

National Innovation Foundation-India

Building upon the Honey Bee network philosophy, the National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF), started functioning in March 2000 as India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.

Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators. NIF is committed to look for grassroots innovators who have developed technological innovations in any field of human survival without any outside help. NIF helps them get due reward for their innovations and ensure that such innovations diffuse widely through commercial and non-commercial channels generating incentives for them and others involved in the value chain.

The functions of NIF may broadly be described under the following six activities:

- Scouting and Documentation
- Value Addition, Research and Development
- Intellectual Property Rights Management
- Business Development and Micro Venture Innovation Fund Management
- Information Technology
- Dissemination

The entire effort of scouting and documentation leads to the development of a database of innovations and traditional knowledge aimed at building a National Register of green grassroots innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge. NIF organizes a Biennial National Competition for Grassroots Technological Innovations and outstanding Traditional Knowledge. It solicits entries of environment friendly technological innovations attempted by grassroots innovators or communities and/or local knowledge experts. This competition shows promise as an effective tool to enable NIF spur the creative and entrepreneurial spirit in the country. A separate competition "IGNITE" is also being organized by NIF annually to encourage the ideas and creativities of the school children. The National Register so formed will help to form cross-regional and cross-sectoral learning networks. The Research and Development is a key focus of NIF, where it engages top R&D institutions, laboratories and universities, thereby providing a platform for the synergy between formal and informal science and technology, institutions and knowledge system.

NIF has succeeded in disseminating technologies commercially and socially across countries in six continents apart from being successful in materialising a good number of technologies licensing with the help of partner agencies.

NIF has proved that Indian innovators can match anyone in the world when it comes to solving problems creatively, where they perform better than rest is in generating greater sustainable alternatives by using local resources frugally.

Contact

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