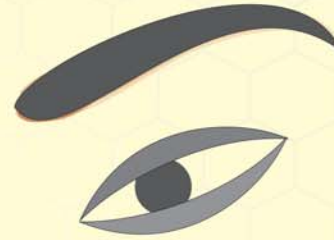




National Innovation Foundation

# MAHARASHTRA INNOVATES



Honey Bee Network

# MAHARASHTRA INNOVATES



## **National Innovation Foundation**

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## **HONEY BEE NETWORK**

[www.honeybee.org](http://www.honeybee.org), [www.sristi.org](http://www.sristi.org)

**Regional Collaborator**  
Vishwaseva Foundation  
Jalgaon, Maharashtra

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# PREFACE

National Innovation Foundation has been pursuing the mission of making India innovative and a creative society since 2000 with the active support of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. We have not been equally successful in scouting and documenting innovations and traditional knowledge practices in every state.

Thanks to the support of volunteers of Honey Bee network, we have been able to discover many unsung heroes and heroines of our society who have solved local problems without any outside help.

Despite various constraints, NIF has put together a small book celebrating creativity, innovations and traditional knowledge from Maharashtra. I am conscious of its limitation in terms of coverage and outreach. But if we could uncover so many examples of the ability of local communities and individuals to solve problems on their own without outside help, how

much more can be done if state and private sector agencies join hands with NIF actively.

I invite the state government and its various organs to actively support our quest to uncover many more creative communities and individuals in rural and urban areas. NIF will then help in building value chain around them.

The book is divided in three parts. The mechanical innovations developed by innovators from Maharashtra are covered in part one. Selected examples of herbal traditional knowledge are given in part two. The innovations from other parts of the country suitable for the development of Maharashtra are given in part three.

By no stretch of imagination, could we claim that we have achieved a great deal. We have merely made a simple point. There are a large number of people who may not have been



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educated much, may in fact be economically poor also, but still have the ability to solve a few problems so well.

The challenge really is to work out a synergy so that no creative voice remains unheard, and no solution remains localized and unrecognized. By adapting public policy in support of grassroots innovators and traditional knowledge holders, we can make economic development process more inclusive and sustainable.

This book on innovations has been compiled at the request of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Finance Commission and Member, Governing Council of the National Innovation Foundation as a tribute to the creativity and innovation at grassroots. This presentation is part of a series of innovation compendium prepared for each State of India. We hope this will be followed up in the form of concrete policy and institutional initiatives in each State to empower creative

people to improve the quality of life of common people and thus promote inclusive growth.

It is my belief that such examples will act as spur for other State government departments to look for creative efforts of their staff and users at ground level. I hope that NIF will have the opportunity to work closely with the State government in future and expand knowledge base, add value to selected technologies and help them diffuse through commercial and non-commercial social channels for improving the livelihood of the majority of the people.



R. A. Mashelkar, FRS  
Chairperson, Governing Council  
National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad  
ram@ncl.res.in

## Building a Bridge with Grassroots Innovators in Informal Sector

To make Indian development process more inclusive, there is no escape from building upon creative and innovative experiments pursued by common people at village or semi-urban level. Many of these experiments lead to development of innovations, which can improve productivity and generate employment. However, the purpose of a particular innovator may often be to solve his problem. There is no reason for him to share the knowledge, innovation or practice with other people in different regions. Sometimes, ideas and innovations get diffused through word of mouth. But many times, these ideas remain localized. In the process, potential growth and social development gets constrained. To overcome this constraint, Honey Bee Network with a handful of volunteers triggered a movement, twenty years ago to scout, spawn and sustain the unaided innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge from the informal sector of our country.

Drawing upon this experience, NIF (National Innovation Foundation) was set up in 2000 with the help of Department of

Science and Technology, Government of India to scale up the idea of learning from grassroots innovators.

Under the inspiring leadership of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Chairperson NIF and former Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), NIF has taken major initiatives to serve the knowledge-rich, economically poor people of the country. It is committed to making India innovative by documenting, adding value, protecting the intellectual property rights of the contemporary unaided technological innovators, as well as of outstanding traditional knowledge holders. It aims at promoting lateral learning among local communities to generate low cost affordable solutions of the persistent and emerging problems, and enhance the diffusion of innovations on a commercial as well as non-commercial basis.

