

National Innovation Foundation-India

.....working towards a creative, compassionate and collaborative India



The National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), set up by the Department of Science and Technology, building upon the Honey Bee philosophy¹, is a national initiative to serve the knowledge-rich, economically poor people of the country. It is committed to making India innovative by documenting, adding value, protecting the intellectual property rights of the contemporary unaided technological innovators, as well as of outstanding traditional knowledge holders and disseminating them on a commercial as well as non-commercial basis.

NIF is increasingly seen as a pivot of many national programs in promoting innovations in different sectors of economy and at various levels in society. Hon'ble President of India gives away the awards to the grassroots innovators during the National Biennial Presidential Grassroots Innovations and outstanding Traditional Knowledge award function. Since 2010, National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF) has been organizing an exhibition of grassroots innovation at President House to expose the Mughal garden visitors and others to the pervasive culture of creativity and innovation at grassroots. To leverage the uniquely frugal and empathetic model of innovations developed in India, NIF organized the first Festival of Innovations (FOIN) at the Rashtrapati Bhavan during March 7-13, 2015. As part of the FOIN, a number of activities were planned every day. NIF also organizes IGNITE, an annual national competition to harness the creative and innovative spirit of school children. Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India gave awards to creative children of the country every year since 2008 till 2014.

With major contribution from the Honey Bee Network, NIF has been able to build up a database of more than 2,11,600 technological ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices (not all unique, not all distinct) from over 575 districts of the country. NIF has till date recognized more than 775 grassroots innovators, communities and school students at the national level in its various award functions. Through the collaborations with various R&D and academic institutions, Agricultural and Veterinary Universities and others labs in public and private sector, NIF has helped in validating thousands of grassroots technologies and also adding value in them. It has also set up a Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab) with the help of MIT, Boston, for product development apart from strengthening in-house research and development facilities for the initial validation of herbal technologies. *Pro bono* arrangement with patent firms has helped NIF to file over 740 patents (including eight filed in USA and twenty seven PCT applications) on behalf of the innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge holders of which thirty nine patents have been granted in India and five in the USA. In addition applications for thirty seven farmers' developed plant varieties have been filed at the PPV&FR Authority. Micro Venture Innovation Fund (MVIF) set up at NIF with the support of SIDBI has provided risk capital to 193 projects, which are at different stages of incubation. NIF has received over six hundred product inquiries from around fifty-five countries for various technologies. It has succeeded in commercialising products across six continents. NIF has transferred 89 technologies to different licensees and setup a Joint Venture Company with BVG India Ltd. NIF has also set up 37 community workshops at innovators place throughout country

NIF has proved that Indian innovators can match and in some cases outperform anyone in the world when it comes to solving problems creatively, frugally and sustainably. The grassroots to Global (g2G) model that NIF is propagating is all set to change the way the world looks at the creativity and innovations at grassroots.

¹ The Honeybee cross-pollinates the flowers and the flowers don't complain, when it takes their nectar. Similarly, the Honey Bee Network strengthens people-to-people learning and networking by pooling the solutions developed by individuals across the world in different sectors and sharing them in local language. The network acknowledges the innovators, knowledge producers and communicators so that they do not remain anonymous. It also tries to ensure that a fair share of benefits arising from commercial exploitation of local knowledge and innovations reaches the innovators and knowledge providers.