

BAIF INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT – UTTAR PRADESH

BAIF Institute for Rural Development – Uttar Pradesh, formally established in 1986 with its headquarters in Allahabad although the cattle development programme was launched in 1976, is benefitting 20 lakh families spread over 2,19,68 villages in 54 districts.

The livestock development programme is being implemented in 56 districts through 530 cattle development centres, benefitting 18,71,633 families from 21871 villages. Bulk milk collection has been initiated in Etawah district through the establishment of 12 milk chillers and this has helped farmers to fetch 45-55% higher price for the milk produced by them. Another 20 chillers with a total capacity of 20,000 litres / day are in the process of installation. While a similar programme has been launched in Agra district, farmers from many other districts are requesting launching of this programme. More than 3400 para vets have been trained at the training centres established in Allahabad and Chitrakoot for operating the programme on a self-sustainable basis. 35 multi activity centres are operating in Badaun, Hardoi, Saharanpur and Chandauli districts.

The Cluster development programme covering 517 ha, is benefitting 2459 families from 80 villages through establishment of amla, mango and guava orchards. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the-then President of India visited the cluster development programme at Raniganj cluster in Pratapgarh district in May 2007 and appreciated this unique model and further emphasised the need for wider replication all over the country.

The integrated watershed development programme covering 8402 ha, is benefitting 2888 families from 18 villages through 11 micro watersheds. Watershed development approach for ravine land development has demonstrated the benefits of involving community organisations in conserving the natural resources. These programmes have helped the farmers to increase the cropping intensity by 25-30% and crop yield by 25-40%, while ensuring clean potable water all round the year. With effective soil and water conservation, the immediate benefit was the regeneration of natural grasses and legumes which were available for livestock management. Judicious use of water through promotion of group wells and low energy drip irrigation systems has generated year-round gainful self employment and ensured food security.

Improvement in maternal and new-born health is being achieved in Bahraich and Balrampur districts through awareness, advocacy, linkages and capacity building of local workers. The impact is visible in the form of village health and sanitation committees and establishment of mothers' groups.