### How does NIF work?

Primarily, NIF has five functions: (a) Scouting and documentation, (b) Value addition and research and

in different sectors. The network acknowledges the innovators, traditional knowledge producers and communicators so that they do not remain anonymous.

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<sup>1</sup> The Honeybee collects pollen from the flowers but they are not impoverished, in the process links one flower to another enabling cross-pollination. Similarly, the Honey Bee Network strengthens people-to-people contacts, learning and networking by pooling the solutions developed by individuals across the world

# MAHARASHTRA INNOVATES

development, (c) Business development and Micro Venture, (d) Intellectual Property Rights protection and (e) Dissemination, database development and IT applications.

NIF has been entrusted with the responsibility of building a National Register of Grassroots Innovations and Traditional Knowledge. It is not enough to document or disseminate the innovations or outstanding traditional knowledge. Value addition is very important for harnessing the full potential of the idea. NIF has entered into MOU with CSIR and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) besides other organizations. CSIR has allocated funds to support research on grassroots innovations in CSIR labs. Similarly, ICMR supports research on such herbal healing knowledge, which has not been documented in the classical texts and formal institutional literature. NIF also helps in generating a very large pool of open source / public domain technologies. A small number of innovations are also protected by patents and other IPRs.

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The Honey Bee Network strongly believes in sharing knowledge among the providers of innovations in their own language, which is achieved by publishing local language versions of Honey Bee newsletter. It also ensures that a fair

For most innovators, attracting risk capital for converting innovations into enterprise is very difficult. They neither can offer much collateral nor are they able to develop business plan or deal with formal R&D system.

A Micro Venture Innovation Fund has been set up with the help of SIDBI to provide risk capital for technologies at different stages of incubation. Under single signature, innovators are trusted and investments are made to help them commercialise their innovations. Most innovators do not make good entrepreneurs. For entrepreneurship, one has to make consistent batch by batch production of products. Innovators are often incorrigible improvisers. They seldom make two things alike. NIF has helped such innovators to license their technologies to third party entrepreneurs. Most of the licenses have been given to small entrepreneurs and in a few cases, to medium enterprises.

A very elaborate benefit sharing system has been developed, governed by the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) of the knowledge

share of benefits arising from commercial exploitation of local knowledge and innovations reaches the innovators and knowledge providers.



providers. Attempt is made to share benefits not only with the innovators but also with their communities and for nature conservation. In addition, a small part is kept for contingency support to needy innovators, for R&D stakeholders, promoting women's innovations and meeting overhead costs.

It is remarkable that grassroots innovations are generating global demand, as evident from inquiries from around fifty-five countries for various technologies, NIF has succeeded in commercializing products across countries in six continents apart from being successful in materialising thirty cases of technology licensing with the help of partner agencies.

### **What has it done?**

With major contribution from the Honey Bee Network, NIF has been able to build up a database of more than 75,000 ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices from over 500 districts of the country.

NIF has filed 182 patents in India and seven in US and one PCT. Out of these, 33 patents have been granted to grassroots innovations in India and four in US. NIF has funded 113 projects under MVIF to the extent of Rs.1.3 crores. Hundreds of

technologies have diffused through farmer to farmer social network.

NIF has proved that Indian innovators can match anyone in the world when it comes to solving problems creatively. Where they perform better than rest is in generating more affordable sustainable solutions by using local resources frugally.

Those who see poor only as the consumer of cheap goods, miss the knowledge richness at the grassroots level. The Poor can be the providers also.

The Grassroots to Global (G2G) model that NIF is propagating is all set to change the way the world looks at the creativity and innovations at grassroots.

