

## **On-Location Training Programme on Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) & Gender Mainstreaming in Developmental Projects for Bankers and Government Officials**

**Program Participants for Nodal Officers of Banks and Government**

**Departments Program Duration: 10–12 December 2025**

**Program Coordinators: Mr. Anish Kumar and Dr. Rajni Rajan**

**Venue: ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad**

The Bankers' Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, in collaboration with the ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad, conducted a three-day capacity-building programme titled *“Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) & Gender Mainstreaming in Developmental Projects”*. The programme was designed to enhance their understanding of environmental safeguards, social risk management, and gender-responsive planning in development and infrastructure projects. The programme provided a balanced blend of conceptual inputs and practical exposure, enabling participants to integrate ESIA and gender perspectives into policy formulation, project appraisal, and implementation processes.

The academic sessions covered a broad range of themes and were delivered by eminent experts and practitioners. The programme commenced with an inaugural lecture by the Formerly Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR and Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Pusa, Bihar, setting the context for sustainable and inclusive development, highlighting policy perspectives and sectoral priorities. A keynote address by the Director, CRIDA provided a comprehensive overview of climate change in Indian agriculture, with special emphasis on its impacts in dryland areas. Subsequent technical sessions focused on the basics of climate change, the importance and fundamentals of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in project design, and the legal and regulatory framework governing ESIA. Participants were also introduced to various tools and techniques for environmental and social assessment, enabling practical understanding of risk identification and mitigation. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of mainstreaming gender in development projects, including detailed discussions on gender analysis and preparation of a Gender Action Plan (GAP), underscoring the need for equity, inclusiveness, and gender-responsive planning in development interventions.

A key highlight of the programme was the field visit, which served as an effective sensitisation exercise. Participants were exposed to real-life CRIDA-NICRA project sites to observe environmental impacts, social implications for local communities, and gender-related dimensions, including livelihoods, access to resources, and inclusivity. The field interactions helped participants appreciate the importance of stakeholder consultation, mitigation measures, and gender-sensitive approaches in ensuring sustainable and equitable development.

Overall, the programme was well-received and successfully achieved its objectives by strengthening participants' capacity to apply ESIA tools and gender mainstreaming principles in their respective institutional roles, thereby contributing to environmentally sound, socially inclusive, and gender-responsive development outcomes.



Group Photograph with Former DDG (Horticulture), Director (ICAR-CRIDA), Programme Directors, Faculty Members, and Participants



Inaugural lecture by the Chief Guest Dr H P Singh, FNAAS, Formerly Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR and Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Pusa, Bihar.



Keynote address by Dr. V. K. Singh (Director, ICAR-CRIDA) provided a comprehensive overview of climate change in Indian agriculture, with special emphasis on its impacts in dryland areas



Field visit of participants to understand the Environmental Impact and assessment through innovative models



Field visit of assessment of the future prediction of elevated carbon dioxide and temperature on the cropping pattern at ICAR-CRIDA Farm



Field visit of developmental measures taken at KVK, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad



Valedictory Remarks and participants feedback led by the Director, ICAR-CRIDA and programme coordinator