



AJIT KUMAR VERMA, IAS
Deputy Commissioner

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Office of the Deputy Commissioner
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Dear Members,

At the outset I would like to congratulate to the organizers of the conference and welcome to all stakeholders and participants of the roundtable conference, scheduled on 10th November, 2022 at Dimapur, Nagaland.

The government has by the year 2019 extended the electric grid to all villages in India. Today all villages are connected, barring a few new hamlets. However, Nagaland being a hilly and forested State, and distant from power generation infrastructure, power supply disruptions occur due to wind, rain and storms. Often the power outages are difficult to predict. In this backdrop, the efforts of MRDF to provide reliable, locally generated renewable power in the villages of Mon District through a Public-Private-Peoples' Partnership (PPPP) model seeks to create a model for rural development.

Electricity is now available 24x7 in the three mini-grid villages and is used to power livelihoods, streetlights, health centres, schools and homes. Over 70 new micro-businesses based on agri-processing, non-timber forest produce processing, bio-floc fisheries, livestock feed, carpentry, metal works and handicrafts have been incubated. MRDF is working to create new livelihoods around eco-tourism, organic produce such as millets, king chillies and wild banana fibre. The objective is to create jobs, improve livelihoods and increase personal incomes.

From our side we are in touch with MRDF and the village councils in order to facilitate their work. We are happy that organizations such as Smart Power India, GIZ, NABARD and WRI are supporting the project. We also welcome new partners who plan to join and invest in this transformational project. It is good that stakeholders from the market side and potential financing institutions are participating in the roundtable conference.

I wish the roundtable be a fruitful discussions and hope that you all will find a way forward to scale up the project across Mon District and Nagaland.

(Regards and all the best to all participants)

AJ
07/11/22
(AJIT KUMAR VERMA) IAS

To,

1. The Managing Director, Mithun Rural Development Foundation
2. All the organizations/members participating in Round Table Conference