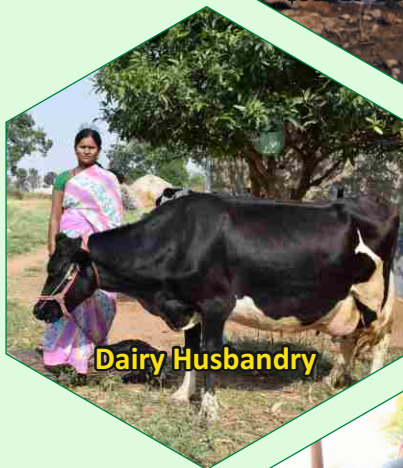


THE BAIF JOURNAL

Vol. 46

October - December 2021



Driving forces for doubling farmers' income

The BAIF Journal

A quarterly Journal of
BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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Cover Page Design:

Doubling Farmers' Income



BAIF has adopted a strategy of ensuring attractive returns to farmers engaged in sustainable agriculture and mixed farming through promotion of various farmer-

friendly technologies which can reverse their income status and ensure food security as well as a sustainable livelihood.

Edited and Published by:

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Our Aspirations

New partnerships

Non-farming communities

Family-friendly renewable energy

Women-centric livelihoods

In the 55th year of its journey in rural development, BAIF has several aspirations which it plans to translate into viable action. One such aspiration is to develop new partnerships for scaling up climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. The consistent support received from its present partners has provided a very strong base for the organisation to focus on consolidation plans while adopting a global perspective and mission. The second aspiration is thrust on women-centric livelihoods, as BAIF believes that supporting and encouraging leadership qualities among women and ensuring the emergence of women champions in various spheres of rural development can alone empower the family as well as the local community. The third aspiration is promotion of family-friendly renewable energy initiatives in rural areas which can transform the drudgery-ridden lives of rural families while providing environmental security and stability. Our Natural

Resources Management Programme with its integrated components - Land Degradation Neutrality, Water Use Efficiency, Renewable Energy and pro-Soil Health approach, is already making an effort to swing the state of degradation of the natural resources and ensure carbon-positive development. The fourth aspiration is to reach out to non-farming communities and bring them under the universal support chain of BAIF.

The above aspirations can be fulfilled only with the support of team BAIF who have been duly mentored to continue their effort in impacting the lives of the rural poor families.

This issue articulates various initiatives promoted by BAIF to double the income of farmers across 12 states, women-centric development and regional news and events. The pandemic did not deter our enthusiasm. It only rekindled our mission of rural prosperity and passion for sustainable development.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Bharat K. Kakade



Bharat Kakade

President and Managing Trustee of BAIF

Mr. Bharat Kakade, assumed the responsibility of President and Managing Trustee of BAIF on April 1, 2021. He joined BAIF in 1992 and served as the Executive Vice President from 2017 till March 31, 2021. He took charge from Mr. Girish Sohani who attained superannuation and is continuing his association with BAIF as Principal Adviser and Trustee.

Mr. Kakade, a gold medallist in post graduate engineering and with management credentials, is a LEAD Fellow and Ph.D. Scholar of IIT Bombay. He has developed several region-specific innovative approaches in Natural Resources Management, Climate Change Adaptation, Rural Livelihoods and Sustainable Development which have brought credibility to the organisation. He has been intensely engaged in building a cadre of development practitioners and field functionaries while translating his experience into effective training and extension tools and policy papers in the Water Sector. He carries with him a blend of hands-on experience in development management and national and international policy environment for sustainable development.

Mentoring – Stepping up the future of BAIF

BAIF's Central HRD, with its constant endeavour to expand the knowledge base of the staff by nurturing them at various stages of their career, is fully aware of the importance of mentoring at the workplace for professional development of the staff who have demonstrated potential for self-growth. They also cherish a desire to obtain fulfilment and satisfaction from their work.

As a part of the Succession Planning at the organisational level, a well-structured Mentorship Programme - 'STEP-UP' has been formally launched in October 2021 for all professionals. This cadre includes senior and experienced members from the Management team who are well trained for the Mentorship Programme, with a well-defined framework for the entire programme.

We look forward to developing and grooming our front lines of succession in the organisation who will be ready to assume senior roles and responsibilities and take the organisation to greater heights.





Mr. Hasmukh Shah

Chairperson, Executive Committee of BAIF Trustees

Mr. Hasmukh Shah, eminent Trustee of BAIF passed away on December 3, 2021 at the age of 89. Mr. Hasmukh Shah had been serving on the Board of BAIF Trustees since 1987 and as Chairperson of the Executive Committee of BAIF Trustees since 2012. He was a pillar of support to BAIF and played a very important role in the development of BAIF throughout his tenure. Mr. Hasmukh Shah also served as the Chairman of the Associate Organisation of BAIF in Gujarat – Gujarat Rural Institute for Socio-Economic Reconstruction, Vadodara (GRISERV) from October 25, 1985 till December 3, 2021. BAIF and its Associate Organisations across 12 states, deeply condole the demise of Mr. Hasmukh Shah whose valuable experience and rich background in every sphere of development, enriched BAIF's vision and growth.



