

# SPARK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

'A unique opportunity for young professionals to sharpen knowledge and skills,  
gain experiential learning and contribute to society'

## SOUVENIR

BATCH I: 2010-11



**A BAIF INITIATIVE**

**BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

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## About BAIF Development Research Foundation

BAIF is a NGO working towards the cause of Rural Development. BAIF was a dream of Mahatma Gandhi realized by Dr. Manibhai Desai at Urulikanchan in 1967, to replicate his experiences in rural development.

BAIF's Mission is to create opportunities of gainful self-employment for the rural families, especially disadvantaged sections, ensuring *sustainable livelihood, enriched environment, improved quality of life and good human values*. This is being achieved through development, research, effective use of local resources, extension of appropriate technologies and up gradation of skills and capabilities with community participation. BAIF is a non-political, secular and professionally managed organization.

Today BAIF's work benefits more than 4.4 million families spread over 80,000 villages in Maharsahtra, Karnataka, Gujart, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttarpradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura states.

Over past four decades BAIF is involved in identifying and introducing suitable development interventions and implementing multidisciplinary programs with an objective to bring about livelihood development, sustainable natural resource management and quality of life for rural poor and deprived tribal communities. These efforts continue with BAIF exploring newer interventions and approaches in more diverse areas to meet the emerging challenges that face our country and global community. In order to provide youth an opportunity to familiarise with socially relevant work, BAIF launched the SPARK fellowship program. Similarly BAIF has also partnered with SBI in their, 'Youth for India' Initiative for mid career professionals.

### Sharing the Spark!

#### Ecological Restoration

*—Tara Srinivas*

Ecological restoration is defined as an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its biotic, abiotic, and functional attributes. In other words, it is a process of repairing and restoring degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and associated processes, functions, and activities.

It is not always easy to restore an ecosystem that has been altered. In some cases, the system may be so degraded that it is not possible to restore it to its original state. In such cases, the goal is to restore the system to a state that is as close as possible to the original state.

Restoration is a complex process that involves many different disciplines, including biology, ecology, geology, and sociology. It is a process that requires a long-term commitment and a lot of resources.

Restoration is a process that is essential for the health of our planet. It is a process that is essential for the health of our communities. It is a process that is essential for the health of our future generations.

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Monthly Newsletter by Spark Fellows

#### About Spark Fellowship

A unique opportunity for young professionals with a drive to learn and to create. BAIF Research Development organization offers one year fellowship to spark knowledge and skills, gain experiential learning and contribute to society.

#### WHAT READ

This is a nice to read article before your interest. It is a simple of being and thinking and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing.

**Jonathan Livingston Seacull**

It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing.

**THOMAS BACH**

It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing. It is a simple of being and doing in terms of being and doing.

#### Dhadgaon: Town of Satpadas

*—Rishabh*

I happened to be a part of the outdoor spark fellowship program and people were very generous to offer me healthy homemade organic apples.



These people are very easy going and really excited about the idea. I did not see anyone and time to have more things. The idea around Dhadgaon, Bihar, has been the highest. People here suggest to learn to draw a target and our focus (instead from learn a little English). My problem is that we can't have exposure to new things and quality education. After many years I worked in a farm and learn how to set up a farm and how to work in. The idea suggests to a good about the problem. Our learning process was a two-way process (by sharing what each of us knew).



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## **SPARK Fellowship Programme: Opening New Vistas for Youth**

### **The programme:**

The SPARK Fellowship Programme was launched by BAIF Development Research Foundation, in October 2010 as an opportunity for the youth to explore the possibility of uniting their educational / professional background with socially-relevant work. The Fellowship is designed to encourage creativity and innovation, foster experiential learning and help young people make a meaningful contribution to society.

Today's young generation have new ideas and abundant energy which can be channelized constructively. They need an exposure to help them understand the challenges and problems faced by the rural poor. BAIF gives them this exposure and the much required space to enable them to apply their skills and knowledge.

Fellows have access to guidance and mentorship from people working in similar fields and experts, both, within and outside the organisation. Fellows are expected to work to the best of their abilities to complete the project undertaken, but not look at their project as an end in itself, but rather as an initiation into a new and multifaceted field.

