

WHY THIS CONTEST?

The purpose of the competition is to uncover the hidden creative and innovative talent of our society so that livelihood prospects for masses improve through greater efficiency in existing enterprises and also through establishment of new innovation based enterprises. NIF believes that innovations developed by individuals in our society without any outside help from markets or formal institutions can help generate a new model of poverty alleviation and providing employment. These innovations will also hopefully help in conserving resources and energy in every sector. A National Micro Venture and Innovation Fund has been set up with the support of SIDBI. The idea is to provide risk capital to such individuals from the unorganized sector whose innovations or traditional knowledge are found promising and meet the priority criteria of NIF. GIANS (Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network) provide incubation support to the selected and prioritised innovations scouted through the contest.

Outstanding traditional knowledge is getting eroded very fast. We want to document and disseminate the valuable knowledge produced by individuals and communities under the conditions specified by the knowledge providers. This will also contribute towards preservation and augmentation of the heritage of creative knowledge systems

Prior Informed Consent: Each knowledge provider whose contribution is accepted for entry into the National Register will be requested to sign a Prior Informed Consent form. It will specify the conditions under which the knowledge provided to NIF can be shared with third parties with or without restriction on a commercial or non-commercial basis. The PIC form also provides an option for suggesting benefit-sharing formulae, should that technology or traditional knowledge be commercialized.

NIF will not include the entries in which

- the innovation has received institutional support at any stage of the research design or experiment, either in the development of process or product. Exception can be made for such grassroots innovators who have developed the product on their own, but were assisted in testing or slight modification by the formal sector.
- the research has been pursued in formal research institutions supported by private or public sector (except the unaided innovations in small scale or tiny industrial sector).
- innovations are developed by those having professional degrees or diplomas in say engineering, medical science, pharmacy, biotechnology, veterinary science, architecture, agriculture etc., or those having long professional experience in the organized sector. Such innovators may apply to IIM, Ahmedabad incubator managed by CIIE (Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship). For sending entries, the Application Form, Summary Format and NDA are available at www.ciieindia.org
- research projects by students supervised and guided by faculty.
- essays or mathematical formulae or proposals for some development projects or infeasible ideas.

A separate database of innovations by professionals for applications at grassroots will be developed. These entries will include cases (a) where a self employed professional or one engaged in tiny or small sector has developed an innovation or conceived an idea with applications at grassroots without institutional help, (b) a professional has developed an innovation in a field other than in which he is professionally trained with applications in saving energy, reducing for drudgery of women or other such priority areas. These entries may not be provided any financial support except linkages with formal R and D sector wherever necessary.

The decision of NIF in regard to acceptance of entries and for consideration of award will be final and no correspondence will be entertained in the matter.

Guidelines

Screening Criteria for Entries for National Competition for Green Grassroots Unaided Technological Innovations and Traditional Knowledge

NIF accepts only those entries that are self-driven i.e. developed entirely through one's own efforts at individual or community level singly or in small groups. An 'aided' grassroots innovation/traditional knowledge shall not be considered in the competition.

The following norms will be followed by NIF for screening of entries.

	Innovations/Idea Traditional Knowledge	Kind of Recognition		Inclusion in National Register ¹	Facilitation through Different Linkages / NIF website	
		MR	NMR ³			
Unaided	Without any institutional involvement	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Without any support/ award	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Received award from any organization at state level	With modification	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Without modification	May be considered	Yes	Yes	Yes (if social impact is high)
	Innovation by tiny/small or cottage sector industry by self employed non professional person/s	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Aided	Assistance (monetary/academic) from formal sector for developing the innovation	No Award	No	No	No	
	Research work/dissertation in formal research	No Award	No	No	No	
	Funded research from public/private sector	No Award	No	No	No	
	If aided by schemes like TePP but innovation/traditional knowledge developed by an individual/community from informal sector	May be considered	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Professional²	Self-employed or retired, associated with small scale or tiny industrial unit having technological applications for grassroots	No Award	Yes	No, but in database of professionals	Yes	
	Developed product/device based on known community/individual traditional knowledge	No Award	No	No, but in database of professionals	May be considered	
	Innovation developed in another discipline other than one's own but having application at grassroots	No Award	Yes	No, but in database of professionals	May be considered	
	Innovations developed for non-grassroots application	No Award	No	No	No	
Student	Unsupervised work	Cash Award	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Supervised work (Faculty, Institutional)	No Award	Yes	No, but in database of professionals	May be considered	
Theories, or Art	Theories , software applications, mathematical formulae)	No Award	No	No	No	
	Crafts, fine art design or music compositions or other performing art presentations without any technological innovations	No Award	No	No	No	
	Suggestions for developmental projects	No Award	No	No	No	

¹National Register for Green Grassroots Technological Innovations and Traditional Knowledge includes only unaided innovations and traditional knowledge developed by common people (individuals, groups and communities) at the grassroots.

²Experts in any particular field or those who have acquired expertise through professional degree /diploma courses (such as medicine, engineering, biotechnology, polytechnic, pharmacy, veterinary science, architecture, agriculture etc.) from formal universities/research institutions, or those having long professional experience in the organized sector.

³Non Monetary Recognition (NMR): This kind of recognition some times is more meaningful than the monetary rewards. It includes public honour, opportunity to showcase one's work at various levels and platforms nationally or in some cases even internationally, networking support so as to encourage peer learning, visits to centers of excellence and receiving opportunities of mentoring by outstanding innovators and other experts in their respective fields etc.

