



National Innovation Foundation

# From Grassroots to Global:

building value chain around green unaided grassroots  
innovations and traditional knowledge

a Honey Bee perspective

**Prof. Anil K Gupta**

**K L Chair Professor of Entrepreneurship, Indian Institute of Management**

**Ahmedabad 380015, India [anilg@sristi.org](mailto:anilg@sristi.org)**

**& Exec Vice Chair, National Innovation Foundation**

---

**<http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/~anilg/>, <http://www.sristi.org>, <http://www.gian.org>,  
<http://www.nifindia.org> , [www.Indiainnovates.com](http://www.Indiainnovates.com)**



# Making India Innovative



National Innovation Foundation

[www.nifindia.org](http://www.nifindia.org)

[info@nifindia.org](mailto:info@nifindia.org)

NIF has scouted with the help of Honey Bee network collaborators ( 80 per cent) and directly about 51,000 innovations and traditional knowledge examples from over 360 districts of India in the last five years.

Hon'ble President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam honoured the innovators at second and third award function





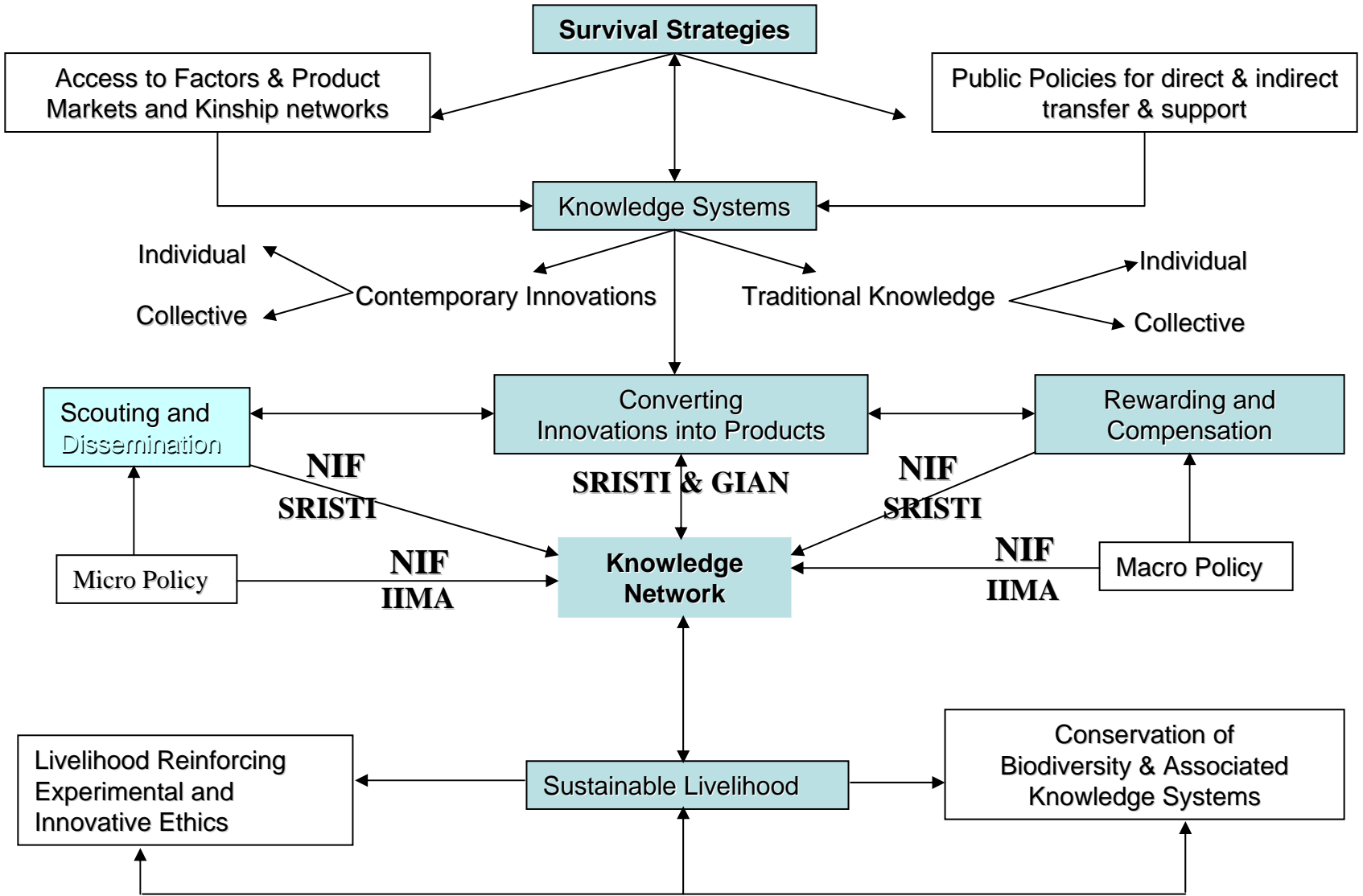
# National Innovation Foundation

- An autonomous scientific society set up in March 2000, by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India with Dr R A Mashelkar, Secretary, DSIR as chairperson
- NIF is committed to make India innovative by documenting, adding value, protecting intellectual property rights, disseminating on commercial as well as non-commercial basis, contemporary unaided technological innovations as well as outstanding examples of traditional knowledge. It draws upon fifteen years of work by Honey bee network and SRISTI



# Mission

To make India innovative and a global leader in sustainable technologies by building upon the genius of green grassroots technological innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge experts, protecting their intellectual property rights and converting innovations into enterprises, be they in commercial or social spheres.



- What do innovators do?
- Connect unconnectable
- See beyond what is visible
- Expect the unexpected
- Celebrate naiveté: do not know, can not be done
- Enjoy contradictions, shun consistency
- Remember: Experiments never fail, mind does

- **If technology is like words: Institutions are like Grammar , culture is thesaurus**
- Do incentives for innovations matter?
- Obviously yes, but do incentives of same kind will trigger various kinds of innovations?
- What kind of contingent models of rewarding creativity be developed so that innovations for various social segments evolve, mature and diffuse?

# Creativity counts

Knowledge matters

» innovations transform

» incentives inspire

# Key issues:

- Why is it that the role of grassroots innovations has remained ignored in all the policy discussions on national innovations systems, and international innovations dialogues
- We have assumed that *Lab to Land* model will work for ever, since Green revolution came out of that, forgetting that there were and are niches which institutional science has ignored all over the world, in USA, China as well as India,
- sustainability has never been a major concern for economically resource rich systems, but economically-poor but knowledge-rich people at grassroots, it is imperative, though not always feasible