This Fellowship has been instituted with the thought that it would give today's youth a new direction in life, an opportunity to understand their inner potential, a way of thinking and will also ensure the most enriching experience in the journey of Life.

### **Year 2010-2011**

The year was the first batch of SPARK Fellowship program. The fellowship was offered for thematic areas such as, Environmental Science/Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Education, Appropriate technology for development

Seven fellows from this batch could successfully complete fellowship tenure during this batch.

After formal induction, this batch of shortlisted fellows were placed in rural and tribal parts of Maharashtra such as, Jawhar, Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Ahmednagar and Urlikanchan. The fellows are accommodated on the existing campuses of BAIF.

The thematic areas of work essentially covered field action component as well as theoretical learning and application component. Some of these project ideas were drawn from ongoing projects within BAIF while some were new initiatives on which projects were formulated later looking at the possibility of replication. The field work was interspersed with specially designed learning inputs and support from domain experts and mentors. The fellows are also encouraged to take part in ongoing work at clusters and thereby develop multiple skills including personality development. An important milestone is the Newsletter by SPARK Fellows which served as a platform for sharing thoughts, news and learning.

The overall impact is enriched knowledge and skill base, perspective development on issues and development potential in rural areas, more mature and sensitive personality, confidence building and wider horizon for Fellows.



## Kalyani Kulkarni

**Age:** 23 years

**Educational background:**

B.Sc. (Microbiology),

M.Sc. (Biodiversity)

**Project Location:** Urulikanchan,

**Fellowship Topic:** "Propagation and extension of Azolla and Algae species under local conditions for livestock production and wastewater treatment"

Availability of nutrients is a key factor determining the performance of the livestock in such households. While conventional efforts through use of HY forage crops, use of by-products of different origins (forest, industry, aquatic, agriculture etc) is being investigated for sustaining the productivity of the animals these have their own limitations like accessibility, costs, resources needed etc. It is thus necessary to study alternate materials for this as well as other purposes for production of good organic material to support these earlier mentioned efforts. Irrigation water is also a limiting factor in implementing some of the proposed methods and it is imperative that available water be recycled for productive purposes.

A study was undertaken to standardize propagation technology for azolla production, determine the nutritive composition of the produce, introduce the technology at farm level and undertake feeding trials to assess the impact on milk production and quality. Simultaneously algal species (Chlorella, Scenedesmus and their mixture) was tested to improve the dissolved oxygen content of waste water from cattle shed and kitchen.

The Azolla species (*Azolla pinnata*) selected for production studies indicated harvestable yield from the 27th day of propagation. The yield steadily increased from 0.03 Kg./m<sup>2</sup> to 0.32 Kg./m<sup>2</sup> on the 67th day and plateau till 83rd day.

The mean yield over the period was 0.165 kg./m<sup>2</sup>.

The two species of Azolla (*Azolla pinnata* and a local species) showed crude protein (CP) content of 12-19%, fat content of 2.5-4.5%, Crude fiber (CF) content of 13-23%, ash content of 19-22% and silica content of 1.5-4%. In case of CP, fat the *A. pinnata* showed higher content while for CF, ash and silica the local species shows numerically higher values. This is needed to be confirmed with more studies. The production technology was further tested on farm for undertaking feeding trials with milch animals. The study is in progress.

The waste water treatment studies indicated that in 7 days both the species increase the dissolved oxygen content in the substrate to acceptable levels. Scenedesmus improves it to the higher level (10 mg/litre) as compared to Chlorella (8 mg/ltr) or mixture of the two (7 mg/liter). The use of Scenedesmus for cattle shed waste water is thus recommended.

*I am pleased to share my thoughts. I am thankful to BAIF for initiating 'Spark Fellowship Programme'. It has provided me, with an opportunity to work in the field of research and development and encouraged and guided me to use my skills and knowledge in a socially relevant way. The Fellowship Programme helped me to understand the practical aspect of research and its implications on the people for whom it is designed and in turn it broadened my knowledge and skill base. I hope my study will in some way be instrumental in creating a positive impact on the quality and quantity of livestock, which is the cornerstone of the farming community, who will ultimately be the beneficiaries. In addition to work, it helped me in learning various life skills and grooming my personality which has enhanced my ability to communicate my thoughts in a better way.*



## Meenal Jagdale

**Age:** 27 years

**Educational background:**  
B.E. (Chemical Engineering)

**Project Location:** Jawhar, Thane District,

**Fellowship Topic:** "Effect of Implementation of Environmental Modules on students Environment Awareness"

The effects of degradation of environment are being felt by the rural and urban society. In view of this, environmental education assumes great significance. It is needed to understand the effectiveness of this on the knowledge of the students and to modify the same if required.