Shri. Hasmukh Shah (centre) with Shri. Moghabhai Desai (L) and Shri. Manubhai Patel (R), then Trustees of GRISERV.

L to R: Shri. Hasmukh Shah, Shri. J. L. Bajaj, Shri. Sohani, Dr. Mushtaque, Shri. Rawal, Dr. Hegde and Shri. B. G. Deshmukh on the Foundation Day of BAIF in 2003.





Support for Marginal and Small Farmers for Doubling their Income



As agriculture is the main source of livelihood for a majority of the rural population, dominated by small and marginal farmers, food security of the nation cannot be solved unless small farmers are empowered to enhance their farm income. Therefore, the national goal of Doubling the Farm Income should be inclusive of small and marginal farmers.

It is necessary to address local specific problems encountered in different sectors. Some of the specific issues which need to be addressed on priority are given below.

Problems of Small Land Holdings:

Although the average size of land holdings of 24.5 million small farmers and 92.35 million marginal farmers are 1.42 ha and 0.38 ha respectively, these lands are further fragmented into several pieces, subjected to heavy soil erosion and neglect due to non-viable scale of

operation and lack of mobility and cooperation of neighbouring farmers to carry out various field operations. As it is difficult for these farmers to carry out all the field operations manually and on time, many farmers often keep the land fallow, without leasing it to other farmers, due to the fear of losing their ownership.

A suitable policy to encourage small farmers and absentee land owners to lease their land, can help to pool several small plots by progressive farmers or producer companies, under the contract



farming agreement. This can help to introduce mechanisation and high value crops without any risk of failure. Small farmers unable to sustain their livelihood on their land, can engage in other activities, while earning an assured income from land lease. Increased scale of operation can reduce the cost of agricultural production and marketing while realising higher price for the produce.

Soil Productivity and Nutrition Management:

Soil erosion is a major problem across the country particularly in rain fed areas. Significant quantity of organic carbon is lost every year, which is essential for maintaining water holding capacity and for improving the productivity. Therefore, farmers should be supported to take up land development activities such as contour bunding, land levelling and shaping, establishment of trees on field bunds as shelter breaks and soil erosion control barriers, particularly under the watersheds and unirrigated areas. Ongoing schemes such as MNREGA and Climate resilience agricultural projects can also be extended to support these activities. Farmers should be encouraged to increase the production of organic manure by providing incentives for production of farm yard manure, particularly by using

biogas slurry, NADEP compost, Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM), green manure and biofertilizers. Biodegradable urban wastes and garbage can be another source of organic manure. The Government should come forward with attractive schemes and incentives for production of organic manure from garbage and other wastes. There is scope for promoting micro-enterprises in peri-urban areas, if model units are developed by designing suitable protocols. To monitor the soil health, decentralised soil testing laboratories, established in the recent past, can help to prepare a nutritional deficiency map of the country.

Water Resources Development and Utilisation:

Water is a major constraint for agricultural production and India has almost reached the stage of water stress, inspite of fairly good average annual rainfall of 1170 mm. This is mainly due to our inability to make best use of the rain water, as well as the stored surface and



ground water for agricultural production. Watershed development is the most efficient method to harness the rain water, which also needs to be supported with a precise plan to address local problems. Support should also be given for deepening of ponds and water bodies constructed earlier as a source of water for irrigation, construction of percolation tanks, farm ponds and water storage tanks lined with suitable plastic sheet for critical use.

To prevent wastage of irrigation water, all the water canals should be lined with plastic or cement till it is possible to transport water through pipe lines, preferably by using plastic pipes which are faster, safer and cheaper. The time is now ripe to ban flood irrigation and the best way to provide a better alternative to it is in the form of micro-irrigation. Small farmers should also be supported for installing solar pumps of 3–5 HP capacity, instead of giving free power supply, to make efficient use of the available water. This will be a progressive step to make best use of water.

Selection of Suitable Cropping Systems and Crops: There is a need to guide small and marginal farmers to adopt suitable cropping systems and to cultivate suitable crops and varieties. Greater emphasis should be laid on mixed farming, where farmers can maintain a small herd of livestock and cultivate suitable crops such

as organic vegetables and fruits or cash crops and food crops which also have high fodder yield. The advantages of mixed farming is to make best use of even the worst land for fodder production and to make efficient use of manure for growing high value crops at least cost. Tree based farming system is another important system which is less prone to the hazards of climate change. Farmers in different regions have demonstrated the feasibility of earning Rs. 1.5 to 2.0 lakh net income per acre through vegetables and fruit production, inspite of inefficient market chain. Promotion of climate resilient short duration crops, preferably pulses, oilseeds and millets should be undertaken through awareness about the importance and profitability, while local farmers' organisations should be supported to take up seed production and marketing of these varieties. Farmers organisations should be supported to build village level collection, grading and storage facilities to ensure successful marketing of the produce.

Supply of Farm Inputs and Services: Most of the small farmers suffer due to non-availability of good quality inputs at an appropriate time. They suffer due to poor quality and high cost, as well as lack of finance to buy across the counter. Supply of farm inputs through farmers' organisations with a provision for loan can be a great help to increase the production at lower cost. Procurement of

suitable farm machinery and implement are essential in the absence of bullock power. However, this involves heavy capital investment, which is beyond the means of small farmers. Hence, it is necessary to develop light machinery like efficient power tillers and tractors of very low power, which can also be used for post-harvest operations and transportation. There is good scope for promoting custom hiring services of farm equipment and service providers for carrying out various field operations, including maintaining drip irrigation installation, plant protection, harvesting and threshing.

