

Abstract:

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) dominate the low-income clients sector in the formal rural financial sector. There is a perceived tension between their coverage of poor clients and financial viability. Post-reform, RRBs, earlier incurring substantial losses, have turned around to play crucial role in financial inclusion. Being regional in character, they are better suited to adjust their product design, delivery methods, yields and engage staff in decision-making. The current amalgamation of RRB's, sponsor bank-wise, in a State would strengthen their economy of scale while improving the HR Management, etc. Their incremental business with the decentralized decision-making backed by active stake holders' interest would go a long way in integrating the large informal sector.

Speaker's Profile:

Dr. Amarendra Sahoo is presently the Chief General Manager at the Rural Planning and Credit Department of RBI. Dr. Sahoo joined RBI in 1980 and has wide experience in development banking. He has been the Nominee Director on the Boards of Regional Rural Banks in Orissa & West Bengal, West Bengal State Finance Corporation, erstwhile Sikkim Bank Ltd. He was part of Secretariat to RBI's Vyas Committee on Flow of Credit to Agriculture and related activities and also Member Secretary to Committee on Financial Sector Plan for North Eastern Region while as Regional Director of RBI in Guwahati. He also worked as a consultant at World Bank in 2002. Dr. Sahoo holds Masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi & Duke University, USA. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from IIT, Bombay where he worked on Financial Market and Structure of interest rates in India. He was RBI's Golden Jubilee Scholar in 2001-02.