A study was thus undertaken in three schools in Jawhar block of Thane district. The students of 9th standard from these schools were pre-tested on their knowledge of the subject through a questionnaire based on their curriculum. This was followed by developing a module for the topic based on the same syllabus, the local socio-cultural practices and the environmental scenario around the students. The module used different methodologies like games, group activities, debates, competitions, nature trails etc. for the various topics involved. The module was implemented over five month period (December 2010-April 2011) followed by another test.

The results indicated a dramatic improvement in the overall concepts of the students about the subject matter. It was concluded that the current class room teaching methods with alien sounding jargon is needed to be replaced with context specific, experiential and practical methods for more effective implementation of the curriculum. The teachers are required to be trained for this specifically and encouraged to innovate their own methods for better impacts on the knowledge, attitude and practices for improved environment.

*Before joining the fellowship, one thought played upon my mind and that was trying to figure out the purpose of my life. I had earlier experienced the monotonous nature of corporate jobs. Here; I lived every new day with the same amount of energy throughout the year. I knew I was inclined towards social work but didn't know how to go about it. SPARK fellowship gave me that direction. I wanted to use my skills and knowledge to respond to several social challenges around me.*

*During my entire fellowship, I was actually discovering myself every day. I learned many new things while working on my project, from BAIF's work of rural development and by interacting with cluster staff. The learnings not only came from reading, but were gathered from challenges I faced, mistakes I made and often from the children I interacted with for one year.*

*Earlier, I used to be very upset about the current education system and methodologies which our country is following of which I am a product. I used to always feel that focus should shift to practical education rather than theoretical education. During last one year I could understand the ground realities.*

*Living with the tribal communities was altogether a different experience. In spite of their daily struggle, their hard work, self motivation and their smile even in the face of adversity, was really inspirational. I must say that the learning and growth was not only at the intellectual level but was also at social, behavioural and emotional levels.*

*This Fellowship helped me identify my interest areas in social field, my skills, my limitations and my strengths. Today I feel I am in a better position to streamline and set the goals for my life and for my future career in the social field. In one word if I have to express my one year experience then, it would be "Enriching".*



## Ketaki Patil

**Age:** 24 years

**Educational background:**

B.Sc. (Microbiology),

M.Sc. (Biodiversity)

**Project Location:** Harankuri, Shahada Region, Nandurbar District.

**Fellowship Topic:** "Study of diverse landraces and traditional agricultural practices"

Tribal communities are known to be the custodians of crop biodiversity and traditional knowledge associated with it. Nandurbar is a typical tribal district in Maharashtra having Pawara, Bhilla and Kokana communities. While agriculture is the main occupation around 90% of farmers are marginal. Dhadgaon and Akkalkuwa blocks in Nandurbar have unique crop diversity which includes maize, sorghum, minor millets and pulses, but because of modern agriculture interventions, this diversity is under continuous threat. There is urgent need to document, collect germplasm and conserve this through community participation.

In this study, it is attempted to collect and document the information covering traditional knowledge associated with crop cultivation, indigenous seed storage techniques, farm implements, festivals and rituals associated with farming.

The landraces of major crops such as maize, sorghum, minor millets, pulses and wild vegetables are documented for different traits as perceived by the local communities, the reasons for their existence despite the threat from traditional varieties and the declining trend in their availability. Efforts are also initiated for an on farm conservation and revival of selected landraces of maize and sorghum with community participation.

The study highlights the rich biodiversity that traditionally exists in this tribal part and amazing

knowledge that communities have about these resources, which yet remains to be documented to a large extent.

