

**Glossary:**
*Explanation of terms used in this proposal:*

**Asset:** A resource having economic value that a micro-entrepreneur owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species); the totality of genes, species and ecosystems in a region.

**Capacity building:** Efforts aimed to develop human skills or societal infrastructures within a community or organization needed to reduce the level of risk; includes development of institutional, financial, political and other resources, such as technology at different levels and sectors of the society.

**Coastal ecosystem:** The coastal zone represents transition from terrestrial to marine influences, and vice-versa; comprises not only shoreline ecosystem but also upland watersheds draining into coastal waters & the near shore sub-littoral ecosystems influenced by land-based activities.

**Community Center (CC):** CCs change the power structures and remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives.

**Community development:** Building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect.

**Conflict management:** The ability to manage conflict effectively.

**Conservation:** The management of the present human use of the biosphere, to yield the greatest sustainable benefits while meeting the needs and aspirations of future generations.

**Convergence:** A representation of common ground between theories or phenomena; cooperation among various NGOs and civil society organizations to deliver the best possible community development services to large, village-based beneficiary communities, using a variety of delivery systems to reach the widest possible audience.

**Domain expert:** Or subject matter expert—is a person with special knowledge or skills in a particular area.

**Ecosystem:** A community of plants and animals (including humans) interacting with each other and the forces of nature. Balanced ecosystems are stable when considered over the long term.

**Environmental resources:** Parts of nature that that human-kind considers to be useful or valuable

**Framework:** A set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality; the underlying structure.

**Gasification:** Conversion of solid or liquid fuel into combustible gas.

**Information Consultants (ICs):** Village-based personnel are the link between the IT-Enabled Community Center and the beneficiary village community members, with whom they deliberate, seek information or give advice on commercial terms.

**Greenhouse gas:** A gas that traps heat from the sun causing the Earth's atmosphere to warm up (eg carbon dioxide or methane).

**Grid:** The system of transmission cables that is used to transport electricity around the country.

**Holistic:** Sometimes spelt 'wholistic'—relates to or is concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of, treatment of, or dissection into parts

**Hub:** A focal point around which events revolve; a center around which other things revolve or from which they radiate; a focus of activity, authority, commerce, social development.

**Human development:** A complex concept of development, based on the priority of human well-being, and aimed at ensuring and enlarging human choices which lead to equality of opportunities for all people in society and empowerment of people so that they participate in—and benefit from—the development process.

**Indigent:** Describes the poor, needy, impoverished and disadvantaged people who live in the villages; they lack food, clothing, and other necessities of life because of poverty.

**Information and communications technology (ICT):** Information technology (IT) or information and communication technology (ICT) is the technology required for information processing. In particular the use of electronic computers and computer software to convert, store, protect, process, transmit, and retrieve information from anywhere, anytime.

**Institutional overheads:** Fixed costs of running an organization, indirect costs; facilities and administrative costs; infrastructure and service costs.

**IT-Enabled Community Centers (ITECCs):** They integrate traditional knowledge with modern communication science—principally the Internet—and 'Appropriate Technology' for social empowerment and sustainable development.

**Livelihoods Skills Development:** To mainstream institutional support and capacity building for existing & new civil society organizations i.e. networks and federations of self-help groups (SHGs) in villages, so that they can drive the participatory formation of a replicable model of rural livelihood skills training & economic opportunities development.

**Maintainability:** A measure of the ease with which changes necessitated by new requirements, error corrections, new environments & enhancements may be introduced into a product.

**Market:** A social arrangement that allows buyers and sellers to discover information and carry out a voluntary exchange of goods or services; the location where goods are traded.

**Micro-enterprise:** A type of small business; a business having 5 or fewer employees; typically have no access to the commercial banking sector; microfinance institutions are their common sources of funding, particularly in the Third World.

**Modifiability:** The extent to which the object itself facilitates the incorporation of changes, once the nature of the desired change has been determined.

**Model:** A schematic description of a system, theory, or phenomenon that accounts for its known or inferred properties and may be used for further study of its characteristics; a hypothetical description of a complex entity or process.

**Modular:** Designed with and composed of standardized units or dimensions, as for easy assembly and repair or flexible arrangement and use.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** A management tool that is built around a formal process for evaluating performance and impact using indicators that help measure progress toward achieving intermediate targets or ultimate goals. Monitoring systems comprise procedural arrangements for data collection, analysis and reporting.

