Indian Micro Enterprise Development Foundation (IMEDF) conducted a 14–day virtual training programme from 09 – 21 August 2021, on the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). The training was given to faculty members from various engineering colleges and Institutes from different parts of Odisha. The course module was prepared and conducted keeping in mind the different academic and professional backgrounds of the faculty members through live zoom sessions and hosted on Universal Technical System (UTS) learning platform.

The objective of the course was to train the participants in identifying and presenting a project proposal through an understanding of SFURTI scheme, develop in-depth understanding of project management and challenges prevalent in their communities, and further understand resource management for building a project with technological and social innovations. For the second edition, engineering colleges and technical institutes were chosen as they possess a fair understanding of technologies that can be utilised in clusters to enhance processes and productivity, if they represent themselves as Technical Agencies to SFURTI clusters or even be interested in working for cluster development as technical consultants. This also would enhance their community perspective and develop an understanding of project management and resolve challenges faced in rural development.
The module is divided into 4 capsules to ensure smooth covering and delivery of each topic. The pedagogy used for the training was a mix of (i) lecture (ii) group discussion and presentation by participants (iii) audio-visuals (iv) Case-studies (v) doubt clearing sessions and feedback (vi) assimilation, all of which was available on UTS learning platform in online and offline (downloadable) versions. Feedback was uploaded by students at the end of each Capsule and they were tasked to write a concept note for a project and develop a detailed project report during capsule four.

At the end of the training course, IMEDF graded all the participants and received 12 concept notes and 8 detailed project reports (DPRs) written and presented individually by participants based on their experiences and research on clusters that can be formed in their region. These DPRs and concept notes were prepared on diverse sectors like Agro-based cluster (food processing, coconut oil and coconut powder, coconut shell bricks, cashew nuts, pumpkin etc.), Handloom (woolen yarn knitting, Odisha bamboo crafts etc.)

The first edition of SFURTI module training programme was successfully completed under the guidance of AICTE in April-May.

IMEDF is committed towards generating maximum impact and awareness about the SFURTI scheme by floating this course among more educational institutes in the coming months, and pitch the module to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the training of Implementation agencies (IAs) and Technical Agencies (TAs).