rural development.



The major emphasis of this Conference is on the following dimensions of the sustainable rural development.

### **INCOME, INEQUALITY AND POVERTY**

India still faces two great burdens – poverty and hunger. About 27.5% of the population is multidimensionally poor in the country. Similarly, 39% of children are stunted, 29% of children are underweight, and 53% women between 15 – 49 years are anemic in India. Both poverty and hunger in the country are upshot of inequality. Though the Gini coefficient of income inequality for the country fell from 36.8% in 2010 to 33.6% in 2015, United Nation's estimate shows that if India stops inequality from rising further, it could end extreme poverty for 90 million people by 2019 and if it goes further and reduces inequality by 36%, it could virtually eliminate extreme poverty. It is, therefore, pertinent to discuss that how income could grow in India, particularly in the rural sector, by 2030, so as targets of SDGs 1, 2 and 10 could be achieved within the specified time period.

### **ENERGY, WATER AND SANITATION**

India has emerged as the fastest growing economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers of the world over the next 8-10 years. Nonetheless, more than 75 million people in the country lack access to safe water and over 50% rural households defecate in the open. Likewise, 237 million Indians have no access to energy. Keeping these figures in view, importance of energy, water and sanitation could not be understated. Promisingly, the Government of India has acknowledged these challenges and initiated several flagship programmes to reduce these figures significantly. Some of these programmes include Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, and National Solar Mission. With this backdrop, we aim to stress upon key challenges that India faces in achieving the targets of goals 6 and 7 of the SDGs with special focus on the rural sector. Further, contribution of these programmes in realizing targets of goals 6 and 7 are examined.





## **SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOODS**

The SDGs are an interconnected system of targets crucial to the well-being of the people. Hence, adoption of an integrated system approach is essential in achieving targets of SDGs in holistic manner. Sustainable livelihood approach emerges here as a good strategy. It is comprehensive since a livelihood includes income (both cash and kind), as well as the social institutions, gender relations, property rights required to support, and to sustain a given standard of living, and access to, and benefits derived from, social and public services provided by the state such as education, health services, roads, water supplies, and so on. In this session, an attempt is made to discuss the role of the sustainable rural livelihoods (SRL) approach in achieving different targets set under SDGs. It is also appropriate to discuss different challenges in adoption of the SRL approach and its limitations.

## **RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Infrastructure development plays an important role in implementing and achieving all SDGs. However, SDG 9 explicitly talks about Infrastructure and calls for increased investment in sustainable infrastructure. India, particularly its rural sector, is weak in both physical and social infrastructure. For example, around 25% of the rural households are still not connected with the electricity, 61% of rural roads is only surfaced, the doctor-to-patient ratio, which is about 0.57 per 1000 people, is even lower than the Asian developing economy average (1.2). Against this background, this session aims to highlight key challenges that India has been facing in infrastructure development and to identify the major strategies to deal these issues. Also, concerns related to infrastructure finance will be discussed, as it is critical for sustainable infrastructure development.

# AGENDA

## TRANSFORMING RURAL INDIA 2030: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FRIDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2019

**VENUE: Symbiosis Institute of International Business,  
G. No. 174/1, Hinjawadi, Taluka - Mulshi, Dist.  
Pune – 411 057, Maharashtra, India.**

TIMING	EVENT
9:00 AM	Registration
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Track 1: Income, Inequality and Poverty
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Tea Break
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Inaugural Track: Overview of SDG Targets Related to Rural Economy
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Track 3: Energy, Water, and Sanitation
	Track 4: Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Tea Break
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Panel Discussion: Role of Infrastructure Development in Implementation and Achievement of SDGs
5:30 PM - 5:45 PM	Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks
5:45 PM	High Tea

# ORGANIZING TEAM

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
2. Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor , Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
3. Dr. Rajani R. Gupte, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
4. Dr. U.S. Saha, Chief General Manager, Department of Economics Analysis & Research, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai.
5. Dr. Jyoti Chandiramani, Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, & Director, Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
6. Dr. Asmita Chitnis, Director, Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZING SECRETARIES

1. Dr. Amarnath Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
2. Dr. Shrabani Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.
3. Dr. Nisha Bharati, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune.