**Morality:** The quality of being in accord with standards of right or good conduct; a system of ideas of right and wrong conduct.

**Organic farming:** In order to be labeled “organic” a product, its producer, and the farmer must meet stringent organic standards and must be certified by an approved food-certifying agency. Organic foods cannot be grown using synthetic fertilizers, chemicals, or sewage sludge, cannot be genetically modified, and cannot be irradiated.

**Pattern:** A pattern is a model or set of rules which can be used to make or to generate things or parts of a thing, especially if the things that are generated have enough in common for the underlying pattern to be inferred or discerned, in which case the things are said to exhibit the pattern.

**Paradigm:** A set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them, especially in an intellectual discipline; an example serving as a model or pattern.

**Policy:** A plan of action adopted by an individual or group

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** A variation of privatization in which elements of a service previously run solely by the public sector are provided through a partnership between the government and one or more social/NGO or private sector organizations. Unlike a full privatization scheme, in which the new venture is expected to function as a private business, the government continues to participate in some way.

**Puissant:** Powerful; mighty; potent.

**RCP Secretariat:** The officials or office entrusted with administrative duties, maintaining records, and overseeing or performing secretarial duties of the international organization for the *‘Rural Convergence Program’*

**Renewable energy:** The term used to cover those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment and can be harnessed for human benefit. The ultimate sources of most of this energy are the sun, gravity and the earth’s rotation”.

**Resource Access Center (RAC):** Centrally coordinates the human development models and dissemination of information and the application & implementation of various ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ technologies, in order to bring the fruits of development to the targeted village community members, irrespective of gender, age or creed.

**Reusability:** The extent to which a module can be used in multiple applications (*IEEE Standard Glossary of Terms*)

**Risk:** The probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions.

**Rural:** All land areas that are not urban.

**Rural Convergence Program (RCP):** A planned, coordinated group of activities and procedures for realizing a *convergence* in a number of *rural development paradigms*.

**Rural development:** Improving the physical, economic and social conditions of people living in the open countryside and in coastal areas; a process leading to sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people, especially the poor; the process of strengthening the ‘liveability’ in rural areas according to the quality of life and landscape identity;

**Shelter Technologies:** The specific methods, materials, and devices used to build structures that provide privacy and protection from danger to rural households, in this instance.

**Socioeconomic program:** A planned, coordinated group of activities and procedures to deliver social and economic impacts on any product or service offering, market intervention or other activity on a rural economy—in this instance—and on the companies, social organizations, NGOs and individuals who are its main economic actors.

**Specialization:** Allows you to define new kinds of information—new structural types or new domains of information—while reusing as much of existing design and code as possible, and minimizing or eliminating the costs of interchange, migration, and maintenance.

**Structure:** The way in which something is arranged or organized; the way in which parts are arranged or put together to form a whole.

**Sustainable agriculture:** Sustainable agriculture is a way of raising food that is healthy for consumers and animals, does not harm the environment, is humane for workers, respects animals, provides a fair wage to the farmer, and supports and enhances rural communities.

**Sustainable development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of “needs”, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and the future needs. (*Brundtland Commission, 1987*)

**Sustainable livelihoods:** A work opportunity that gives (a) a decent income; (b) some status in society and (c) some dignity and meaning in life; it provides opportunities for people to work in their own community instead of migrating to the slums of a big city.

**Technology:** The scientific method and material used to achieve a commercial or industrial objective; the practical application of science to commerce or industry.

**Total Rural Development:** A development strategy aimed at providing every indigent person with ever-increasing opportunities for a better life; to expand and improve facilities for education, health, nutrition, housing and social and cultural well-being, while substantially reducing racial, ethnic and social inequalities.

**Village Information Center (VIC):** A microcosm of an ITECC, complete with IT-enabled services for knowledge and information dissemination of ideas, products and service that are most relevant to the immediate rural community.

**Vocational training:** Training for a particular occupation, business, or profession in industry or agriculture or trade.

**Watershed:** The land area from which water drains to a given point.

**Water table:** In a shallow aquifer, a water table is the depth at which free water is first encountered in a monitoring well.

**Work plan:** Describes the technical, social, management and other activities to be conducted during the various phases of a project; it is a living document that defines co-operations between project partners to help them reach common goals.