

Best Practices Foundation

Innovating with the poor



About Us

Best Practices Foundation was established in 1999 as an action-based research organisation to identify, document, innovate and disseminate best practices in development.

Over the years, BPF has transformed into a knowledge-based institution facilitating the creation of innovative solutions to address some of the most pressing development issues worldwide. It has worked to strengthen local governance, enable access to public services, create sustainable livelihoods, encourage environmentally-conscious agricultural processes, and promote gender-sensitive and inclusive practices.



In the last decade, BPF has developed innovations, produced toolkits to scale up initiatives, influenced policy, documented case studies, conducted action research, programme evaluations, and published books and compendiums on best practices for sustainable development.

Through its incubation centre in Dharwad, Karnataka, BPF has broken new ground in community development, livelihood, governance, natural resource management and gender equity. BPF employs participatory approaches to co-create innovations that are pro-poor, inclusive and gender sensitive.

Mission

We believe that it is important to capture the vast and diverse knowledge emerging from the development community, facilitate sharing and cross fertilization of knowledge and create innovations that address the identified gaps. Towards this end, BPF strives to *improve the quality of life for poor and marginalised communities through documentation, innovation, implementation and dissemination of best practices.*

Vision

The Best Practices Foundation envisions widespread identification and institutionalisation of best practices in the fields of development, particularly in livelihoods, governance and gender equity. To fulfil this mandate, BPF aims to *become an agile, knowledge-based innovation agency and a network hub for the institutionalisation of best practices through multi-sector partnerships.*

Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles are fundamental to the way we operate and direct what we do, why we do it and how we do it.

- **Commitment to the Ground:** We seek participation, listen to voices and build innovations together with the communities to ensure their relevance.
- **Dynamic, Flexible and Multidisciplinary Approaches:** We believe that for new solutions to emerge cross-learning that arises from synergies across disciplines and actors is vital.
- **Teamwork and Effective Collaborations:** We encourage diversity and creatively use it to spread and adapt our innovations by fostering partnerships towards inclusive development.
- **Quality and Integrity:** We are committed to these values, which reflect in our work through our investment and critical reflection in both process and outcome.



BPF's Core Expertise

The BPF team integrates domain knowledge, research insights and cutting-edge analysis to catalyse effective solutions that better address the needs of the poor and marginalised communities. The research and implementation team work closely with each other combining in-depth academic knowledge with practical insights to create innovations and solutions that are relevant to the ground, inclusive and sustainable.

Our capabilities and experience include:

- Developing innovations that create and ensure sustainable livelihoods, inclusive governance and gender equity. Of particular significance are BPF's innovations in creating sustainable livelihoods for the asset-poor (Market Oriented Value Enhancement programme) and engendering vocational education initiative (Gender Vocational Education toolkit).
- Conducting action-research in partnership with development community, civil society and policy makers to address gaps in public services and NGO processes to facilitate more inclusive and better reach to communities.
- Documenting and disseminating best practices to enable development practitioners and governments scale innovative practices and assist them to reflect upon and redesign their initiatives.

- Undertaking evaluations to assess impact of interventions of development agencies, and help local and state government institutions design programmes for improved sustainability. Our evaluation approach utilises rigorous methods to assess criteria such as relevance, visibility, efficiency, sustainability, adaptability and replicability.
- Influencing desirable policy change through the creation of issue specific policy briefs that provide rigorous analysis of key challenges and possible solutions, engage in dialogue with state department heads, and issue-based task forces in the Planning Commission of India.



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