

Yashwant Thorat

CEO, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development



Dr. Y.S.P. Thorat who retired as Chairman, NABARD in November 2007, is presently the Chief Executive Officer of the Rajiv Gandhi Trust and Member, Advisory Panel, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. He is Chairman, Working Group on Institutional Finance, Risk Management and Cooperatives for the 12th Plan set up by the Planning Commission, Government of India. His other appointments include Member, Governing Board, NIBM; Member, Senate and Academic Council, Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Member, India Advisory Board, OCP; Member, Advisory Board, Indian Society of Agricultural Professionals; Director, TATA Chemicals Ltd, Khed Developers Ltd [Bharat Forge], Menon Pistons Ltd, etc. He is Strategic Advisor to MicroEnsure, an international NGO engaged in the provision of insurance services to the poor and the GTZ which is the development funding arm of the German Government in India.

He holds a degree in Political Science and Law and a doctorate in Economics. He has a Ph.D in Progress from the University of Reading, UK.

Dr Thorat started his career in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1972 and was appointed Executive Director in 2003. The appointments held by him while in RBI included Principal, BTC; Regional Director, New Delhi, Maharashtra and Goa, etc. While in service he was on the Boards of the Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab National Bank, Infrastructure Development and Finance Co, Export Import Bank of India, Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation of India, National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, Institute of Rural Development, Anand etc. In 2004, he was appointed by GOI as Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and elevated a year later as Chairman. After retirement he lectured for a year in Philosophy at the Foundation for Liberal and Management Education, FLAME, Pune, where he was Dean, School of Liberal Education.

Dr. Thorat has a wide experience in rural finance, agricultural indebtedness, cooperatives, microfinance and risk mitigation having chaired a number of national level committees including Group of Experts on Sugar Policy, Committee to Formulate a Comprehensive Human Resource Policy for RRBs [GoI], Expert Group on Investment Credit [RBI], Expert Group on Credit Deposit Ratio of Banks [GoI] etc.

He has been associated as Member of various International Committees like Advisory Committee for Microcredit Summit Campaign, Halifax, Banking Specialist, UN-FAO Mission to Ethiopia, Rural Banking Specialist UNOPS Mission to Maldives, Member Secretary, High Power Team to study Rural Financial Institutions in Indonesia, High Level Team to study Credit Agricole etc.

As a Visiting Lecturer, he regularly lectures at various Universities including University of Reading, UK, University of Manchester and University of Geneva. He has published various monographs and research paper during his carrier on a variety of subjects finance, agriculture and credit.