

TRENDS AND ISSUES IN MICROFINANCE INFORMAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 25TH October, 2004 AT FAIRWAY HOTEL

The theme of this quarter's Information Exchange meeting was "**New Frontiers in Training**". The meeting was attended by 60 participants. Mr. Christopher Musoke, Deputy Manager, DFID Financial Sector Deepening Uganda Project (FSDU), facilitated the meeting. Mr. Edward Masiga of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development represented the Chairman of the forum, Mr. Keith Muhakanizi, who was unable to attend the meeting due to other duties.

Two presentations were made.

Highlights:

1st Presentation: "BankSETA and the democratization of Training at Financial Institutions in South Africa"

By: Mr. Francis Zikusooka, Manager, Capacity Building Unit, MOP and Ms Regina Kamuhanda, Private Sector Team Leader, SNV

Mr. Zikusooka made a presentation on the structure and system of funding training in the South African Financial Sector. Further details can be obtained from the attached presentation file in .pdf

Questions and Comments

Q. How does the skill levy tax work? To what extent is it a subsidy and will it ever end?
How is the levy distributed?

FZ The levy is an ongoing contribution. It is a percentage of the total gross payroll. 20% of the contribution goes to the administration costs of BankSETA. The Financial institutions submit annual training plans on which the distribution of the levy is based.

2nd Presentation: "Getting the market led message across. A presentation of the market led CD"

By: Mr. David Cracknell, Manager, Action Research Programme, MicroSave

Mr. Cracknell described MicroSave's work and then screened the market-led solutions Video Compact Disk. The VCD presents MicroSave's papers, briefing notes and toolkits. These are also available on MicroSave's web site www.MicroSave.org

Questions and Comments

Q. Who are MicroSave's competitors?

DC There are no direct competitors providing all the MicroSave services but the following provide some of the services; Shore Bank, ACCION, and World Women's Banking.

Q. What size of institutions use the research facilities as qualitative research can be expensive.

DC MicroSave works with Action Research Partners which tend to be mature institutions. Current ARPs from Uganda are, U-MU, U-Trust and CMF.

Q. Has MicroSave carried out research on the effectiveness of their products?

DC MicroSave has regular meetings with its ARPs and ties their needs to the resources available. An external review of the project has been carried out.

Q. There should be more ARPs?

DC Admission to ARP status is through response to a Request for Proposal.

The meeting was formally closed by Mr. Lance Kashugyera of the Microfinance Outreach Plan who informed the meeting that the training of about 50 FEWs had started. The participants proceeded to a cocktail.

Brief from the “Microfinance Pin Board”

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The next Trends and Issues in Microfinance – Informal Information Exchange meeting will take place on **Monday 31st January 2005 at 2.30 pm**. The organizers wish to satisfy the desires of the microfinance community for information and therefore invite suggestions for the theme. People with ideas for future presentations should communicate them to SUFFICE (hmutabazi@suffice.or.ug) or to FSDU (chris@fsdu.or.ug). FSDU invites other institutions that would like to sponsor the Trends and Issues meetings to contact us.

Best Regards



Christopher Musoke
DFID/FSDU Project