Livestock Development: Over 125 million families, comprising of most of the small and marginal farmers in the country have been owning livestock, but their productivity, particularly of cattle has been very low. This is because over 50 per cent cattle are low yielding nondescript animals, although there are several good quality native breeds of cattle and buffaloes. Hence, incentive should be provided for conserving elite milch breeds while the progeny of nondescript cattle must be improved by upgrading with native breeds and cross breeding. To reduce the population of unwanted male population, it is now possible to produce only female calves by using sexually sorted semen. This technology assures the birth of 90 per cent female calves. The

Government should consider subsidising the cost of sexed semen through the semen production laboratory to enable them to supply at a low price. Animal Husbandry should be included in the priority sector for lending soft loans and financial support. Attractive Animal Insurance Schemes should be introduced for landless and small farmers.

Conclusion

Finally, the success of Indian Agriculture lies in organising small farmers to make best use of their land resources to increase food production. They should be a part of the value chain for forward and backward integration. This can be achieved through a Cooperative or preferably through a Farmers' Producer Company. Special efforts are needed to motivate small farmers through hand holding at every step to grow suitable crops, having good demand. Choice of technologies, procurement of inputs at competitive price, timely crop husbandry operations through labour efficient tools and collective marketing, can help them to maximise their profits. 🍀

Compiled by Sucharita Dhar





Farmer Producer Organisations: *Key to Rural Prosperity*



The Government has pitched in for doubling the income of farmers – a move which has been hailed by agriculture experts as well as farmers as the effort centres around farmers' welfare. This envisaged goal requires a robust farm-centric approach and strategy that will not only foster rural economic growth but also pave the way for a self-reliant farming sector.

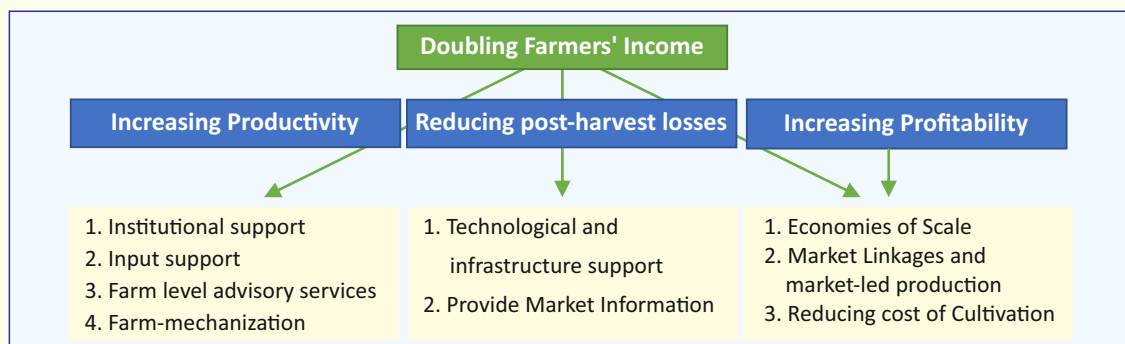
Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) is one such driving force which can provide a flourishing ecosystem to the farmers especially those who belong to the small and marginal category as it can enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale through aggregation and consolidation.

The Farmer Producer Company is a farmer-owned and farmer-governed enterprise which acts as a hybrid between cooperative societies and private companies by adopting all the

good principles of the cooperative model and efficient business practices of private companies. The FPOs can organise primary producers to generate economies of scale operations on input procurement and improve their bargaining strength by pooling their produce together and linking them to the market. They can not only protect farmers by absorbing the vagaries of nature and market risks but also boost farm income by empowering the farmers.

The ambitious goal of doubling farmers' income can be realized through FPO by executing a three-pronged strategy namely increasing productivity, reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing the overall profitability.

Increasing productivity: Various variables are involved in the productivity of agricultural commodities such as location, weather, soil and management practices. By collaborating with FPOs,



farmers can access curated advisories on improved agricultural practices, proven management practices and information on risk-mitigation measures. Farm mechanisation is yet another vital component of agriculture that can be promoted and facilitated by FPOs for boosting the agricultural productivity, reducing farm drudgery and improving the overall quality of farm produce.

Reducing Post-harvest Losses: At individual level, it is a formidable task to mitigate the risk of post-harvest losses as it requires infrastructure for cleaning, sorting, packing, storing and processing facilities. FPOs can provide access to these infrastructure at a nominal cost. The FPOs can also disseminate credible market information to their members which will enable them to take a uniform decision before selling their produce.

Increasing Profitability: FPOs capitalise on the economies of scale by aggregating the demand for inputs of their members and thus buying at a relatively cheaper price compared to individual purchases. FPO also acts as a benevolent intermediary between volatile market and vulnerable farmers by safeguarding them from price fluctuations and facilitating the marketing of value-added products at a higher price. It facilitates building an efficient communication network between farmers, processors, retailers and traders which can make business services easily accessible to its


members and enable them to take suitable decisions.

