



## THE LIVELIHOOD SCHOOL

The Livelihood School has been set up by the BASIX, a premier livelihood promotion institution, to impact the livelihoods of millions of poor and other disadvantaged sections of the society, especially of *BHARAT*, in a sustainable, socially and economically equitable manner. The school does so by building knowledge about processes, methods and principles of livelihood promotion and disseminating the same to enhance the capacities of practitioners, whose work affects the livelihoods of a large number. The School's consistent efforts to build the knowledge base on livelihood promotion and its relevance to the current challenges of livelihood promotion has earned the recognition as a ***Scientific and Industrial Research organization*** (SIRO) by Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Since its inception in 2007, it has offered over 350 livelihoods Educational Programmes reaching 15000+ participants, including elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, BDOs/CEOs, officers of various Government Programmes including Ajeevika, Bihar and UPASaC Livelihoods Project, Uttarakhand Government, Orissa Forest Sector Development Project in Odisha, SERP, Andhra Pradesh, SIRD Chattisgarh, NABARD and professionals from NGOs and multilateral agencies, all of whom are engaged in promoting/supporting livelihoods. The Livelihood School develops training modules, resource materials, and case study protocols related to livelihood promotion across agriculture and non-farm livelihood sectors. The School is a Knowledge Partner for various programmes on livelihood promotion, including ACCESS, Azim Premji University, Centre for Economic and Social Sciences. The School is also a member of a national consortium of management institutions constituted by the Ford Foundation for assessing the HR needs of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

The School is also very active in publications, with more than 20 publications to date. These publications examine a specific issue in-depth, utilizing the School's talented faculty. Some subjects include Fisheries-Based Livelihoods, Solar Home Lighting Systems, and Cases of Watershed Interventions. In addition to the publications, The School has written more than 76 case studies regarding Livelihood Promotion and Training. The case studies cover 19 different thematic issues, including microfinance, the dairy sector, non-timber forest produce, and rural tourism. The School also holds Case Writeshops, in which it the School assists the field personnel of the organizations which involved in livelihood promotion, to bring out their experiences in the form of case studies. The case studies are then published as a collection of by the organizations.

The School has also initiated a process of organizing deliberations amongst Livelihood Learning Groups (LLGs), which constitute experienced practitioners and academicians who are concerned with livelihood issues. These groups are a forum for the exchange of knowledge on various themes critical for various livelihoods and livelihood promotion, with a specific issue of concern taken up for each group. Examples of this focus include Using a Cost-Benefit Analysis in Livelihood Intervention, Whether Minimalist Credit is Sufficient, and Livelihood Promotion in Northeastern States.

The School is engaged in an Action Research project “Pathways out of Poverty” with the support of Grameen Foundation USA in the poorest block in Gaya District, Bihar. The School is in the process of developing a sustainable and scalable methodology to reach the poorest people in the State. The process adopted in the research is to design and implement the products and services suitable for very poor households, as well as to refine them, demonstrate scalability and establish a suitable business model. The School has approached this with a thorough design methodology, which includes utilizing background research, isolating possible livelihoods, and removing bottlenecks discovered through analysis of potential interventions. Following this design, The School created an action plan to undertake village trainings and capacity-building initiatives in order to educate the Poorest of the Poor on institutional processes and potential wage and entrepreneurial activities. The Action Research Project in Gaya demonstrates the School’s expertise in both knowledge building and dissemination, and its ability to create a program that brings about an impact in a much more powerful and efficient manner than without context.

The School has been engaged in 23 research studies of far-reaching impact. Some of these include a nation-wide study on ‘*Savings Behavior of Poor*’, supported by NABARD, Ford Foundation, and ING Vysya Bank, as well as an international study on ‘Post Disaster livelihood approaches in the context of Tusnami’ in Tamil Nadu (India) and Sri Lanka supported by Action Aid. These research studies are conducted by The School’s faculty and are intended as part of the Knowledge Dissemination objective of the school.

The School facilitates developing livelihood intervention plans for a variety of agencies, through a prolonged handholding accompaniment process. In this process, the school facilitates each step for the partner agency, including the conceptualization and execution phases. Examples of this accompaniment process include an accompaniment for a program of Ethiopian MFIs, and the school has partaken in 33 of these accompaniments.

The School helped the African countries in exploring the scope for establishing Livelihood School (or equivalent) in these countries. The countries where the scoping study was undertaken are Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and South Africa and presented the findings to a group of development practitioners and donors in these countries. Based on the recommendations the country representatives decided to establish livelihood Schools in each country which can then federate into one Pan-African Federated Livelihood School. The School will provide handholding support in this initiative.