

Minutes of Meeting
Sustainable Development Goals Pilot Interventions in Patiala District

Mode of meeting: Video Conferencing

Date: 17 September 2020

Time: 11 AM

A meeting for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – Pilot Interventions at Patiala District held on 17 September 2020 at 11.00 A.M through Video Conferencing. The purpose of the meeting was to roll out the pilot intervention.

Mr. Vikas Verma, Regional Head – North, UNDP, also leading the SDGCC Team, started the meeting by welcoming all the participants and sharing objectives of the meeting. He mentioned about SDGCC and its role on SDG implementation in the State. He said that SDGCC is working closely with relevant government departments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sectors, individuals and other important stakeholders to support the state government's initiative in achieving SDGs.

Principal Secretary of Department of Planning Mr. Jaspal Singh, IAS welcomed members of District Administration and informed the various initiatives taken by Government of Punjab on SDG implementation in the State. Referring the Punjab Vision Document, he said that local level authorities are the actual implementors of State's ambitious development agenda and thus the role of district, block, panchayat are immensely important. Further he mentioned that 24 Departments have already developed Four Years Strategic Action Plan (4SAP) achieve SDGs. Now, it is the time to develop District Action Plans. He mentioned that in order to achieve SDGs, it is very much important to integrate SDGs in the local plans – District, Block and Panchayat.

Mr. Chandan Barman made a detailed a presentation about the activities comprised under Pilot Interventions. Through his presentation, Mr. Barman reflected the various phases and the essential criteria for developing SDG Model panchayats. He also talked about processes for developing Model SDG panchayats. The process for SDG Model Panchayat will provide an opportunity for the panchayat to synchronize their plans with SDGs. Resources from various centrally and state sponsored schemes can be leveraged and converged at the panchayat level. Thus, it is important to set panchayat-level targets with measurable indicators that will have vertical and horizontal linkages, convergence possibilities, resource mobilization potential and feasible action by the panchayat. On District Action Plan, Mr. Barman also presented the various processes to be followed for developing District Action Plan. He said that before starting the development of District Action Plan, it would be necessary to develop district indicator framework and collection of baseline information. Once the baseline information is collected, each department will develop their action plan which will be part of District Action Plan.

Ms. Nandita Mathur also presented about I4SDGs. She mentioned that this activity aims to create an SDG Pilot Model Cluster i.e. an incubation unit to pilot various SDG projects aimed at improving the quality of life for people from all strata of society. This cluster to be called SDG i4 - Integrated Innovative Ideas Incubator. The idea is to create a 'proof of concept' SDG district to implement innovative, relevant and sustainable interventions to learn, showcase and subsequently upscale the same across the state. During her presentation, she also highlighted the various interventions which may be undertaken under I-4 SDG interventions such as

anaemia crackdown pilot, tele-medicine, zero budget natural farming, women skilling and capacity building, supporting youth through skill development etc.

Mr. Kumar Amit, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Patiala informed about the activities being taken by the Administration on various SDG issues. He mentioned that District is focusing to address depletion of underground water, programme on creating employment opportunities for youths of the district, undertaken zero budget natural farming, has also undertaken skill gap analysis. Further he mentioned that under corporation development area initiated drinking water projects, community forest initiatives, bead projects.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Preeti Yadav, IAS added that District Administration has also taken initiative on organic farming. Dr. Yadav emphasised that any intervention needs to be time bound. Deliverable should be completed within the time set forth at the initiation of the intervention.

During the meeting Mr. Vikas Verma suggested that for implementation of the pilot interventions within a week time from SDGCC Ms. Nandita Mathur and Mr. Chandan Barman will visit Patiala District for detailed discussion with the members of District SDG Cell in order to develop a concrete plan of action. Further, he highlighted that gender issue which is a cross-cutting area needs to be focussed in the programme activities, so that no one leave behind.

Principal Secretary lauded the idea and said that the pilot interventions needs to be started immediately. He said that learnings from this pilot interventions will be scaled up in the state. Further, he added that Government of Punjab has initiated to develop SDG State Indicator Framework inline with National Indicator Framework. He also added that in order to monitor the progress of Action Plan, a dashboard is being developed. He informed that this dashboard will help in tracking the progress of activities at state and district level.

Principal Secretary appreciated the initiatives of Deputy Commissioner and thanked him for the proactive gesture in implementing the pilot intervention in Patiala District. He also thanked members of District SDG Cell for participating in the meeting.