

MAKING INDIA INNOVATIVE THE GRASSROOTS INNOVATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL INNOVATION FOUNDATION

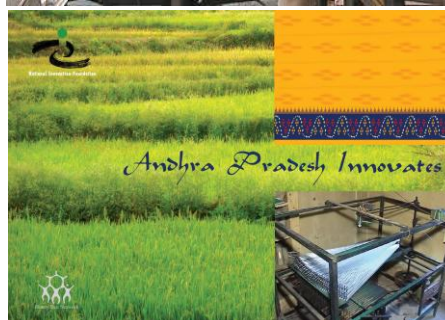
The [National Innovation Foundation](#) of India awarded the 38 winners of the National Competition of *Original Technological Ideas and Innovations of School Children* IGNITE. All Indian students up to the 12th class from any school, and of the same age group but out of school also, are eligible to participate. The IGNITE competition 2013, organized by NIF in association with the Central Board of Secondary Education, received 20,836 submissions of students from 301 districts of 33 states and territories of the country.

This competition is one of the significant initiatives realized by the National Innovation Foundation NIF, an autonomous institution operating under the Department of Science and Technology of India, to provide institutional support for scouting, spawning, sustaining and scaling up the grassroots innovations. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the [Honey Bee Network](#) and the [GIAN Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network](#) and [SRISTI Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions](#).

Set up in 2000 at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), the Foundation provides institutional and technical support to grassroots innovators and traditional knowledge holders. To identify the innovations, NIF organizes a biennial national competition for grassroots green technologies developed by farmers, mechanics, artisans and others persons. The [9th National Biennial Competition](#) for Green Grassroots Unaided Technological Innovations, Ideas & Outstanding Traditional Knowledge has been launched and the last date for submission of entries for the 9th biennial competition is March 31, 2015.

For the last twenty years the Honeybee Network and Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions SRISTI have been scouting innovations by farmers, artisans, women, at the grassroots level. In close collaboration with these partners, the Foundation is working to build a National Register of Innovations, ideas and Traditional Knowledge practices related to agriculture, plants, animal health, and human health. Twice a year, a journey of exploration is undertaken in remote regions in order to identify creative ideas. NIF participates in agricultural fairs, traditional food festival and exhibitions to scout for innovative solutions to address various problems and issues. The database includes more than 10,000 innovations.

The Register is diffused by the NIF, Honeybee Network and SRISTI websites. The catalogues presenting the innovations coming from the [different states of India](#) are available in the NIF website. [Each innovation is presented by a sheet](#). This information, used in India, could be of interest in other countries and at international level.



The National Innovation Foundation validates the innovations identified through the competitions and other initiatives with the help of experts, supports the authors to upscale the innovations and make them more useful for a larger segment of people. Research bodies, Centers of Excellence and higher educational institutions lend their hands to provide value addition and validation services.

NIF protects the Intellectual Property of the knowledge holder by helping the innovator draft and file patent applications and provides legal support to fight cases of IP infringement. To determine the feasibility of the commercializing of technology, NIF conducts market research and test marketing and license to willing entrepreneurs the technologies commercially viable. The Micro Venture Innovation Fund, sponsored by Small Industries Development Bank of India, supports the activities of prototype development, test marketing and pilot production.

NIF also provides in situ incubation of grassroots technologies at the place of innovator. All incubation facilities (financial and technical support, mentoring) are extended to the innovator at his place where he continues to work on his ideas/ innovations.

The [case study of the Multi-Purpose Processing Machine](#) published by GIAN, shows the set of activities that are developed to promote the use of the innovations identified in the National Register.

The system of science and technology implemented by NIF in India to provide institutional support for grassroots innovations is an example of great interest to other countries interested in promoting the heritage of knowledge and creativity of the population. The Foundation works closely with other organizations specialized in the field of innovation; it is recognized by the national system of science and technology and collaborates with other national structures that can financially support the innovators in inserting their technologies in the national market.

To know more

[National Innovation Foundation](#)

[Honey Bee Network](#)

[GIAN Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network](#)

[SRISTI Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions.](#)

[Winners of 2013 National Competition](#)

[Seventh National Award Book](#)

[Article in Out Look India](#)

[National Innovation Foundation in Wikipedia](#)

