

Microfinance Process Excellence Award 2006

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step”. Miyamoto Musashi

PlaNNet Finance India and ABN AMRO Bank together instituted the Microfinance Process Excellence Awards (MPEA) in 2004 with the objective to promote process-based management in microfinance institutions. We are proud to share that for the second year MPEA was successfully concluded and once again we celebrated the spirit of the growing age of microfinance with the anchors of poverty alleviation, the microfinance institutions, delivering financial services to the poor. The list of the winners of MPEA 2006 is attached herewith.

Unlike last year, where the awards were just spread over three categories based on the scale of operation of the microfinance institutions, it was regionalised this year to gauge regional excellence amongst microfinance institutions for their scale and effectiveness in operations. The award categories were created to provide equal opportunity to institutions of all scales to nominate themselves for the Award.

The nominations for MPEA 2006 drew over 130 organisations, of which 54 institutions were pre-selected through a stringent jury process and then provided with intensive training and technical assistance after which each organisation had to go through training replication and implementation of processes in their respective organisations before final evaluation. It was an arduous task for the MPEA jury panel to identify the best in the implementation of process management practices amongst microfinance institutions in India both regionally and nationally, given the fact that each participating institution in itself was doing exemplary work in trying to make finances easily accessible to the unbankable.

The Awards presentation was held at the Garden of Five Senses, Saidulajab, New Delhi on April 7, 2006 and was attended by over 200 dignitaries including the winning and finalist microfinance institutions. The guests of honour who graced the occasion were the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme Dr Maxine Olson, the Dutch Ambassador H.E. Eric.F.Ch.Niehe, Chairperson of the Confederation of Khadi and Village Industries Mr Haresh Shah, Mission Head of United States Agency for International Development Mr George Deikun, Executive Director of The Energy Research Institute Dr. Leena Srivastava and the President of Dastakari Haat Samiti and Founder of Dilli Haat aya Jeitley. The presence of a good number of guests and supporters of the awards were encouraging both for the awards partners and participants. It is expected that the awards will go a long way in strengthening and professionalizing the microfinance sector.

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WINNERS OF MICROFINANCE PROCESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2006

National Winner – Best Emerging Institution

Jyotirmayee Mahila Samiti

Registered under Societies Registration Act 1860

Based in Orissa since 1996, Jyotirmayee Mahila Samiti has been working towards economic empowerment of the poor by facilitating enterprise development for Self Help Groups and Individuals and local CBOs.

Having a total of 9 branches and 12600 active clients, its cumulative loan portfolio is INR 3.4 Million with average loan size of INR 2000.

National Winner

GRAMEEN KOOTA

Registered under the Charitable Trust Act and operational in Rural Bangalore, Mandya, Tumkur, Hassan districts of Karnataka covering 580 villages.

One of the fastest growing microfinance organizations since 1999, Grameen Koota resorts to Group Assisted Lending and has 20638 active clients. Their clientele is 100% women and their total cumulative loan disbursement has been INR 2066.46 Lacs with average loan size of INR 2322.

Regional Winner – East

BISWA (Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency)

Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and FCRA, BISWA has been engaged in microfinance since 1996 and is working in 22 districts of Orissa and 5 districts of Chattisgarh, covering a total of 1909 villages.

Biswa has a total of 34 branches with 59700 active clients. Their cumulative loan disbursement has been INR 86 Million with average loan size of INR 35954.

Apart from microfinance services, BISWA has also been fulfilling the basic needs of its beneficiary communities such as making available clean drinking water, Providing basic education and health services through its BASIC NEEDS PROGRAM.

Regional Winner – North

CASHPOR Micro Credit

A Section 25 Company, Cashpor Micro Credit has been operational in districts of Eastern UP and Western Bihar.

Cashpor has 100% women clients and 7 branches in all. They have 90% rural and 10% semi-urban clients. With total number of 68229 active clients, it has cumulative loan disbursement portfolio of INR 1042.2 Million. Their average loan size is INR 5623.

**Regional Winner – North East
Centre for Rural Development**

Registered under the Multiple Acts of Societies Registration Act and FCRA

Centre for Rural Development's mission is to ensure sustainable livelihood for the poor by utilizing local resources and skill enhancement through community participation approach.

Its Rickshaw Bank initiative wherein they lease out rickshaws to unemployed youth provides sustainable livelihood opportunity to its beneficiaries through a unique credit delivery mechanism.

The Rickshaw Bank project implemented in the Kamrup district of Assam, has 380 active clients with their average loan size of INR 7500. The total loan disbursed till date is over INR 3 Million.

**Regional Winner – South
BASIX (Bhartiya Samruddhi Finance Limited)**

A Non Banking Financial Corporation since 1996, Basix is a pioneer in promoting sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor (especially women) through microfinance.

Operational in districts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkand, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, Basix has total number of 29 branches and 83293 active clients. Their cumulative loan disbursement has been INR 2.3 Billion with average loan size of Rs.13815.

**Regional Winner – West
Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.**

Registered as a Cooperative Bank, Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank is the country's first rural financial institution to have received the cooperative license.

With their focus on the socio-economic development of women, Mann Deshi today has 24199 active clients of which 92% are rural and 8% are semi urban based. Their cumulative loan portfolio is INR 135.3 Million and average loan size is INR 5323/-.

Awards for Continued Excellence

SKS Microfinance Private Ltd.

Winner of MPEA 2005

A Non Banking Financial Corporation, SKS Microfinance is one of the leading microfinance providers in the country with its operations in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

SKS's vision is to become the premier microfinance organization that is customer centric, professionally managed, transparent in its operations and which acts as a catalyst in providing economic opportunities to the poor in order to alleviate poverty. It aims to serve 500000 clients by 2008.

Having 86869 active clients served through 36 branches, its cumulative loan disbursement portfolio is INR 98.51 Million.

**Pahal
Winner of MPEA 2005**

Registered under the Society's Registration Act 1860 and Winner of MPEA 2005

Engaged in the field of microfinance since 1994, Pahal has been working towards the socio-economic empowerment of the underprivileged sections of the society by facilitating income generation activities and building their capacities through education and skill enhancement programmes.

Pahal has been transformed into a microfinance provider from being a microfinance promoter and has today 2250 active clients of which 70% are semi urban and 30% are rural based. The total cumulative loan disbursed by Pahal has been INR 6.53 Million with average loan size of INR 2500.

Thanks and best regards,

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