This three-pronged approach is also aligned with the seven-point strategy of the Government to double farmers' income, particularly reduction of post-harvest losses through investments in cold chains and warehouses, value addition through processing, provision of quality inputs and promotion of allied activities.

BAIF's Approach:

Consistent with BAIF's mission of creating opportunities for gainful self-employment for the rural families especially disadvantaged sections of the society, emphasis has been laid on formation, handholding support and nurturing of farmers' organisations through FPOs across the country based on the following objectives:

- a. Formation and strengthening of FPOs and identifying major commodities for value addition, with focus on disadvantaged sections of the society.
- b. Funding: Establishing linkages with Government schemes to mobilise adequate working-capital.
- c. Capacity building for adoption of best practices and sustainability.

Thus, FPOs can play an important role in the economic development of farmers and in building the nation. 

BAIF Team

A Dream come True

To improve the income and quality of life of families in the tribal belt of South Gujarat, 125 families in Kaprada block of Valsad district of Gujarat were identified for the dairy development programme with special focus on women, through the induction of crossbred cattle and critical inputs such as mineral supplements, deworming, vaccination and insurance coverage. To enhance their capacities, the women were trained in various aspects of dairy development. 420 Sex-Sorted Semen Artificial Inseminations were undertaken and calf rearing programme support provided for 48 female calves.

The impact of the “Godaan Project” had to be seen to be believed. The average monthly milk procurement by 121 families recorded 22946 litres and the average monthly income Rs. 6.32 lakhs with an average milk yield of Rs. 28/ litre from November 2019 to October 2021. The average monthly income per participant increased from Rs. 2070 to Rs. 5255 during this period. 95 Gir calves were reported to be born out of sexed semen technology of which, 87 calves (91.5%) were female calves. This programme has given the tribal families a better deal in life, food security and happiness.

Sandip Yadav



Success with Banana Crop

Dhirendrabhai Desai is a progressive farmer from Panetha village in Bharuch district of Gujarat and a beneficiary of the “Krishi Vigyan Kendra” (KVK) at Chaswad. Earlier, he used to cultivate banana crop using traditional methods of cultivation which used to yield one harvest only. However, after hearing about the successful experience of other farmers engaged in banana cultivation using innovative technologies and based on the advise of KVK scientists, he adopted innovative technologies such as Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), drip irrigation and tissue culture. He is the only farmer in the country to obtain three harvests of banana in 26 months. The gross income per ha from three harvests was Rs. 19.12 lakhs while the cost was Rs. 2.50 lakhs. A net income of Rs. 16.70 lakhs was generated per ha in 26 months with an assured net income of Rs. 5.56 lakhs per year.

The demand for his produce has travelled to the Middle East. He has also established a banana chips manufacturing unit at his village which is generating employment for unemployed youth. There are a lot of areas like Panetha village where water is available in surplus. Hence, banana can be cultivated as a profitable crop in water surplus areas.



He was awarded the "Indian Fellow and Innovative Farmer" Award by Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India at the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela organised in February 2021 in New Delhi. He was also awarded the National Award for Innovations and Technology Development by Farmers in July 2021.

Dhirendrabhai is a model farmer who has motivated many farmers. So far, more than 1000 famers from not only Bharuch district but also from all over the country, have adopted hi-tech banana cultivation. His humility however remains intact and he attributes his success to God who he feels has been kind to him.

Mahendra Patel, KVK Chaswad



AI Technician shortlisted for Gopal Ratna Award

Anil Mishra, an AI Technician from Balangir, Odisha, has been shortlisted for the “Gopal Ratna Award” in the “Best AI Technician” category by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India. Field verification by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on November 3, was facilitated by BISLD Odisha District Officer, Shri. Vivek Singh. Anil, an Arts graduate, used to work as a teacher in Balangir district. To supplement his meagre income of Rs. 1500/- per month, he used to work part-time in two milk societies in his village. With only 2 acres of land jointly held by the family, the family could only engage in subsistence farming. Realising the need to change the course of his life and heeding the advice of the local veterinarian, he began his association with BAIF as a Self Employed Youth in 2011. After undergoing training in Dairy



Cattle Management, he assumed the responsibility of the Chandanbhati Cattle Development Centre in Balangir district. He is performing 240 AIs on an average per month in a district which is not a milk-shed area. Additionally, he is also helping dairy farmers to gain access to fodder and other supplements and preventive vaccines. He himself has been cultivating and promoting BAIF's BNH – 10 fodder variety. With the cattle breeding services provided by him and with his hard work, he is earning more than Rs. 15,000/- per month. The respect commanded by him from the community is invaluable. He has been able to win their trust and affection while empowering them with enhanced income.

