



Sitaram Rao
CASE STUDY COMPETITION
documenting and disseminating knowledge

Vaya
POWERING ASPIRATIONS

Sitaram Rao
Livelihoods India Case Study
Compendium 2019

Technology Solutions for Agricultural Advancement

ACCESS KNOWLEDGE SERIES





ACCESS Development Services


ACCESS Development Services is a national livelihoods support organisation with a focus on incubating innovations for promoting sustainable livelihoods of the poor. Set up in March 2006, as a “not for profit” organization with support from DFID (Govt. of UK), ACCESS is structured uniquely, to work at all levels of the value chain - implementing programmes on the ground, working with Government, Corporate Sector, Multilateral / Bilateral Agencies and Civil Society organisations, to improve and enhance their programme implementation and also undertaking initiatives to support, inform and influence policies.

The ACCESS mandate emanates from the analysis that the poor continue to teeter on the brink of subsistence due to lack of access to resources, services, information, finance and markets and composite models will deliver durable outcomes. The lack of social capital perpetuates their vulnerability. Several inventive and integrated models in livelihoods strengthening have been developed by ACCESS which have helped the poor to overcome these impediments. ACCESS seeks to promote “inclusive value chains” that help the primary producers to better negotiate the marketplace and enable greater accrual of benefits for themselves from the value chain. Currently ACCESS works in 10 states in India.



Vaya Finserv Private Limited

Vaya Finserv Private Limited is a new-generation Microfinance Institution led by experienced management with strong capital backing that offers financial services to aspiring women entrepreneurs in rural areas to support their businesses and power their aspirations. Vaya was established in the year 2014 by a team of seasoned microfinance professionals. As on 30th June 2019, the Company is spread across 239 branches from 89 districts and catering to around 6,10,000 borrowers. The gross loan portfolio as of the same period was ₹ 1,080 crore including ₹ 448 crore of own portfolio.



Dedicated to Late Sitaram Rao, mentor and guru of Indian microfinance and livelihoods movement, the Case Study Competition aims at bringing together the collective intellect of the sector and assimilating innovative solutions, breakthroughs, good experiences and best practices that help in learning from diverse sector experience and impact poverty reduction. The Competition was instituted as a pioneering initiative by ACCESS in 2009 to identify and collate models and practices that have significantly contributed to livelihoods promotion of the poor in India.

The theme for Sitaram Rao Livelihoods India Case Study Competition 2019 was **Technology Solutions for Agricultural Advancement**. The Compendium covers cases from across the country that provide evidence of technology solutions that are impacting farmers to strengthen their livelihoods, participate more effectively in value chains and earn incremental incomes.