### **How can state government join hands with NIF?**

- a. NIF has no field extension unit nor does it want to have one. However, state government has several field functionaries in the field of agriculture, education, industry, rural development, women and child care, forestry, etc. There can be a very fruitful partnership between NIF as a source of innovative ideas and technologies and state



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- government as partner in dissemination, value addition and even commercialization through incentives, promotion, subsidies, etc.
- b. State government can join the national campaign for scouting innovations and traditional knowledge and motivate its grassroots functionaries to join hands with NIF in uncovering the talent at the community level.
  - c. Students in schools and colleges can be motivated to scout creative and innovative people in their neighbourhoods and send the entries to NIF (Post Box No.15051, Ambavadi, Ahmedabad 380 015, [campaign@nifindia.org](mailto:campaign@nifindia.org)). Examples of innovations can also be included in the curriculum of the school children.
  - d. Demonstrations and trials can be organized at various regional research stations, KVKs (Krishi Vigyan Kendras) so as to create awareness about the creative potential of common people.
  - e. The research institutions can be mandated to add value to the knowledge of innovative people and help in protecting their knowledge rights.
  - f. On the state's website, link to NIF can be given and the innovations from the region can be displayed to put forward the creative face of the state before the people.
  - g. Some of the innovative people identified by NIF and/or state government could be awarded at district and state level besides giving them support for further work.
  - h. A nodal officer could be appointed to keep a dynamic touch with NIF to ensure that all the areas of possible cooperation are explored.

I hope that NIF would be able to develop a functional, fruitful and fulfilling relationship with the government of Maharashtra state. Tremendously rich knowledge of biodiversity, minerals and environment can be leveraged through the proposed association.



Anil K Gupta  
Executive Vice Chairman  
NIF, Ahmedabad  
[anilg@nifindia.org](mailto:anilg@nifindia.org)



**“Innovation opens up new vistas of knowledge and new dimensions to our imagination to make everyday life more meaningful and richer in depth and content”.**

**- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**



**“The purpose of innovation is to create a new value for an individual, team, organization or for society at large”.**

**- Dr. R.A. Mashelkar**

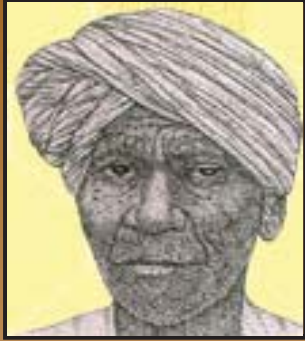
# PART I

# INNOVATIONS

## from MAHARASHTRA

This section contains grassroots innovations emerging from the rural/urban areas of Maharashtra



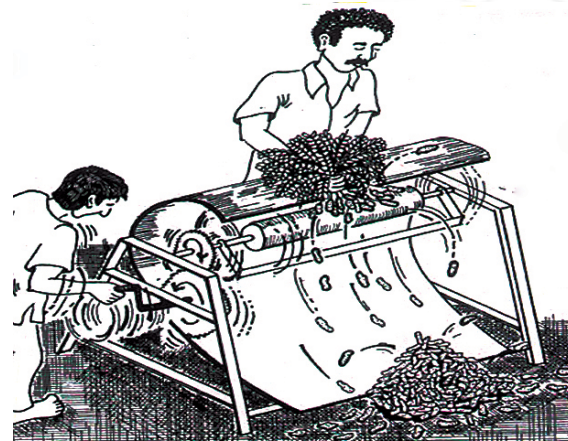


**Marutrao Sarode**  
Ahmednagar

## Ground Nut Pod Separator

Groundnut is harvested by uprooting the whole plant. The pods are then separated by picking them individually by hand, or in bulk by twisting the roots with one hand while holding the plant firmly in the other, or by threshing: striking the roots on a horizontal stick or steel blade. All these methods are tedious.

Marutrao Yashwant Sarode designed and fabricated a unique pod separator that used rotating blades to snip off the pods. He used a bullock-drawn blade harrow to loosen the plants first so that they were then easy to uproot. He also got a patent for the machine, way back in early seventies. He received the State award for his farm implement in NIF's First National Competition. NIF through GIAN West also facilitated prototyping of the machine at IDC-IIT Mumbai. Apart from this, he has also made a wool ginning machine.