Odisha Team



Foundation Day of BAIF Celebrated

August 24, 2021

“Addressing issues related to adverse impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, focussing on innovative and advanced technologies for well-being of the people and environment, creating leadership among women to ensure emergence of champion women farmers, reaching out to non-farming communities and carbon positive development, are the key strategic directions of BAIF”, stated Mr. Bharat Kakade, President and Managing Trustee at the 55th Foundation Day of BAIF. “BAIF's target is to reach out to 1.0 crore socio-economically disadvantaged families in the next five years”, he added. While the organisation has made remarkable achievements over the last five decades, the inherent capacity of the



organisation is its 6000 plus employees. He appreciated the dedication of the field team who had worked tirelessly in the field during the pandemic period. He further added that “Anna, Akshar, Arogya and Aacharan”- the pillars of development practiced by Shri. Arvindbhai Mafatlal, former Chairman of BAIF and adopted by BAIF in its mission of rural development and Gandhian engineering, are the heritage of BAIF. He quoted the Founder of BAIF “if you educate women, the entire family

BAIF Annual Report 2020-21





Agroecology Approach to Sustainable Farming

gets educated and developed” and emphasised on human nutrition which he stated had to be integrated with the conventional programmes. “Enriching the core programme by superimposing with application of new age science and technology, animal and plant genetics, incorporating agro-biodiversity, farm mechanisations and aspiring to be the leaders in the entire development process, are some of the immediate goals”, he shared. “Gandhian values laid down by the Founder, transparency, human and environmental well-being, sustainability, institution building and livelihood of people, being rooted to the ground and appreciation of our participant families and of the support from Central and State Governments and departments, scientific institutions and corporate partners, are the guiding forces of BAIF, he concluded.

Awards were also announced for the ■ Best Cattle Development Centre In-charge (Mr. Rajkumar Maurya,

Chochakpur, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh), ■ Best Multi-Activity Centre In-charge (Mr. Thippani Suresh, Chigurumamidi, Karimnagar, Telangana, ■ Differently-abled AI technician (Mr. Sakhigopal Sahu, Uparbahal, Balangir, Odisha), ■ Best Agricultural Farmer (Ms. Yashoda Yadav, Kodaroti, Betul, Madhya Pradesh), ■ Best Dairy Farmer (Ms. Prema G.S., Brahmasandra Gollarahatti, Tumkur, Karnataka) and ■ Best Wadi Farmer (Mr. Shamlal Vaishnav, Chanderiya, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan). The “Dr. Manibhai Desai Gaurav Puraskar” for ■ Best SHG in BAIF Programmes was awarded to Jamuna Women's Group from Betul, MP, ■ Second Best Self Help Group was conferred on Urja Women's Group from Urulikanchan and the ■ Best SHG in Maharashtra to Mahalaxmi Matoshree Women's Group, Ahmednagar district.

The Guests of Honour were Mr. Vinod Kulkarni, CSR Head, The Tata Motors Ltd. and Mr. Santanu Ghoshal, Vice President, HR, Schaeffler India. Mr. Kulkarni



Research Highlights 2020

appreciated the partnership with BAIF which he felt was one of a collaborator rather than a sponsor and expressed his admiration for the innovative hub programme being implemented jointly for sustainable livelihood. Mr. Ghoshal too expressed his appreciation of BAIF as a natural partner and for the vast content knowledge and guide-like qualities of the BAIF team and the impact of social investment.

Mr. Kishor Chaukar, Trustee, BAIF acknowledged the contribution of the messengers of BAIF in the growth of the organisation. Mr. Sunil Lalbhai, Chairperson, Finance Committee and HR Committee of BAIF Trustees appealed to

the BAIF fraternity to work further on the “Five Minds of the Future” namely, disciplined mind, synthesising mind, creating mind, respectful mind and the ethical mind to achieve excellence.

Earlier, Dr. Ashok Pande, Group Vice President (Scientific Research and Livestock Development), BAIF, delivered the welcome address. Mr. Shrinivas Kulkarni, Group Vice President (Finance) and Mr. Sujit Gijare, Group Vice President (Human Resource and Administration), BAIF, also spoke on the occasion. The virtual event was attended by Mr. Girish Sohani, Principal Adviser and Trustee, BAIF and BAIF staff from 12 states. ♣

Other Publications Released

- Kaleidoscope - Resource Guide: Journey of Capitalization Resource at Grassroots (2015-2020)
- Indigenous Crop Diversity - A Catalogue of Landraces and Establishment and Management of Community Seed Banks
- *Madhuca indica* (Mahua): A Candidate Tree Catalogue and Approaches and Guidelines for Agro-biodiversity Conservation and Revival.

CUSTODIANS OF DEVELOPMENT HONoured

Rahibai from Kombhalne tribal village, popularly known as “Seed Mother” and Godmother to more than 3500 women farmers, was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri. Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on November 8,

2021. Featuring among BBC's 100 influential women trailblazers from more than 60 countries and in an award winning documentary at the Cannes Film Festival, recipient of *Nari Shakti Puraskar*, *National Social Innovation Award* and *Vasantrao Naik Puraskar*, this familiar face on national and regional television





National Plant Genome Saviour Community Award

networks, has pioneered a movement to preserve traditional seeds while giving a boost to agriculture within the tribal community. She is also an active member of a community seed bank and seed saver group - 'Kalsubai Parisar Biyane Sanvardhan Samajik Sanstha'. This community seed bank was awarded the 2021 National Plant Genome Saviour Community Award by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India on November 11, 2021 in New Delhi.

