

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu,

and

Centre for Research In Schemes and Policies (CRISP), New Delhi

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made on .2024 and for a period of 2 years

Between

Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu (First party), hereinafter referred to Government of Tamil Nadu,

And

Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP), a not-for-profit Society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, bearing Registration Number S/3007/DS/2022, having its central office at **CRISP, TSIIC Building, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad** (hereinafter called "**CRISP**" which expression hereof includes its successors, administrators, and assigns), through its Sri R. Subrahmanyam Secretary CRISP who is duly authorized to sign and execute this Agreement, known as **Second Party**.

And hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" or as "Party" in the singular.

1. PURPOSE

The main purpose of this MoU is to have partnership and collaboration without any financial commitment (except for covering the costs of travel and accommodation) between the two parties to associate and collaborate for the mutually agreed scope as defined in clause 2 of this MoU.

2. SCOPE

CRISP which has expertise in Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, including organisation of rural poor, Livelihoods of poor, Education, Health, Micro and small enterprises, Skill Development, institution building and Governance issues will support the Government of Tamil Nadu, specifically the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj covering the following areas:

- a) Bring in appropriate technologies for construction of PMAY houses to reduce costs, improve quality of construction and enhance the satisfaction levels.



- b) Improve GP tax collection systems and explore Own sources of revenue (OSR) to make the GPs financially robust and self-sustaining.
- c) Strengthening the SHGs so that they play a crucial role in Rural poverty alleviation.
- d) Improving the sanitation systems in the rural, peri-urban and hilly areas so that they can all be converted into clean-and- green villages.
- e) Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and communitising them for their early effective achievement.
- f) Strengthening the SHG-GP partnership for a collaborative effort in rural development.

Each of these items may be considered as a separate project interlinked for an overall performance improvement in the rural development sector.

The above projects are indicative, and not exhaustive, and more projects in the areas of interest for both parties can be added from time to time.

3. ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ, GOVT OF TAMIL NADU

The Department of RD&PR in Govt of TN is concerned with the development of the rural areas and their administration through the panchayat raj institutions. The Department implements many schemes and projects for this purpose.

4. ABOUT CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SCHEMES AND POLICIES (CRISP)

The CRSIP is an initiative by a group of conscientious civil servants worked at the highest levels of policymaking and having put in more than 3 decades in public service, aim to give back to society by working with the State and Central Governments for designing/redesigning/evaluating the schemes/programmes for large public good, to improve at scale, the development impact of programmes and policies being implemented.

5. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The areas for collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding are as defined in the Section 2 "Scope" of this MoU.

A detailed strategy and the methodology for each of these projects will be prepared in discussion with the Government of Tamil Nadu and CRISP teams, along with the timelines for delivery.

6. FINANCIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

There shall be no financial obligations under the current MoU by both the parties to organise research/evaluation and training activities. Any future funding/financial obligations for research/evaluation and training activities shall be entered into through a separate contract or agreement, based on mutual agreement.

7. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

The Parties intend to use their best efforts in pursuance of the objectives set out above and, without prejudice to the generality of this objective. Both Parties will work within the MoU which lays down broad responsibilities for the fulfilment of this objective. The Parties also commit themselves to the common goal of delivering work to the highest standards of quality. Their relationship in implementing the activities under this MoU will be underpinned by principles of transparency and trust. The core objective of the partnership is to evolve strategies to facilitate, and hand hold the rural development department in effectively implementing various priority programme of the government.

8. ROLE OF CRISP

President of CRISP Sri SM Vijayanand will mentor the project, and will guide an expert team which would under the following tasks:

- a) To prepare action plans execution of each of the projects as agreed in this MoU or mutually agreed thereafter.
- b) To arrange to bring experts / deploy teams who are well-versed about the area for execution of the agreed projects
- c) To design the intervention/study as required for each project after due consultation with the nodal person for each project
- d) To supervise collection of data and use the secondary data to make recommendations at the end of each study
- e) To work with the Government of Tamil Nadu to execute the recommendations at the field level.

9. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF RD&PR GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

- a) Appoint a nodal officer who would coordinate with various departments of Government of Tamil Nadu for proper execution of this project. The nodal officer would work closely with the Mentor from CRISP in design and implementation of the projects under the MoU. (Additional Director (PRI) Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj would be the nodal officer).

- b) The office space at Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Panagal building, Saidapet, Chennai will be provided for the CRISP team to coordinate the project.
- c) Further the logistic and boarding arrangements to the team members will be provided based on the request from the CRISP team.
- d) The Department will provide necessary information in respect of area of study, coordinating departments, statistics and other related information to the team.
- e) To jointly develop training modules and materials and arrange capacity development programmes.
- f) To organise field visits and interaction with officials at State/District/local level as may be needed.
- g) To provide local volunteers for conducting of surveys, canvassing of questionnaires as may be required for completion of the projects.

10. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- a. This MoU is a non-binding expression of the current intentions of the Parties.
- b. This MoU shall be effective from the date of signature and will remain in force for a period of two (02) years.
- c. This MoU will be reviewed from time to time and may be amended at any time by the consent of the Parties confirmed in writing.
- d. The Parties agree and acknowledge that no other rights are granted except as expressly stated herein.
- e. Neither Party shall transfer or assign its interests, obligations or rights in this agreement, without the express written consent of the other Party, provided that such consent not be unreasonably withheld.
- f. IP for material developed for the purposes of this MOU will be held by jointly by CRISP and Government of Tamil Nadu. The material may be used for 'fair dealing' purposes under Indian laws, including open access use and dissemination for the purpose of instruction, education and research.
- g. The use of the term "Partnership" in this MoU is not intended in a way that implies the creation of a legal partnership, joint venture or any other kind of legal entity between the CRISP and Government of Tamil Nadu in order to implement the proposed objective. It is rather used to express a partnership in which both members have equal status.

11. TENURE AND TERMINATION

This MOU shall commence on the date of signing of the MoU and shall continue to be in force for two (02) years until terminated by either party. Either party may terminate this MoU upon 3 months prior written notice to the other party, which will however be subject to completion of all commitments made. Notwithstanding any such termination, both parties shall ensure that all activities in progress are completed successfully.

12. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

This MoU shall be governed in accordance with the laws of India and the courts in Chennai shall have jurisdiction in respect of this MoU.

13. NON-EXCLUSIVE

This MoU does not prohibit CRISP or Government of Tamil Nadu in any manner from entering similar arrangements with third parties.

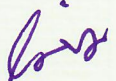
Confidentiality and Non-disclosure

- a. Both parties agree to use all information shared solely for the purpose of performing their obligation under this MoU and not to disclose to any third party without prior written consent of the other party.
- b. The results/ findings of the studies undertaken shall be shared only with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu and shall not be published or used by CRISP in any other forums without written approval of the Department.
- c. The studies undertaken by CRISP are not intended to be an evaluation or fault finding of the programs, but aimed at helping the department in better implementation of the programmes to achieve its objective.

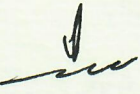
This MoU is accordingly signed on behalf of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies as follows:

Both parties hereto affixed their signature:

For Department of Rural development

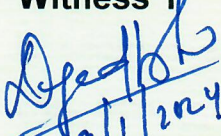

(P. Ponniah)

For Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies

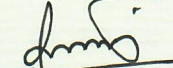

R. SUSNAHAN
CEO.

In the Presence of:

Witness 1


19/1/2024

Witness 2



Name & Designation

Name and Designation