## Raisin Grading Machine Reaches Peru

Grading of raisins involves sorting by size. These are mainly meant for exports. To produce raisins, bunches of grapes are first brought from the vineyards to the raisin-manufacturing units. They are then processed according to the variety of raisins to be made. These raisins need further processing – cleaning, removal of debris, and grading into various sizes. The grading is generally done by visual inspection and normal sorting only.

This innovation is a single unit that removes dust and twigs and grades raisins by size. The machine consists of three motors and three sieves, blower, a belt and pulley mechanism and a rubber brush. With this device, the operator is safe from exposure to the dust from the blower. This machine helps in removing the drudgery involved in cleaning every single raisin and grading it accordingly. NIF through GIAN West has provided the incubation assistance for this technology. NIF has also facilitated the sale of one unit to a customer in Peru.



**Ramdas Madhavrao  
Jagtap**  
Nasik



**U S Patil**  
Nandurbar

## Natural Fibre Based Match Stick

In order to promote the use of natural fibres and reduce the reliance on wood, the innovator has successfully developed a process of making splints for safety matches using some natural fibres.

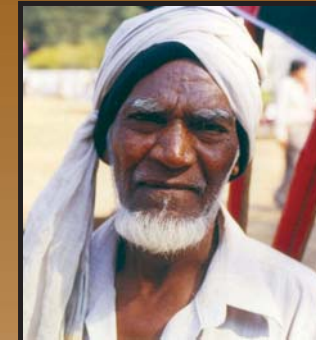
In comparison with conventional matchsticks these matchsticks burn slowly but steadily, reducing the chances of the users' fingers being burnt. Further no harmful chemical is used except the mandatory phosphorus. Preparing these matchsticks is much easier and cheaper than preparing wooden matchsticks, which require huge machinery for cutting logs of wood to suitable size. He won a National Award in NIF's Third National Competition. NIF in coordination with GIAN- West sanctioned an amount of Rs. 12,500 from its Micro Venture Innovation Fund towards laboratory testing and technology transfer of the matchstick. NIF also facilitated filing of the patent on the same. These sticks help in saving wood and generate market for natural fibres.



## Variable Gear System for Cycle Rickshaw

Jabbarbhai succeeded in developing a new gear system wherein he fitted a double-chain and a double-sprocket mechanism in a rickshaw. He modified the existing free wheel by fitting a pawl lifter instead of a spring. The new gear system makes the task of pulling the rickshaw less strenuous. He has also developed a disc-brake system that is attached to the rear end of the rickshaw and an improved shock absorber system, which reduces the discomfort caused by the bumps on the roads.

NIF awarded him a National award in the Third National Competition and supported him with a small investment from the Micro Venture Innovation Fund. NIF has also filed a patent in his name on his behalf.



**Muhammad Sheikh Jabbar**  
Nagpur







**Dadaji Ramaji Khobragade**  
Chandrapur

## HMT- an Improved Paddy Variety

Khobragade selected and bred the HMT rice variety from the conventional 'Patel 3', a popular variety developed by Dr. J. P. Patel, JNKV Agriculture University, Jabalpur. He succeeded after five years of continuous study and research on a small farm owned by him without any support from the scientific community. This variety has an average yield of 40 – 45 quintals per hectare with short grains, high rice recovery (80 %), better smell and cooking quality in comparison with the parent ones. Most remarkable feature of the variety is the thinness of grain. It has been included as a standard reference for thinness by Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Right Authority (PPVFRA).

He won the National Award in NIF's Third National Competition. NIF has filed an application under PPVFRA 2001 to register his variety. Apart from HMT he has also developed six other paddy varieties namely DRK, Vijay Anand, Nanded Chinur, Nanded 92, Deepak Ratna and Nanded Hira. He regrets that local agricultural university took the credit merely for purifying the seeds and did not give him the due honour. HMT has diffused in more than one lac acres in five states.





