

# THE GRASSROOTS INNOVATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED BY THE NATIONAL INNOVATION FOUNDATION IN INDIA

The [National Innovation Foundation NIF](#) of India continues to perform its important function to identify and enhance the grassroots green technologies developed in the country, providing institutional and technical support to grassroots innovators and traditional knowledge holders so that they can contribute to national development processes.

Set up in 2000, the National Innovation Foundation NIF is 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 implements a complex system of activities in collaboration with other organizations such as the [Honey Bee Network](#), with specialized institutes, with the world of industry, with national structures that provide technical and financial support to innovators, to promote the use of grassroot innovative technologies nationwide

To identify the innovations, NIF organizes a biennial national competition for grassroots green technologies developed by farmers, mechanics, artisans and other persons.

[The 59 winners of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Innovation Award](#) have been celebrated in March 2019 at a ceremony inaugurated by the President of the Indian Government, Ram Nath Kovind, held in Gandhinagar (capital of the state of Gujarat) in the framework of the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. For this new edition of the Award, NIF received about 12500 ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices from 428 districts of 34 States and Union Territories of India

All the 59 winners and their innovations are presented in the Book [10<sup>th</sup> National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards 2019](#) published by the National Innovation Foundation.

NIF not only scouts the innovations and recognize the innovators but also help disseminate them widely so as to create an environmental, social and commercial impact. [NIF also supports the authors to upscale the innovations](#) and make them more useful for a larger segment of people. After the competition NIF present a list of innovations to a Research Advisory Committee comprising scientists, engineers and



Hon'ble Governor Shri of Gujarat Shri O P Kohli released 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards Book and presented its first copy to Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind



designers from top Technological and R&D institutions, Engineering, Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges and Industry from all parts of India. These experts contribute with the study and improvement of the innovations, also with specific technological incubation activities. All incubation facilities (financial and technical support, mentoring) are extended to the innovator at his place where he continues to work on his innovations.

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 technology's commercialization, NIF conducts market research and test marketing and brings interested entrepreneurs closer to the authors of commercially viable technologies. It also works to ensure the financing of public institutions and banks to support development activities prototyping, market testing and pilot productions

NIF participates in agricultural fairs and exhibitions to scout for innovative solutions to address various problems and issues. Through all its activities, the Foundation has managed to build a database that includes more than 295,000 innovations.

Catalogues presenting innovations coming from the 27 states of India and produced in collaboration with the Honey Bee Network are available in the NIF website. The Foundation emphasizes that although the Catalogues do not present an exhaustive list of the innovations of each State, they constitute a sample of the great creativity of the population. This information, which is diffused in the India to promote broad use of innovations, could be of interest in other countries.

The new National Biennial Competition for Green Grassroots Technological Innovations, Ideas & Outstanding Traditional Knowledge has been announced by NIF.

NIF also announced the National Competition for Students' Ideas and Innovations - Dr A P J Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards 2019 inviting students up to class 12th to present creative technological ideas/innovations. The children who are out of school and up to the age of 17 years can also participate. Starting in 2008, in the past years 201 awards have been given to 277 children.

Recognized within the framework of the national science and technology system, the National Innovation Foundation has managed to implement in India a complex system of activities that can inspire other countries interested in promoting the great heritage of knowledge and creativity of the population.

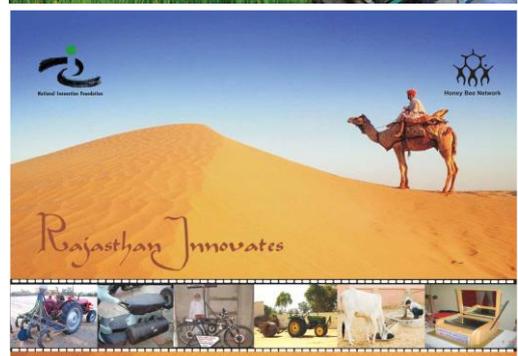
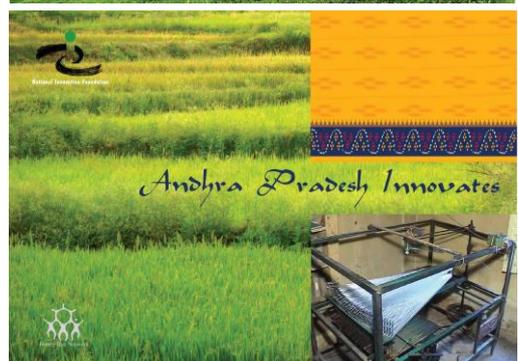
### To know more

[National Innovation Foundation](#)

[10th National Grassroots Innovation Award Winners](#)

[10th National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards 2019 Book](#)

[State Catalogues](#)



[Award Books](#)

[NIF 12<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Competition](#)

[NIF Ignite Competition 2019](#)

[Honey Bee Network](#)

[Article in newindiaexpress.com](#)

[Article in uniindia.com](#)

[National Innovation Foundation in Wikipedia](#)