*BAIF has given me opportunity to fulfill my dream of working in the social sector as well as on conservation of biodiversity which is close to my heart. During the fellowship period, I enjoyed the warmth and friendly working environment. During this period I could meet many knowledgeable experts and their work and knowledge truly ignited a "Spark" in me. This platform has in a way acted as a foundation for me to build my future career.*

*As a part of the fellowship project, I lived amongst the tribal communities of Satpura ranges. It was lifetime opportunity for me to spend one year with tribal communities. During this time I observed seasonal variation in the Satpuras as well as culture, traditions and day to day life of the Pawara tribe.*

*Working in interior parts made me realize the problems and issues faced by communities in areas of health, education and social awareness. During my visits to the field as part of my project work, I realized that building a rapport with the locals was essential. Gaining their confidence was necessary before getting them to even answer my questions. It was then that I realized that patience and perseverance are the way to success!*

*This was an opportunity to fulfil my dream of using my knowledge in a meaningful way. What I gained was age old wisdom of the tribes whom I worked with. A beautiful experience*



## Ketaki Sathe

**Age:** 25 years

**Educational background:**

B.Sc. (Botany),

M.Sc. (Environment Science)

**Project Location:** Jawhar, Thane District,

**Fellowship Topic:** "Conservation and Restoration of Sacred groves"

This project aimed at encouraging the tradition of conservation of sacred groves through peoples' participation by relating them to its necessity and importance with respect to environment. The ecological and socio-cultural status of the sacred groves in the village of Kalamvihira was studied with this perspective.

Kalamvihira is a village situated in the western side of Jawhar approximately at a distance of 18 km from the main Jawhar town. The one sacred grove in this village has fragmented into four patches over the years. But the fragmented sacred groves (1.5 acres each) show very different types of vegetation. The baseline survey carried out shows presence of mixture of moist deciduous to semi evergreen and evergreen species of trees. Also the survey indicated greater number of birds present in these sacred groves as compared to the village, thus showing a much better balance in the ecosystem and its various associations as compared to outside the sacred grove.

The traditional beliefs and rituals are still followed by the elder people in the village, but the younger generation is not much interested in these rituals as they assume them to be superstitious. The reasons for its degradation and isolation were noted and an action plan to prevent further degradation was designed. In order to preserve and restore them, few conservation measures were taken with community participation.

The work reinforced the need to continue the efforts around conservation and restoration of sacred groves through people's participation and there by revisit useful conservation traditions as followed by tribal communities

*When I had applied for this fellowship, I knew what I wanted to achieve. Being an Environmental science post graduate, field experience was absolutely necessary and which is why I had applied here.*

*My project topic was Conservation of Sacred groves and I was placed at Jawhar in Thane district of Maharashtra. The phase of learning was already initiated even before I arrived at Jawhar as I had never heard of this place. Being a city girl, I was a bit worried and excited when I came to know it was a tribal area. I wondered whether I would be able to live in a tribal area one long year. The worry proved to be wrong as the experience was out of the world!*

*On the personal front, I had to make lot of adjustments. From the food (which I thought was spicy initially), dependency on the public transport and feeling of loneliness in the evenings. The hardships faced by the people living in the rural areas were an eye opener for me. The difficulty they faced in travel, in erratic supply of electricity, water supply, the list goes on... But they still face life with smile on their face. I swore that I would not complain about life too much in future!*

*On the work front, building a rapport with the community was quite challenging. I had to conduct meetings as a first step to working on my project. It was a victory over my fear when I took my first meeting in the village. It gave me tremendous confidence. This new found confidence was a constant source of motivation to me to work on my project and not allow any situation to overawe me. Suddenly, realized that my problems on the personal front too were no longer problems! Another person who became my inspiration was a woman working in the canteen. 'In spite of facing so many problems in her life, she moved on in life with a smile. Many such interactions changed my perspective towards life!*

*I went with a colleague of mine to various Ashram schools and I realized my liking for teaching children. It was really satisfying. The entire journey of one year was quite an education for me and the memories of this fellowship will be etched in my mind forever!!!*



## Rasul Sheikh

**Age:** 29 years

**Educational background:**

B.A., Bachelors in Mass  
Communication

**Work Experience:** 5 years

**Project Location:** Etapalli, Chandrapur

**Fellowship Topic:** "NTFP based livelihood in tribal areas"

Gadchiroli is known as tribal region and is thus under 5th schedule where communities like Gonds and Madias reside for generations together. The study essentially captures status of 5 NTFP s (Non Timber Forest Produce) that are available in forests of Gadchiroli District and details of dependence and associated practices of tribal communities with these. The five species focused are Dhavda (*Anogessus latifolia*) Satawari (*Asparagus racemosus*) Chironji (*Bachaneia lanzan*) Mahua (*Madhuca Indica*) and Toddy Palm, which are part of existing forests, accessed by tribal communities of Central India. The Study highlights that these tribal communities could get 90 days employments through NTFP harvesting in a year and NTFPs occupy almost 20% share in total income of these families.

