

MAHARASHTRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR RURAL AREAS

Maharashtra Institute of Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (MITTRA), was formally established in 1992 with its headquarters in Nashik, to coordinate the multidisciplinary development programme in 26 districts, benefitting 1,44,279 families from 2889 villages.

The livestock development programme is being implemented in 16 districts through 116 cattle development centres and serving 71,404 families from 1740 villages. The integrated watershed development programme covering 5761 ha is benefitting 3196 families from 102 villages through 63 micro watersheds.

BAIF has been identified as a consortia leader to promote sustainable development through transfer of technology in 5 backward districts, covering 5000 families from 139 villages under the World Bank-funded Project of ICAR. The tribal rehabilitation programme covering 61724 families from 2602 villages is being implemented on 23427 ha through mango, cashew, amla, guava and lemon orchards. Based on an invitation from the Government of Maharashtra, BAIF is implementing an integrated rural development programme in all the 15 tribal districts of the state covering 52,000 families. This programme was appreciated by the-then President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam during his visit to the tribal and cluster development programmes at Asha Kiran wadi in Nandgaon village in Igatpuri taluka of Nashik district in October 2005. 210 tribal families are engaged in tassar silk production promoted in hilly areas of Thane and Raigad districts.

Under community health, 60 *Vaidus* (traditional healers), trained at BAIF's Nature Cure Centre at Urulikanchan, near Pune to upgrade their skills in Ayurvedic medicine and impart various therapies under nature cure, are serving 9000 families in tribal areas. The problem of malnutrition in Jawhar and Mokhada blocks of Thane district is being addressed with the distribution of superior quality nutritional supplements to children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant and lactating women by 14 food processing units managed by self help groups of women resulting in a drastic reduction in low birth weight. Sanitation campaigns have been organised in tribal areas through more than 350 self help groups of women. This programme is closely associated with 84 ashram schools in 15 districts, where students are taught various aspects of hygiene, sanitation and income generation activities.

BAIF is sharing its expertise through the establishment of industrial greenbelts, using treated effluents and biodegradable solid wastes at the Reliance Industries Ltd., (Former Unit of IPCL), Nagothane and community development at Hindustan UniLever Ltd., Khamgaon, Ballarpur Industries Ltd, General Mills, Nashik and ITC-sponsored livestock development centres in Amravati and Wardha.