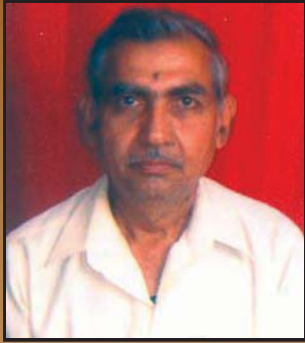
## Non-return Valve for Two-wheeler Engines

This innovation is an attachment for both four-stroke and two-stroke petrol engine, to economise on fuel and reduce emissions. The non-return valve is fitted between the air filter and the carburetor in a petrol engine and between the air filter and intake manifold in a diesel engine. The valve is essentially a mechanism to ensure fuller combustion of the air-fuel mixture in the combustion chamber and to reduce the release of un-burnt fuel, which causes pollution apart from reduction in fuel efficiency. This innovation fetched him a consolation award in NIF's Third National Competition. He also received an award at IIT, Mumbai.



**Arvind Khandke**  
Kolhapur

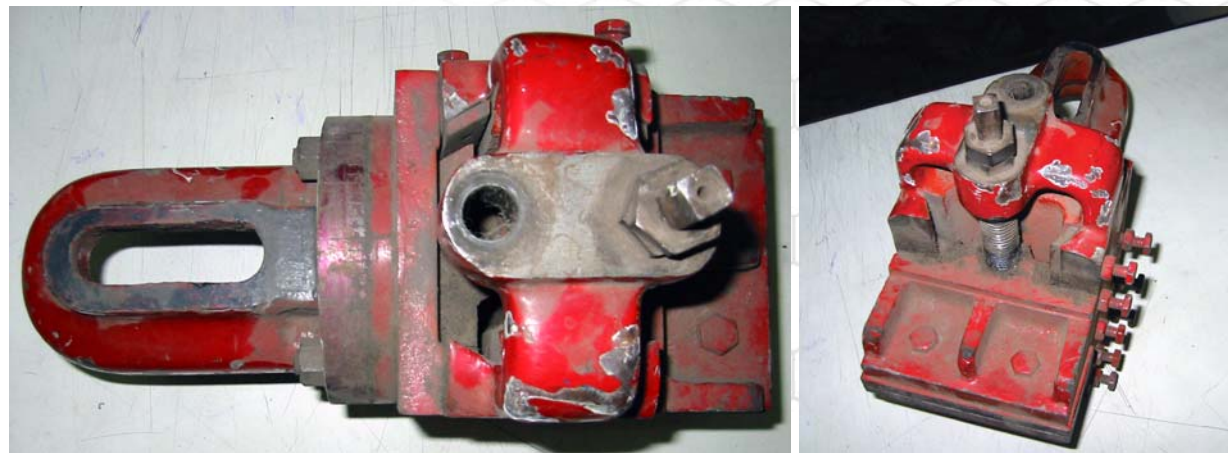




**Vijay Shantaram Ghodke**  
Aurangabad

## Keyway Making Fixture

Keyway making is a part of the everyday work of local fabricators. Specialized machines for making keyway are Milling, Slotting and Shaping machines. But small-scale workshops cannot afford these machines. This particular device helps make key-ways in cylindrical shafts with precise tolerance. It caters to the need of the low-scale workshop owner who cannot afford to purchase the specialized machines for milling. This is a fast, precise and reliable key-way making instrument. The device costs Rs. 500 and the set-up time is five to ten minutes. NIF sanctioned him Rs. 15000 from the Micro Venture Innovation Fund apart from filing a patent application on his behalf. The innovation won Ghodke a consolation award in NIF's Third National Competition.



## Pumpless stove

In order to provide the poor a safer and economical alternative to the commonly available stoves, Kazi came up with this innovation. The kero gas stove comprises a tank for the kerosene oil, a burner, and a facility for providing light. This stove burns with a blue flame and does not blacken vessels. It is safer than conventional stoves as after initial pumping to light the stove, stable pressure is maintained in this stove. While ordinary stoves use brass burners that need a lot of maintenance, the kero gas stove uses a burner made by Beed casting. This burner also ensures lower fuel consumption as it does not cool as quickly as the brass burners.

NIF with the help of GIAN also supported him through its Micro Venture Innovation Fund.



