

Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

Published: April 19, 2007 00:00 IST | Updated: April 29, 2011 10:19 IST

FICCI Ladies Organisation's annual awards presented



OUTSTANDING WOMEN: Agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan with the FICCI Ladies Organisation's annual awardees. Designer Sujata Keshavan (second from left), entrepreneur Ratna Chibber (second from right), social activist Bhooma Parthasarathy (right) and FLO chairperson K. Shobhana P.V. Reddy (left) are in the picture. Photo: V. Ganesan

Staff Reporter

Anyone can organise self-help groups, but sustaining them is not easy: M.S. Swaminathan

CHENNAI: The self-help group movement is enjoying well-deserved praise for its role in women's empowerment, but the real challenge still lies ahead, according to agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan. "Anyone can organise self-help groups, but to sustain them is not easy," he said.

Presenting the FICCI Ladies Organisation's annual awards in Chennai on Wednesday, Prof. Swaminathan was echoing the concerns expressed by one of the award winners -- Bhooma Parthasarathy, the driving force behind the Surabhi Trust, which supports self-help groups in Tamil Nadu's villages.

"It's not a magic wand that's going to drive rural poverty away. The SHG movement is still in its infancy," she said, pointing out that it's a five-year journey from survival to empowerment for most SHGs.

"The real challenge lies in how the programme is redesigned after that, to serve women who have been empowered," she said.

Prof. Swaminathan said a village resource centre to train and mentor SHGs could be part of the solution.

"We must multiply [the number of SHGs], because time is not in our favour," he cautioned.

The Surabhi Trust was honoured as the year's Outstanding Social Welfare Organisation for Women for helping 3000 women in 1300 groups to create micro-enterprises worth Rs. 12 crore.

The Outstanding Women Entrepreneur award went to Ratna Chibber, whose company not only produces and exports industrial pigments, but also employs and rehabilitates mentally ill people. Designer Sujata Keshavan was given the Outstanding Women Professional award for enabling Indian industry to create vibrant brands which can compete on the global stage.

Printable version | Nov 18, 2013 12:08:03 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/ficci-ladies-organisations-annual-awards-presented/article1830450.ece>

© The Hindu