During the course of study, efforts were made to assess the resource base, regeneration, existing marketing mechanism, value chain analysis, role of community based organisations like SHGs, Cooperatives, Status of claim settlement under FRI Act etc.

The study supports the potential to develop NTFP based sustainable livelihood in this part as a development strategy considering the availability of NTFPs. Several leads for action have been identified including- suitable NTFP based farming system model for this region, scope for collection, processing and value addition involving SHGs etc.

Finally scope for suitable interventions around select NTFPs is also understood in five villages of Etapalli block in Gadchiroli district, which will be used as base to develop future activities

*Today I am feeling blessed to be one of the successful fellows as a part of the fellowship program.*

*People just knew me as an youth from small village of Jalka in Yeotmal District. I became interested in social work during my college days. I was trying to understand various issues faced by rural communities on my own. NTFP (Non Timber Forest Produce) was one area of interest.*

*I was aware that BAIF was involved in tribal upliftment programs. I was delighted to be selected as a Fellow in October for the year 2010. I devoted one year in Gadchiroli District to study various aspects of tribal life and livelihood. I learnt a lot from these communities. I even tried to learn Madia language during the one year, which I feel is an important achievement. Another opportunity, which I benefited a lot from, was, to interact with knowledgeable and experienced individuals from this field. I even learnt English and became interested in reading and documentation.*

*I thank BAIF for this opportunity*



## Trupti Satpute

**Age:** 24 years

**Educational background:**

B.Sc. (Zoology),

M.Sc. (Environment Science)

**Project Location:** Pune and Randullabad in Satara district, Maharashtra

**Fellowship Topic:** "Integration of ecological Restoration measures in Watershed Project.

The study essentially have tried to scout and test the newer approach of integrating measures of ecological restoration within the work of watershed development in Randullabad watershed of Satara District.

Watershed Development is accepted approach of development today. Although various components of watershed development are known, there is always scope to evolve this further. The study thus tried to understand and integrate the ecological aspects in to watershed program planning and implementation. Set of region specific and need based ecological restoration activities were studied and demonstrated experimentally during the fellowship.

Randullabad watershed lies on the border of two important bio geographic zones of India, the Western Ghats to its west and the Deccan Peninsula on the east, forming a part of the Krishna river basin. This was an ideal location for the project.

The project approach was evolved in phases. Initially a field survey of the watershed was done, followed by this, an ecological survey including the plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians was conducted along with the microbial analysis of soil to identify current status of the biodiversity at a site. The survey and interaction with villagers revealed that the biodiversity of the watershed in terms of number of species and individual candidate has declined to some extent over a period of time. Based on the need of this region, eco restoration measures like plantation of selected local natives, nursery development, stream restoration through Half moon bunds and a

Cascade bund, some small loose boulder structures were planned. The steps were also planned to create micro habitats with a positive response. Awareness generation amongst the villagers and rapport building proved important to enhance local participation.

The project thus tried to demonstrate participatory eco restoration work as a part of watershed development

*Having completed my Master's degree in Environmental Sciences, I was waiting for an opportunity to experience the field application of my knowledge and BAIF Development Research Foundation provided me with a wonderful and truly unique opportunity in the form of 'the SPARK Fellowship Programme.'*

*With a focus on of experimental learning, 'Ecological Restoration in Watershed Development' was finalized as my Project topic and Randullabad village in Satara District as my study area. For me, participating in watershed development activities, carrying out ecological surveys, planning site specific restoration activities and then implementing these with villagers, proved as a tremendous learning opportunity.*

*Interactions with villagers were vital and helped me to empathise with them. Many things were new to me, I had never conducted any meeting in a village before, but with the help of our guides and field officers it became a great learning experience. All this helped me broaden my technical skills and widen my social understanding.*

*Understanding village life and its problems, experimenting in Watershed Development through Ecological Restoration measures and exposure to a variety of field locations and issues made this one year with BAIF a wonderful learning experience.*