**Late Sarfuddin Amanuddin  
Kazi**  
Jalgaon







**Subhas Vasant Rao Jagtap**  
Jalgaon

## Tricycle Mounted Sprayer

Carrying heavy cylinders of pesticide on the back and spraying continuously by hand on the fields is a tedious and back breaking practice. The major problems are the weight of the spray pump the farmer has to carry on his back and secondly, the irritation and skin diseases caused due to direct contact with the pesticides. The present innovation is a spray pump mounted on a tricycle. The advantage of the device lies in its easy manoeuvrability and ease of operation. The product can be effectively used in fields with hard soil, low crop length and a distance of three to four feet between the rows for e.g. cotton, peas etc. The innovator was given a consolation award in NIF's Third National Competition.





## Magnetic Shock Absorber

Kalpita, then a school student, developed an idea for a magnetic shock absorber for automobiles and two-wheelers, which makes use of the magnetic repulsion between dipoles to achieve shock absorption. This shock absorber can eradicate the problems faced in the spring shock absorbers due to friction and other factors. It could also reduce the maintenance costs as it would not need repairing, changing of springs or dealing with leakage problems as in the case of spring or oil shock absorbers. For this idea, Kalpita won a consolation award in NIF's Third National Competition.



**Kalpita Patil**  
Jalgaon





**Gopal Suresh Patil**  
Dhule

## Walking Stick for Elderly

The innovation comprises a walking stick made up of PVC pipe with a switch at the upper end of the stick to turn a battery powered light source on and off. There is an illuminating light source (a reflector with a small bulb used in torches) towards the upper end of the stick (just after the curved part of the stick). This stick illuminates the area in front of the user and enables him to move at night also. NIF & GIAN West have invested in further refining the innovation and subsequent product development. This innovation won Gopal a consolation prize in NIF's Third National Competition. Gopal was a school student when he developed this innovation.



## Safety Device to Prevent Damage to Motors

Excessive voltage fluctuation in electric supply is the problem that most of the rural people have to live with. Poor quality of the electric supply often leads to frequent or premature burn out of the coils of motors. The electronic circuit designed by Kamble attempts to provide a total protection to the motor as far as possible within a limited budget. It is specifically targeted at the motors meant for powering water pumps. The circuit switches off the motor when deviation in any of the functional parameters beyond tolerable levels may damage the motor. Kamble won a National award in NIF's Second National Competition for this innovation. He tried to commercialise the technology and failed the first time. He tried again by making technology modular and reduced costs. It is working out better now.



**Kamble Bharat Srirang**  
Solapur







**Gopal Malhari Bhise**  
Jalgaon

## Bicycle Weeder, Bicycle Tiller and Bicycle Harrow

For those who cannot afford bullock weeder, a small tractor or even motor cycle driven weeder, cycle based plough is a very handy device. A steel fork is connected to the axle and the other end carries different kinds of attachments. Separate attachments for weeding and tilling or a harrow are attached to the working end, using bolts and nuts. The implement is very easy to operate and is ideally suited to the needs of marginal farmers who cannot afford to maintain bullocks. Bhise won a consolation award in NIF's Second National Competition. NIF also facilitated the patent application filing for the same.



## An Improved Dual Pod Variety of Chick pea- “Sushil Laxmi”

The most distinctive feature of the variety is that it bears two pods per axil as compared to single pod per axil, which is a common feature of most varieties that are available in the market. The plant variety is tall (50-60cm), spreading and has bushy type growth habit. The foliage is dark green and seeds are attractive, bold (25-30 gram/100 seeds) and brown in colour. The variety has been reported to be tolerant to wilting and insect pest attack in farmer’s field, yielding on an average 14 - 16 quintals per acre under irrigated conditions and 12 - 13 quintal per acre in unirrigated conditions.



**Balasaheb Patil**  
Kolhapur





**Sheikh Jahangir Sheikh  
Usman**  
Jalgaon

## Two-wheeler Based Spray Painting Device

The innovation is a painting device that can be easily mounted on a two-wheeler scooter and carried to a customer's place. Deriving power from the two-wheeler's engine to run the compressor, this device lends flexibility of usage to the painter. This innovation won Sheikh Jahangir a consolation prize in NIF's Fourth National Competition. NIF also filed a patent application for the same and supported him through the Micro Venture Innovation Fund. He has also made a based washing machine and a scotter based flour mill.





