



“Powering Rural Development in Nagaland through DRE Mini-grids” Dimapur (Nagaland)

India’s grid reliability remains a challenge in rural areas.

In 2019, India achieved near 100% rural electrification, connecting over 300 million households over the past many decades – however, significant challenges remain to meet the objective of 24/7 reliable power for all. The grid reliability is a problem, with frequent power cuts (average hours of supply in rural is 12 to 18 hours) and voltage is low, forcing micro-enterprises and other commercial customers to depend heavily on expensive and polluting diesel.

Mini-grids can not only meet the electricity needs of under-served communities, but also spur micro-enterprise activity in a village by significantly lowering electricity costs vis-à-vis diesel. The first set of mini-grids in North-East India were set up in Mon District of Nagaland in the villages of Chenwetnyu, Longkei and Totok Chinga in February 2022 by the Mithun Rural Development Foundation (MRDF) with support from Smart Power India (SPI) and District Administration of Mon. The objective is to supplement and strengthen the supply of electricity to the remote villages in order to enable micro-enterprises to thrive, new businesses to be set-up, improve the services provided by public infrastructure (streetlights, schools and health centres) and trigger economic growth and personal incomes in the villages. There are additional objectives such as gender inclusion in entrepreneurship, GHG emissions reduction and build resilience to climate change in the communities.

The three mini-grids pilot has been well received and over 70 micro-businesses have bloomed in the last six months with micro-enterprise development support from NABARD, GIZ, SPI and Rang De. WRI India carried out a baseline study of the three villages.

It is proposed to scale the project to all 132 villages of Mon and to 1000 villages in Nagaland. In order for this to happen, it is proposed to hold a roundtable discussion under the auspices of NABARD Dimapur and glean the learnings from the installation, operation, micro-enterprise financing and development so as to derive lessons for scale.

Aim. The aim of the roundtable is to analyze the learnings of the last nine months of installation, operation, micro-enterprise development and powering public infrastructure and derive lessons for scaling the project to 1000 villages of Nagaland.

Date and Venue. The roundtable will be held from 10 am to 2 pm on 10th November 2022 at NABARD Dimapur followed by lunch.

Agenda.

1. Registration of Participants 0940 to 1000
2. Smart Power India – Opening Address 1000 - 1010
3. DC Mon – District Administration perspective 1010 -1020
4. GM NABARD - PUE Financing to build Climate Resilience 1020 - 1030
5. MRDF - Update on the Mon Project 1030 - 1050
6. MRDF -Micro-enterprise development 1050 - 1110
7. WRI - Presentation of impact baseline study 1110 – 1130
8. Tea Break 1130 - 1145
9. Village Council feedback 1145 - 1200
10. Interaction with entrepreneurs 1200 - 1220
11. Inputs from Runway Enterprises, NTTC, NSCB, Potential Market Value Chain Entities 1220 - 1300
12. Way Forward – Open Discussion 1300 – 1345
13. MRDF - Summing Up 1345 – 1400
14. Lunch and Networking – 1400 - 1500