Mamta Bhangare from Devgaon village, who considers herself as a woman farmer, has conserved 69 landraces of paddy, beans and local vegetables and has won acclaim for her conservation and cultivation techniques

of wild vegetables while relying on organic farming and innovative vermi briquettes. She received the National Genome Saviour Farmer Award from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India on November 11, 2021 in New Delhi.

The award winning team also visited the National Gene Bank in New Delhi and interacted with Dr. Ashok Kumar, Director (Acting), NBPGR and other scientists on November 10, 2021. ♣



National Genome Saviour Farmer Award



Agrobiodiversity Exhibition by BAIF

Visit of Mr. Hrishikesh Mafatlal, Chairperson, BAIF to Agrobiodiversity Programme

Mr. Hrishikesh A. Mafatlal, Chairperson, BAIF and Chairman, Sri. Chaitanya Seva Trust, Mumbai, Shri. Gaurang Prabhuji, Director, Govardhan Eco Village, Galtare, Palghar and Shri. Sanatkumar Prabhuji, Trustee, Sri. Chaitanya Seva Trust and Trustee, Govardhan Eco Village, visited the BAIF-ISKCON “Seed for Life” Agrobiodiversity Programme covering indigenous crop cultivar diversity conservation and promotion and livelihood opportunities for tribal communities in Vanganpada, Chinchpada, Mohkhruh, Uthavli and Vasuri villages in Jawhar, Vikaramgad and Wada blocks of Palghar district on October 20, 2021. The dignitaries interacted with farmers in Vasuri village about promotion of indigenous varieties of rice and also visited the seed diversity exhibition and seed plots and rice diversity centre at Vanganpada village, tuber crop diversity conservation and promotion centre at Moha Khurd village and millet diversity centre at Chinchpada. They were accompanied by Mr. Sudhir Wagle, Chief Programme Executive and Mr. Sanjay Patil, Senior Thematic Programme Executive and Programme Coordinator, BAIF Agrobiodiversity Programme, Maharashtra. 🌿



REGIONAL NEWS

Odisha

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrated

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to commemorate the 75th year of Indian independence was celebrated by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Sambalpur under its Comprehensive Community Development Programme being implemented in 40 villages in 4 districts. The first event was organised for local land resource optimisation through Agri-Horti-Forestry (Wadi) model and enlisted the participation of 150 farmers. The other event graced by MCL and BAIF officials, Block Agriculture Officer, Jujumura and village level agricultural workers, focused on generation of awareness among 280 farmers on livelihoods, nutrition, agroforestry and dairy farming with sharing of experiences by successful farmers.

A *Kisan Mela* organised on 10th April in Sambalpur cluster had historical significance for the farming community as it was on this day that the first Civil Disobedience Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi at Champaran in Bihar. Thus, the event created



awareness and goodwill among farmers and non-participant farmers in the villages.

Mr. Arabind Sahu, Assistant Manager, CSR, MCL stated that this event was an opportunity to celebrate our independence and recognise the efforts of our freedom fighters as well as encourage participant farmers to make productive use of barren land.



Uttarakhand

Habitats and Ecosystems Restoration

Van Panchayat lands in the North Western Himalayan region have been developed into community silvipastures through a participatory approach. A nursery of 50,000 fodder plants has also been established by two silvipasture groups of women in Champawat district.



A short film titled "*Van Panchayat - The Forest Commons of Himalayas*" <https://lnkd.in/enqAA7iX> won the first prize at the World Commons Week 2021 video contest. The film highlights forest management measures adopted by the local communities of this hilly region through the traditional system of Van Panchayats with special focus on the restoration efforts of a group of women at Mannar, Champawat, under the climate change adaptation project implemented with the support of NABARD and Adaptation Fund Board (AFB).



Maharashtra

Agrobiodiversity Showcased



Mr. Aaditya Thackeray, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, interacted with the Agrobiodiversity Programme team headed by Shri. Sanjay Patil, at the National Stock Exchange, Mumbai on October 18, 2021.



Integrated Tribal Development

Dr. Priti Adani, Chairperson, Adani Foundation, visited the project at Dahanu on November 15, 2021.

“The wadi project is really impactful, sustainable and life changing project to the beneficiaries. Remarkable work done by BAIF. Adani Foundation is happy to be associated with BAIF to implement the wadi project at Dahanu”.

MoU signed with MOIL

An MoU was signed between MOIL Foundation and BISLD Maharashtra for implementation of Phase II of the Comprehensive Development Programme in 22 villages of Nagpur, Balaghat and Bharveli districts on November 17, 2021.



On-farm Verification



Dr. T.K. Nagarthana, Registrar, PPV & FRA, Government of India and Dr. S.R. Gadakh, Director, Research, MPKV, Rahuri, accompanied by Dr. S.B. Gurav, former Deputy Registrar, PPV & FRA Branch Office, Pune and Dr. S.B. Choudhary, Deputy Registrar, PPV & FRA Branch Office, Pune, conducted an on-site verification of Kalsubai Community Seed Bank on October 12 and 13, 2021.