## Mango Nipper

Farmers all over India need a simple device that can reach tall branches of trees to cut and harvest thousands of fruits per day. This innovative device with unique shape and cutting action can be used to harvest fruits quickly, saving time and increasing output.

The novelty lies in the design of replaceable cutting blades and hooking angle given to the oval shaped ring that assists in harvesting the fruits on upright branches. It is light weight, durable and suitable for harvesting fruits like mango, safota, guava, orange, etc.



**Madhav Mahajan**  
Ratnagiri



**Makarand Kale**

Sangli

## Bullet Proof Jacket from Herbal Ingredients

This innovation is a bulletproof jacket made up of 80 percent herbal ingredients consisting of proteins, silk and cotton and 20 percent chemical constituents. Cotton cloth pieces and chemical preparations are layered alternatively. The combination of the material distributes the impact strength of high-speed bullet. Webbing of cotton cloth has a significant impact in context of energy absorption. The fabrication follows mixing, dilution, grinding, blending, impregnation and drying to get the final product. Composition of various grains is used, from which the proteins are derived. The bulletproof jacket is light weight and has good resistance against bullets, apart from having stability against temperature fluctuations. It can be moulded in any shape and size. It has good shock absorption properties and also provides good resistance to chemicals and abrasive substances. This bulletproof material can be used to make jackets, body of bulletproof cars, shields of shoulders, helmet, and fireproof devices.

The innovator won a consolation prize in NIF's Fourth National Competition for his efforts. NIF has also filed a patent on behalf of the innovator.



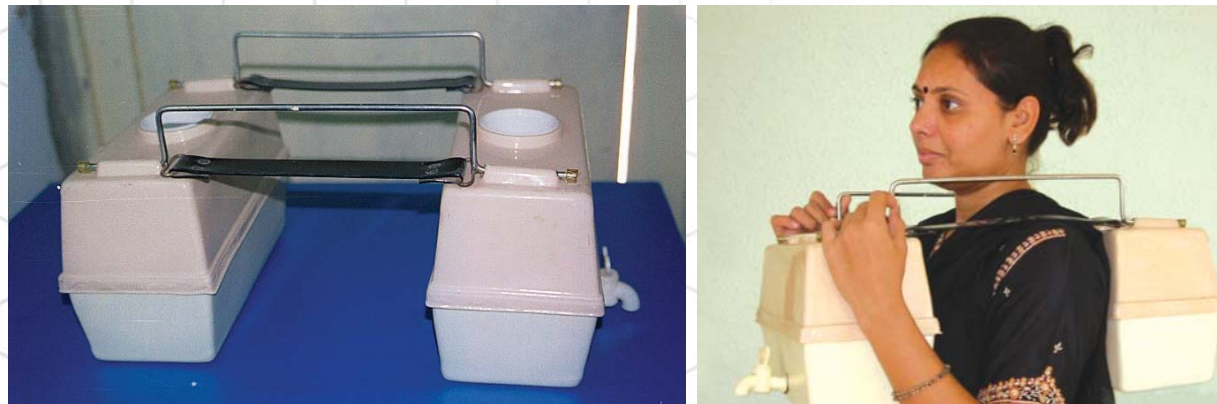
## “Jalpari”- The Water Carrier

Villages in India have women who walk miles with heavy water pitchers on their head, which results in considerable discomfort and even injuries. This innovation is an alternative and consists of a shoulder slung unit fixed with water canisters balanced on either side.

The carrier has two washable plastic containers of 20 liters capacity in the front and the back respectively. Metallic handle grips for holding and picking, a soft flexible shoulder strap and a tap for taking out water are some of the features of this versatile unit.



**Madhav Sawant**  
Maharashtra







# आमची शाळा

जि.प.प्राथमिक विद्यामंदिर अंबुडो





## **6<sup>th</sup> Shodh Yatra**

**December 23, 2000- January 1, 2001**

**Mohandari (Dang), Gujarat to Dhulda (Nasik), Maharashtra**

Shodh Yatra is a journey on foot in the search of knowledge, creativity and innovations at grassroots.

