About BAIF

BAIF Development Research Foundation is a professionally managed not-for-profit Public Trust, founded by a noted Gandhian, Late Dr. Manibhai Desai in 1967. In 1946, Mahatma Gandhi established the Nature Cure Ashram at Urulikanchan to promote community health and development and assigned this responsibility to Manibhai. Based on his success in helping small farmers to improve their livelihood, Manibhai established the Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) to promote sustainable livelihood in Rural India. In 1989, BAIF was renamed as BAIF Development Research Foundation to re-focus on Development Research for Rural Prosperity.

Vision

Building a self-reliant rural society assured of food security, safe drinking water, good health, gender equity, low child mortality, literacy, high moral values and clean environment.

Mission

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 upgradation of skills and capabilities with community participation. BAIF is a non-political, secular and professionally managed organisation.

Infrastructure and Facilities

◊ The Central Research Station at Urulikanchan spread over 227 ha, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Chawad in Bharuch district in Gujarat and 5 Regional Research Stations for undertaking applied research, critical input production, skills development and technology transfer to improve farm productivity;
◊ The laboratories of international standard at Urulikanchan and Jind, freeze over 10 million doses of semen per annum of indigenous, exotic and crossbred breeds of cattle and elite Indian breeds of buffaloes to support the field programme. Laboratories with cutting edge technologies in the areas of molecular genetics, animal nutrition and seed technology have been established to develop good production practices;
Dr. Manibhai Desai Management Training Centre in Pune for capacity building of development professionals and field functionaries;
Nine Associate Organisations, serving 4.8 Million families in 16 states spread over 100,000 villages;
About 3000 professionals, 1000 skilled personnel and 2500 self-employed youth serving at the grassroot level;
Strong linkage of People's Organisations with Financial institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Government departments and development organisations for Programme Sustainability.

Programmes

Dairy cattle development was the initial programme to reach most of the small farmers effectively. Subsequently, the programme was extended to conserve the natural resources and promote sustainable agriculture for ensuring holistic sustainable livelihood, while ensuring women empowerment, environmental conservation and improved quality of life. Following are the major programmes:

**Sustainable Livelihood**
- Livestock development
- Watershed development
- Tree and crop-based livelihood
- Agri-business development
- Income generation in Non-farm sectors

**Climate Resilient Initiatives**
- Industrial greenbelt development
- Germplasm conservation of native crops and cattle breeds and selection for climate stress resistance
- Community pastures
- Climate smart technologies for agriculture and water management
- Environmental awareness

**Tribal Development**
- Integrated tribal development - 'Wadi'
- Empowerment of local herbal healers
- Value chain development for Non-timber Forest Produce
**Women Empowerment and Gender Equity**
- Hardship reduction
- Self Help Groups (SHGs), User Groups, Federations
- Capacity building
- Entrepreneurship development, Microfinance
- Education, health and awareness

**Community Health**
- Drinking water supply and sanitation
- Training of mid-wives and traditional herbal healers
- Reproductive health support
- Awareness on hygiene
- Nutritional supplementation

**Programme Impact**

- **Food Security and Poverty Eradication:** Promoted sustainable livelihood for rural poor families by maintaining 2-3 high yielding cows or buffaloes produced at their doorsteps. Over 4.5 million families are being served through 4000 cattle development centres and over 2 million high yielding cows and buffaloes are under milk production. The sustainable goat development programme has been undertaken by one lakh families mostly belonging to weaker sections of the society. Watershed development programme spread over 0.239 million ha, enables over 0.12 million families to increase their crop yield by 50-80%, while improving ground water table and biodiversity. Over 0.2 million tribal families have been rehabilitated through agri-horti-forestry (wadi) spread over 87,000 ha.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Sustainable agriculture, water and soil conservation, afforestation, industrial greenbelt and awareness programmes have contributed to environmental conservation. Genetic improvement of livestock leading to reduction in population and conservation of native breeds is helpful to tolerate the heat stress.

- **Education/Literacy:** Functional literacy empowered the participant women to take active part in income generation and social development activities. Over 95% children of participant families are enrolled in schools. Over 1000 SHGs have established linkages with banks.

- **Community Health:** Significant reduction in incidences of illness. Women health guides are promoting reproductive health care and safe deliveries.
Donors and Partners

- Government of India, State Governments
- Bi-lateral, Multi-lateral International Aid Organisations
- Corporates, Farmers’ Cooperatives and NGOs
- Academic and Scientific Organisations
- Patrons and Associates

BAIF is recognised as a Research Institution by Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Contributions made to BAIF are exempt from Income Tax under Section 35 (1)(ii) of the IT Act, 1961.

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Founder
Late Dr. Manibhai Desai