Farm based Livelihood Project inaugurated

A farm-based livelihood project in Dahanu, Palghar district, supported by ACG Care Foundation, was inaugurated on December 15, 2021 in the presence of Mr. Zahid Shukri, Plant Head, Mukta Dhavale, Head – ACG Care Foundation, C.M. Yadav, Head – Administration and Shubham Srivastav – Head - HR and 100 farmers. 600 families from 4 villages are being supported with wadi, vegetable cultivation, floriculture, capacity building of farmers and collective marketing. ♣



Uttar Pradesh

MoU signed with AHD

An MoU was signed between the Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh and BISLD Uttar Pradesh for Women Literacy Programme under Bundelkhand Package on October 25, 2021. ♣



Karnataka

Visit to ITC Project Areas

Shri. L. Prabhakar, Vice President, ITC Mission Sunehra Kal (MSK), Kolkata and Shri. Manjunath, Regional Manager, MSK, Bengaluru, visited G. Basavanahalli village of Hemmige cattle development centre, Bettadatunga village of Attigodu cattle development centre and Kottegala village of Thippalapura cattle development centre of Mysuru district under the integrated animal husbandry project on December 1, 2021. This project implemented with the support of ITC under MSK, covers 44,800 families from 456 villages through AI, fodder promotion, training and awareness, infertility camps, calf rallies, vaccination and deworming and convergence.



Integrated Livestock Development Project launched

Mr. Panchakshari S, COO, BSS Microfinance, launched the integrated livestock development project at Laxamipura village, Srirangpatna Taluka in Mandya district on November 15, 2021. The project provides door step breeding services, preventive health and improved fodder in more than 50 villages through 5 cattle breeding centres in Pandavpura and Srirangpatna talukas of the district.



Visit to Bilikere Watershed



Mr. Vikram Hebbar, General Manager, Human Resource and Industrial Relation, JK Tyre and Industries Limited, visited the project area on November 13, 2021. The project is being implemented in 7 villages in Hunsurtaluka of Mysuru district on PPP mode with the support of NABARD and JK Tyre with focus on mitigation of climate change through watershed development approach. ♣

Rajasthan

Visit to Tribal Development Fund Project

Mr. Jaideep Shrivastav, Chief General Manager, NABARD, visited the Tribal Development Fund Project at Reodar block in Sirohi district along with Mr. Jitendra Meena, District Development Manager, NABARD, Banswara, Dr. Hemraj Meena,



Horticulture Department, Dr. Prakash Gupta, ATMA and Dr. Mahendra Singh Chundawat from KVK on December 1, 2021. This project is being implemented since 2017 and covers 500 families from 12 villages in Sirohi district through interventions such as Agri–Horti–Forestry Development, Soil Conservation, Water Resources Development, Community Health, Women Development, Training and Capacity building. ♣

Gujarat

Best Presentation for KVK, Chaswad

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chaswad, received the Best Presentation Award during the Online Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa) held on August 4-6, 2021. The Annual Progress Report 2020 of KVK, Chaswad was presented by Mr. Mahendra Patel, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Chaswad, during the workshop. ♣



Madhya Pradesh

Awards for Wadi Project

BISLD Madhya Pradesh has been adjudged the Best Project Implementing Agency 2021 for successful implementation of the wadi programme in Satna district under the Tribal Development Fund.



BISLD Madhya Pradesh was awarded the second prize for "Good Performance in Wadi Project" on December 28, 2020 at an event organised by NABARD on the occasion of Farmers' Day. The Farmer Welfare and Agricultural Development Minister, Shri. Kamal Patel, Member of Parliament and CGM, NABARD, Mumbai, Mrs. T.S. Raji Gain had been present on this occasion. ♣

Tribute to the Departed

The past one year has created a pall of gloom in BAIF. The pandemic which struck the world in early 2020, snatched away many of our colleagues and employees, creating an irreparable void in the organisation. BAIF also lost some of its former employees - Dr. J.P. Sabe. Dr. A.S. Jape and Dr. G.B. Singh as well as the serving Finance Executive of BISLD Karnataka at Tiptur - Shri. M.K. Bhat due to the virus as well as other health conditions.

Inspite of the implications of this unknown virus, our courageous staff had continued working in the frontline and serving the organisation with enthusiasm and devotion till the end.

We pay our heartfelt tribute to them and pray for their eternal peace. We also pay our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and consider their loss as grave as ours.



Shri. Shivraj B. Karvande served BAIF for more than 41 years and retired as Senior Vice President. He passed away on November 21, 2020. Even after retirement, he served as Adviser and Secretary of the BAIF Trust and Trustee of the Nisargopachar Ashram at Urulikanchan.



Shri. Anoop Kumar Sinha, Vice President, Programmes and Regional Director – North, New Delhi passed away on May 1, 2021. He served BAIF for 36 years.



Shri. Ashok Ahire, Finance Executive, Nashik, Maharashtra, passed away on January 18, 2021. He served BAIF for 26 years.



Shri. Chamanbhai B. Chavda, Joint District Programme Officer, Chaswad, Bharuch, Gujarat, with specialisation in Rural Management, passed away on April 13, 2021. He served BAIF for 32 years.



Dr. Raibhan Dhanvijay, Associate Thematic Programme Executive, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, passed away on April 13, 2021. He served BAIF for 13 years.