It is an attempt on the part of SRISTI, a Honey Bee Network partner based at Ahmedabad and NIF along with other network partners to reach out to the remotest part of the country with a firm belief that hardships and challenges of natural and social surroundings are one of the prime motivators of creativity and innovations.

Shodh Yatra aims at unearthing such traditional knowledge and grassroots innovations that have not only simplified the lives of men, women and farm labourers but have also significantly contributed towards the conservation of bio-diversity and other natural resources.

The yatris, during the 6<sup>th</sup> Shodh Yatra, over the period of ten days, travelled through the rural areas honouring innovators, traditional knowledge holders, experimental farmers and centenarians on the way. Many biodiversity and recipe contests were also organised at various places. The Shodh Yatra saw the participation of people from all walks of lives, scientists, students, innovators, farmers, journalists and traditional knowledge holders.



NATIONAL INNOVATION FOUNDATION, INDIA

## The Sixth National Biennial Competition for Green Grassroots Unaided Technological Innovations and Traditional Knowledge

### Co-sponsors



Honey Bee Network



CSIR



SRISTI



IIM-A

### The competition

The NIF, set up by Department of Science and Technology, GOI, seeks entries of unaided technological innovations and traditional knowledge developed by an individual or group comprising farmers, artisans, fishermen and women, slum dwellers, workshop mechanics, students, local communities etc., in managing natural and/or other resources. The innovations can be in machines, gadgets, implements, or processes for farm operations, household utility, transportation, energy conservation or generation, reduction in drudgery, creative use of biodiversity, development of plant varieties, generation of herbal remedies for human or animal health or developing new or any other low cost sustainable green technology related to various aspects of survival in urban and rural areas. Creative ideas for innovative technologies which have not yet been reduced to practice are also welcome. Communities developing People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) or People's Knowledge Register (PKR) are encouraged to register/link their knowledge base with the National Register at the NIF.

### The awards

The best three innovations and traditional knowledge practices will be awarded Rs 1,00,000, Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 each in different categories. In addition, individuals and/or organizations that make extraordinary contributions in scouting grassroots innovations and traditional knowledge may also get awards worth Rs 50,000, 25,000 and 15,000 respectively besides recognition to many others. There will be several consolation prizes of Rs 10,000 each in different categories depending upon the number of entries and incremental inventiveness and potential social and environmental impact. Three most outstanding innovative ideas may be given prizes of Rs 50,000, 25,000 and 15,000 in addition to consolation prizes of Rs 5,000 each. There are special prizes for innovations by or dealing with, physically challenged people. The

innovations /ideas of professionally trained persons are not considered for award or financial support. There are special awards for journalists writing about grassroots innovations and/ or traditional knowledge and creating greater awareness about NIF's missions. *The award money may be revised in due course.*

### Students

Young inventors and innovators are invited to send their ideas or innovations for a special category of awards for them. These should be unsupervised, an outcome of their own creativity, without any support from their teachers or outsiders. There will be prizes worth Rs 15,000, 10,000 and Rs 7,500 for the best three entries and several consolation prizes of Rs 5,000 each in this category.

### How to participate

Individuals or groups may send as many entries as they wish on plain paper providing a) genesis of the innovation and traditional knowledge b) its background and c) educational qualification and occupation, accompanied by photographs and/or videos if possible and any other information that may help in replicating the innovations/traditional knowledge. Herbal entries may be accompanied by dried plant samples to enable proper identification procedure. The **Sixth National Competition started on February 1, 2007 and entries would be accepted till December 31, 2008.** Every entry should include the **full postal address** to facilitate further communications.

### Where to send entries?

National Coordinator (Scouting & Documentation), National Innovation Foundation, Bungalow No. 1 Satellite Complex, Premchand Nagar Road, Ahmedabad 380015 Gujarat  
Toll Free No 1800 233 5555 Fax: (079) - 2673 1903  
email: [campaign@nifindia.org](mailto:campaign@nifindia.org); [www.nifindia.org](http://www.nifindia.org)