**Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD)**

*(A Premier Learning Center of NABARD)*

**Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India**

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**Brief Course Design**

**International Program on Women Empowerment**

The contribution of women to the rural economy in developing countries including India remains very significant yet undocumented and unacknowledged. Women play a key role in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, though they have limited access to property rights, credit and are not given their due share. Empowering women through programs like SHG-Bank linkage programs has brought in a paradigm shift in their role in the decision making process within their own families as well as their communities. The central and provincial governments in India have recognized the impact of such interventions and started implemented women focused credit and non credit programs. Gender budgeting and Gender mainstreaming is also helping women to have a major share in polity resulting in creating a space for their voice to be heard. There are quite a good number of examples for learning and replication.

**Aim & Objectives:**

At the end of the programme the participants will be able to :

* Describe the Role of women in Rural Economy
* Explain various strategies for women empowerment
* Strengthen Livelihoods of Rural Women - Group approach (Self Help Groups / Joint Liability Groups and their federations)
* Initiate measures to improve access to technology, skill development and credit – Issues and challenges – Flexi Approach to work and lending
* Explain initiatives like women development cells in banks, specific initiatives directed towards women like Women SHGs, Stand Up India etc.
* Explain Gender budgeting and Gender mainstreaming in developmental initiatives

**Course Content**

The Program will lay emphasis on the following -

* Role of Women and their contribution to Rural Economies
* Women in Agriculture - Issues and Challenges
* Strengthening of livelihoods of women through group approach
* Targeted approach to improve skills and credit to women – Stand up India, SHG-BLP
* Improving Role of Women in Governance (Board level presence / Local self governance) through better education and access to technology
* Gender budgeting and Gender mainstreaming

**Participants:**

The program participants will be middle/senior Officers (Women) from ITEC member countries working in government, universities, banks, NGOs, Co-operatives, MFIs and other institutions concerned with agriculture, rural development and financial inclusion with around 3 years’ work experience.

**Duration:**

One week (residential) at Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow (14-19 January 2020).