

CENTRE FOR MICRO-FINANCE

Introduction

- The CENTRE FOR MICRO-FINANCE (CMF) was established on July 21, 2000, as a private limited company under the Company Act, 1996. It is managed by professionals, who have long experience with microfinance in Nepal and elsewhere.

- The shareholders of CMF, under the Company Act, are entitled to receive dividend but they unanimously resolved at their Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 14 January, 2003 not to receive it, but rather deploy dividends/profits for the development of microfinance for poverty reduction and women's empowerment in Nepal. It is, therefore, a **not-for-profit** organization.

Vision

To improve access to sustainable microfinance services for poverty alleviation and women's empowerment

Mission

To strengthen institutional capacity of microfinance institutions in the country, to enable them to better serve their clients, especially women of the poorest families on a sustainable basis.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide training, technical assistance and consultancy services to microfinance institutions to enable them to grow and become financially self-sufficient
- Undertake research, studies, publications and arrange appropriate training and seminars / workshops in support of microfinance
- Promote awareness of and commitment to "microfinance best practices" among donors, government agencies, microfinance practitioners and promoters

- Collaborate with national and international organizations/institutions in areas that promote sustainable microfinance for poverty reduction
- Maintain a resource centre of publications, study reports, research and innovations carried out in the areas of microfinance and poverty alleviation within and outside Nepal
- Lobby in the formulation of legal and regulatory framework to create an enabling environment for microfinance institutions to emerge, grow and become financially self-sufficient

- Create awareness among microfinance practitioners of gender dimensions of microfinance, with particular reference to issues related to improving access to microfinance services for women of the poorest families
- Promote use of information technology among microfinance institutions and
- Facilitate networking among microfinance institutions and practitioners.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

- The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of promoters/shareholders is the highest body, which provides overall guidelines to the company. It also approves external audit reports including financial statements.
- Every four years, the AGM elects a nine member Board of Directors (BOD) from among the promoters / shareholders and a chairperson from amongst the BOD members is elected through consensus. The BOD makes policy decisions and gives strategic direction.

- A Managing Director heads the company supported by heads of Administration, Accounts and the Program Departments.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CMF offers a rich mix of programs and services designed to meet the emerging needs of individual microfinance institutions as well as consultations to the sector as a whole. These services are designed to address the needs of a range of microfinance institutions in Nepal. Among these are community-based savings and credit organizations/co-operatives, grameen replicators, rural development banks and financial intermediary NGOs. Specific programs and services of CMF include:

- **Technical Assistance**: CMF provides technical assistance on request from and in response to the needs expressed by various stakeholders.

- **MF Training Programs:** The Centre offers the following training programs:
 - A two-module MF training program for managers of MFIs on Principles and Management, and Business Planning
 - A training of trainers' program for promoters of community-based savings and credit co-operatives and
 - A special package as per the need and demand of microfinance practitioners and professionals.

CMF has, over the period, also produced a set of 26 training manuals/tools designed to support community- based savings and credit organizations.

- *Study Tours*: The Centre organizes study tours to model microfinance institutions within and outside Nepal for its partner MFIs.

- **Networking and Communication**: CMF serves as a clearinghouse for micro-finance related information. This is done through a regular program of national seminars, consultation meetings and publication of a quarterly newsletter, "Common Interest". Besides, the CMF Website, and the management and operation of an electronic list-serve that link members of the Microfinance Network within and outside Nepal.

- **Research and Documentation:** The Centre pursues an active research and publication program addressing issues of importance in the microfinance sector, contributing to the corpus of knowledge on microfinance in Nepal.

- *CMF Resource Centre*: CMF manages an in-house resource center for use by microfinance practitioners, promoters, researchers and those interested in microfinance. The resource center has a wide collection of books, journals, newsletters, reports and audio-visual materials related to microfinance. It provides access to Internet to microfinance institutions and individuals associated with the sector. The center has a web site with information on microfinance in Nepal. The electronic list serves as a networking tool.

EXPECTATIONS

**YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WILL
ENRICH THE DELIBERATIONS AND
OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP**

THANK YOU