*'My education taught me the problems associated with Natural Resource Management, but BAIF showed me the way to deal with those problems. I must say ,I am better equipped person after one year now.*



## Shweta Kulkarni

**Age:** 24 years

**Educational background:**

B.Tech. (Information Technology)

**Work Experience:** 1 year 3 months (in IT sector)

**Project Location:** Pune and Randullabad in Satara district, Maharashtra

**Fellowship Topic:** "Use of GIS in planning, development,

Watershed development is accepted as proven approach for comprehensive development of communities as well as natural resource base of a delineated area. Planning is an important tool for devising a comprehensive plan for watershed site comprising several villages. The Participatory Rural Appraisal method have it's own limitations. Through this project, use of computational methods was understood and tested. The study tried to use of Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing for planning, implementation and monitoring of Watersheds. This project was undertaken at a watershed in Satara District, Maharashtra. An attempt to study the land use pattern, cropping pattern, drainage pattern, and water flow direction, physical and chemical aspects of the land under cultivation was made. The GIS tool has been used extensively to study features from the topo sheet and the cadastral map. The topo sheet and cadastral maps have been used as the base maps on which further projections have been marked. Remote Sensing has been used to study the elevation of the region. With the help of QGIS, ARCGIS and IDRIS different maps have been developed which have been used planning and implementation in an effective manner.

The study highlighted an effective use of tools like GIS and Remote Sensing for planning and implementation by NGOs. The use of this tool for the purpose of monitoring was also understood

*I have interests in varied fields. I love to keep exploring and experimenting with life and hence am always up to something new. After having completed my graduation in Bachelors in Information Technology I took the next obvious step – a job in the IT sector. However over time, books, people and attending workshops, participating in camps, Courses on issues related to a world completely different from my usual course of study got me to think if I was happy with what I was doing with my life. I realized I wasn't happy working in a corporate though they offered me a handsome salary, I was not happy that I could not find time to do all that I enjoyed. And this brought me to BAIF, where I took up the SPARK Fellowship and chose to work with GIS and Remote Sensing tools. BAIF gave me the opportunity to work at the grassroots and with people, to see how NGO functioned and what are the various needs of rural communities and how these can be addressed. The transition from a metropolitan city to a village, from a corporate to the fields again set me thinking about what I wanted to do and that was when I realized that Technology is a very powerful tool that can help us solve many issues, but we need to understand how it can be used in a manner that is sustainable. I got a direction to my life. I am going to pursue my studies that would help me select and build a model.*

*I am greatly indebted to all the people I have met over time, who have prompted me to think and think for myself as well as for the society and environment. I am indebted to BAIF for giving me the opportunity to work at the grassroots and giving me opportunity and scope to introspect while observing the needs of others.*

## Glimpses of fellows at work!



**Use of appropriate technology  
for rural development**



**Agro biodiversity conservation**



**Eco restoration and participatory  
conservation of Environment**



**Education through  
Environment**



**Information Technology Enabled Development Planning**

## SPARK Fellowship Programme

It is appropriate to take a cursory glance at the year gone by.

The birth and evolution of the SPARK fellowship programme was a culmination of much needed deliberations and consultations involving many well wishers and likeminded individuals both within and outside BAIF.

We are grateful to all our well-wishers and experts for their constant support!!!

The Think Tank Group at BAIF have provided the much needed guidance and inputs which were instrumental in defining the broad vision for this programme.

Many Thematic Programme Executives within BAIF have gone out of their way to guide the work of the SPARK Fellows. This team consisted of BAIF Development Specialists having expertise in Agriculture Development, Livestock Development, Watershed Development, Environment Conservation and Sustainable Development, Community Mobilisation, Tribal Livelihood, Education, Appropriate Technology, Forest Resources, etc.

The batch II of SPARK has also commenced from September 2011 now, where total 12 fellows have been shortlisted to work on the broad themes of Rural Livelihoods / Appropriate Technology, Nature Conservation/biodiversity, Biotechnology and Education. The geographical base has also been extended to cover other operational areas of BAIF in states of Gujarat and Uttarakhand apart from Maharashtra.



Within BAIF, such initiatives are proving useful for developing newer programme directions for sustainable and environmentally sound development.

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.***

***Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has..."-Margaret Mead***

