

1. **Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.)** : This programme of rural development was launched in 1978-79 in 2300 blocks of the country. This programme was initiated to help the families, who belong to below poverty line. It aimed at promoting self-employment opportunities for the rural poor by enabling them to acquire productive assets. This programme includes STs, SCs, small and marginal farmers and rural craftsmen. The programme was meant to generate income and provide employment besides investing money on cottage and rural industries.

On 23rd October 1980, this programme was implemented in all 5011 blocks of the country. This programme was made essential components of modified 20-point programme. Later on programmes of TRYSEM, DWACRA and NRLEGP, Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA), Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourer, (MFAL), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Command Area Development Programme (CADP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), and Food for Work were merged with I.R.D.P.

In 6th plan, a sum of Rs. 4500 crores was aimed to spend on this programme. In this plan, the target was to help 150 lacs of rural families under IRDP, but 105 lacs of rural families below poverty line were benefited. In 1984-85, a sum of Rs. 165025 crores was spent, by which 16.8 lacs families, belonging to STs, and SCs, were benefited. During 9th plan, cluster of families were covered under IRDP to benefit them.

By this scheme of rural development, every effort is made to bring the rural families line above the poverty line. Poverty line is defined as minimum in- take of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas per person per day.