

Shortlist Backgrounder



Cornell University
Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development

CIIFAD/Cornell University USA

Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development (CIIFAD), with partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America, has provided worldwide leadership for evaluating and scaling-up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), a methodology for increasing the productivity of irrigated rice by changing the management of plants, soil, water and nutrients. These practices contribute to both healthier soil and plants supported by greater root growth and the nurturing of soil microbial abundance and diversity. This remarkable agricultural innovation contributes concurrently, and in mutually reinforcing ways with positive incentives, to economic, environmental and social sustainability. This program is one of several CIIFAD initiatives to decrease poverty and increase food security without impairing natural-resource systems.

Established in 1990 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, CIIFAD engages diverse disciplines, actors, and institutions to advance knowledge and practice for sustainable agricultural and rural development that contribute to improved prospects for global food security, sustainable rural development, and environmental conservation around the world.

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (DSW) German Foundation for World Population Germany



The German Foundation for World Population (DSW) has been working with partners in Asia and Africa to implement integrated social-environmental-economic projects that improve sexual and reproductive health (SRH), advance economic development and preserve fragile ecosystems. The organization supports education, awareness-raising and local empowerment as core methods for achieving sustainable change in people's behavior towards their own health, their communities and natural environment.

DSW incorporates lessons learned and stories from the field into mass communications that increase public awareness and strengthen public policy advocacy in Europe. In three years, DSW reached more than 6.7 million young people in developing countries, 45 million television viewers and newspaper readers, and demonstrated a "sustainability ratio" of more than 1:16 (project cost : estimated value of natural resources saved).

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Fundación del Empresariado Chihuahuense Mexico



FECHAC is an organization that brings together the private sector, civil society and the government of Chihuahua to develop social programs aimed at reducing marginalization and social exclusion. It was established over 10 years ago after severe flooding devastated parts of Chihuahua City with the most severe effects hitting the very poor. In response, the business sector approached the state government with a plan to levy 0.2% of business earnings on all local businesses and to be involved in managing the funds generated. FECHAC was established to administer these funds. The Foundation's mission is to "contribute to the human and social development of Chihuahua's most vulnerable citizens through programs that provide assistance through the mobilization of resources created by business and society.

Since its inception, it has invested more than US\$51 million in some 1,700 activities and programs throughout the state of Chihuahua such as building, rebuilding, and refurbishing healthcare institutions and schools, and providing care for the elderly and training for micro-enterprise owners.

International Development Enterprises (IDE) India



IDEI is an Indian not-for-profit organization committed to providing long-term solutions to poverty, hunger and malnutrition engaged in the development of small-scale irrigation and rural mass-marketing of simple, affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable technologies to small and marginal farm families through private marketing channels. Since 1991, IDEI has developed and disseminated a range of low-cost sustainable technologies for water-lifting (treadle pumps), water-application (drip and sprinkler systems) and water storage (plastic tanks) as well as low-cost sustainable agriculture technologies.

It uses donor funds to stimulate a sustainable and free market by creating demand for affordable technologies and ensuring a sustainable supply chain. Committed to providing long-term solutions to poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, IDEI is currently operating in selected districts of 10 Indian states.

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Instituto Terra Brazil



Instituto Terra is a civil non-profit organization that promotes the growth of conservation areas and the sustainable use of Atlantic forest biodiversity.

Located at the Bulcão Farm, Aimorés – MG, it covers an area of 676 hectares and is recognized as a Private Natural Heritage Reserve (RPPN) by a decree issued by the State Forestry Instituto (IEF) of the state of Minas Gerais on October 7th, 1998. The first RPPN to be created in a degraded area of the Atlantic Forest, Instituto Terra is working to return the Atlantic Forest of the Rio Doce Valley to its rich diversity, stimulate social development in the area, promote the recovery, conservation, and balanced use of the environment, strengthen rural life, and stem the exodus of rural population in the region.

Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Canada



MEDA has a fifty-year history of designing and implementing sustainable and innovative market-driven economic development programs that reach marginalized communities around the world. MEDA's objectives are to improve the well-being of disadvantaged peoples; bring hope through economic opportunity; build trust amongst partners and project stakeholders; and develop viable locally-owned structures and systems. MEDA focuses on pro-poor enterprise development, the microfinance industry and investment fund development across sectors and offer technical expertise in value chain analysis, producer empowerment, industry competitiveness, support service development, market linkages, rural microfinance, institutional capacity development, and financing of local institutions.

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Naandi Foundation India



Naandi works with under-served communities spread across 6000 villages in seven different states of India. Naandi's programs create sustainable livelihoods for small and marginal farmers including landless, indigenous people. Working with two groups in creating farm-based livelihoods, Naandi's end-to-end solutions have resulted in nearly 15000 families experiencing a three-fold increase in their per capita incomes, guaranteed food security, zero distress migration and a sustained conversion of 27,000 acres of semi waste and fallow land in eco-fragile areas into productive, cultivable lands.

Naandi also works with over 3000 government elementary schools across these regions providing health cover for nearly 100,000 children, learning support for 200,000 children and midday meals supplied to 500,000 children everyday. These investments with children have energized the education system, enabled children to realize their potential better and pave the way for creation of a better society.

Sustainable Energy Africa South Africa



Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA) promotes sustainable energy approaches and practices in the development of South Africa and Africa through research, capacity building, information dissemination, project implementation, lobbying, and networking. SEA's skills and experience include urban and regional planning, engineering, environmental science, and education.

Established as a non-profit organization in 2002, SEA's mission is to promote just and sustainable urban societies founded on the efficient use of energy and other resources.

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The Barefoot College India



The Barefoot College began in 1972 with the conviction that solutions to rural problems lie within the community.

The College addresses problems of drinking water, female education, health and sanitation, rural unemployment, income generation, electricity and power, as well as social awareness and the conservation of ecological systems in rural communities. Barefoot benefits the poorest of India's poor by emphasizing practical knowledge and skills over paper qualifications through a learning-by-doing process of education.

The Energy and Resources Institute India



TERI was formally established in 1974 to deal with the immense problems facing mankind in the years ahead due to the gradual depletion of the earth's finite energy resources and the existing methods of their use.

TERI relies on entrepreneurial skills to create benefits for society through the development and dissemination of intellectual property. The strength of the Institute lies in not only identifying and articulating intellectual challenges across a number of knowledge disciplines but also in mounting research, training, and demonstration projects leading to development of specific problem-based advanced technologies that benefit society at large.