Shri. Sushil K. Malviya, Finance Manager, BAIF Central Research Station, Urulikanchan passed away on April 17, 2021. He served BAIF for 12 years.



Shri. Nitin Rasal, District Programme Officer, Jawhar, Maharashtra passed away on April 22, 2021. A specialist in Agricultural Science, he served BAIF for two years.



Shri. Tej Singh, Senior Project Officer (Zonal In-Charge), Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh, with specialisation in Agricultural Science, passed away on April 25, 2021. He served BAIF for 35 years.



Shri. Dilipbhai B. Bhorsat, Watchman-cum-Office Assistant, Lachhakadi campus, Gujarat, passed away on April 27, 2021 after serving BAIF for three years.



Shri. Sandip Nighut, Senior Project Officer, Ghoti, Igatpuri, Maharashtra, passed away on April 30, 2021. A specialist in Agricultural Science, he served BAIF for three years.



Shri. Shakeel Ahmed, Senior Programme Operator (CI), Badgo Cattle Breeding Centre, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, passed away on April 30, 2021. He served BAIF for 13 years.



Shri. Vijay N. Tiwari, Senior Programme Operator (CI), Dosaukatha Cattle Breeding Centre, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, passed away on May 2, 2021. He served BAIF for 36 years.



Shri. H. A. Ravishankar, Senior Project Officer, Tiptur, Karnataka, passed away on May 6, 2021. A specialist in Information Technology, he served BAIF for 25 years.



Shri. Mahendrabhai B. Gavit, Senior Programme Operator, Samot, Narmada, Gujarat, passed away on May 6, 2021. A social science specialist, he served BAIF for 14 years.



Shri. Virendra K. Singh, Programme Associate (CI), Bhagaon Cattle Breeding Centre, Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, passed away on May 6, 2021. He served BAIF for 34 years.



Shri. Bhanwar Lal Kumawat, Additional Programme Coordinator, Ghatol, Banswara, Rajasthan, passed away on May 13, 2021. A specialist in sociology, he served BAIF for 30 years.



Shri. Ayubkhan Pathan, Joint Programme Coordinator, Jind, Haryana, passed away on May 22, 2021. A specialist in Animal Science, he served BAIF for 11 years.



Shri. Vijaysinh A. Chauhan, Project Officer, Dahej, Bharuch, Gujarat and a specialist in Rural Management, passed away on June 18, 2021. He served BAIF for 25 years.



Shri. Narsinh S. Vasava, Programme Operator, Pandvai Cattle Breeding Centre, Bharuch, Gujarat, passed away on July 23, 2021. He served BAIF for 10 years.

Our self-employed AI Technicians who have played a significant role in strengthening the cattle development programme through their committed efforts also lost their lives during this period.



Shri. Arvind Kumar, a former employee of BAIF, Uttar Pradesh, having joined as Centre In-Charge in 2011, was operating the cattle breeding centre at Ahad in Amethi district under the Self Employed Youth (SEY) programme since 2018. He passed away on April 22, 2021.



Mohd. Shamsheer Ansari, was on the payroll of BAIF Uttar Pradesh for 33 years. After his retirement on January 31, 2019, he was operating the cattle breeding centre at Krishna Nagar in Bahraich district under the Self Employed Youth (SEY) programme. He passed away on April 27, 2021.



Shri. Daya Shankar, was operating the cattle breeding centre at Kamtaganj in Sultanpur district under the Self Employed Youth (SEY) programme since 2017. He passed away on April 30, 2021.

To reach out to the families who have been bereft of financial security with the death of their loved ones, the BAIF Management in Uttar Pradesh has offered some support to them. Akash Tiwari, son of Late Vijay Nath Tiwari, is undergoing AI Training and on successful completion, he will be given the responsibility of operating a Cattle Breeding Centre. Mithlesh Kumari, wife of Late Arvind Kumar, who had the challenging task of bringing up three children as well as supporting elderly in-laws, has been provided some financial assistance and is managing a cosmetic store at Madhav Nagar Chauraha, Barabanki.

We wish them success with these ventures which have provided them a ray of hope in their otherwise suddenly darkened lives.

Agroecology Approach to Sustainable Farming

J. N. Daniel



The book highlights the importance of agroecology approaches to bring about sustainability in crop production through farming practices that are in harmony with nature. It provides information on various elements of agroecology-based farming practices and focusses on measures to safeguard the fragile agroecosystem. Concepts such as ecosystem services and sustainable intensification are explained and approaches for ensuring sustainable farm production while protecting precious natural resources are detailed.

Pages: 32



Felicitation of Women Conservationists



Padma Shri Rahibai Popere and National Genome Saviour Farmer Award recipient Mamta Bhangare from Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, were felicitated by BAIF on December 7, 2021 at its Head Office in Pune. It was the BAIF Agrobiodiversity team, who had discovered and nurtured their passion for conservation of indigenous seeds and wild vegetables.

Bharat Kakade, President and Managing Trustee, Girish Sohani, Principal Adviser and Trustee, Rajashree Joshi, Programme Director and Sanjay Patil, Senior Thematic Programme Executive, BAIF, lauded Rahibai and Mamta's knowledge awakening efforts and for linking science and technology to achieve the leap from Grassroot to Global and Research for Use.

