**Transition in BAIF Leadership**

Mr. Bharat K. Kakade, Executive Vice President, BAIF, has assumed the responsibility of President and Managing Trustee of BAIF with effect from April 1, 2021.   He has taken charge from Mr. Girish G. Sohani, who served as the President and Managing Trustee of BAIF from June 2009 till March 2021.  Mr. Sohani attained superannuation on March 31, 2021.

With a background in engineering and business management from prestigious academic institutes in the country, Mr. Sohani, joined BAIF in 1980. He has played a significant role in institution building, promotion of cutting edge technologies, new-age and clean energy initiatives, last-mile connectivity through digitalisation of development programmes and tribal rehabilitation. Recognising his outstanding contribution to agriculture, Mr. Sohani was honoured as “Commander in the Order of Agricultural Merit” by a decree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry, Republic of France.  Mr. Sohani will continue his association with BAIF as Trustee and Principal Adviser.

Bharat Kakade, a gold medallist in post graduate engineering and with management credentials, joined BAIF in 1992. He is a LEAD Fellow and Ph.D. Scholar of IIT Bombay. Bharat 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.