



Cornell Sathguru Foundation
for Development

Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development

Towards social sustainable development

Annual report 2013-14

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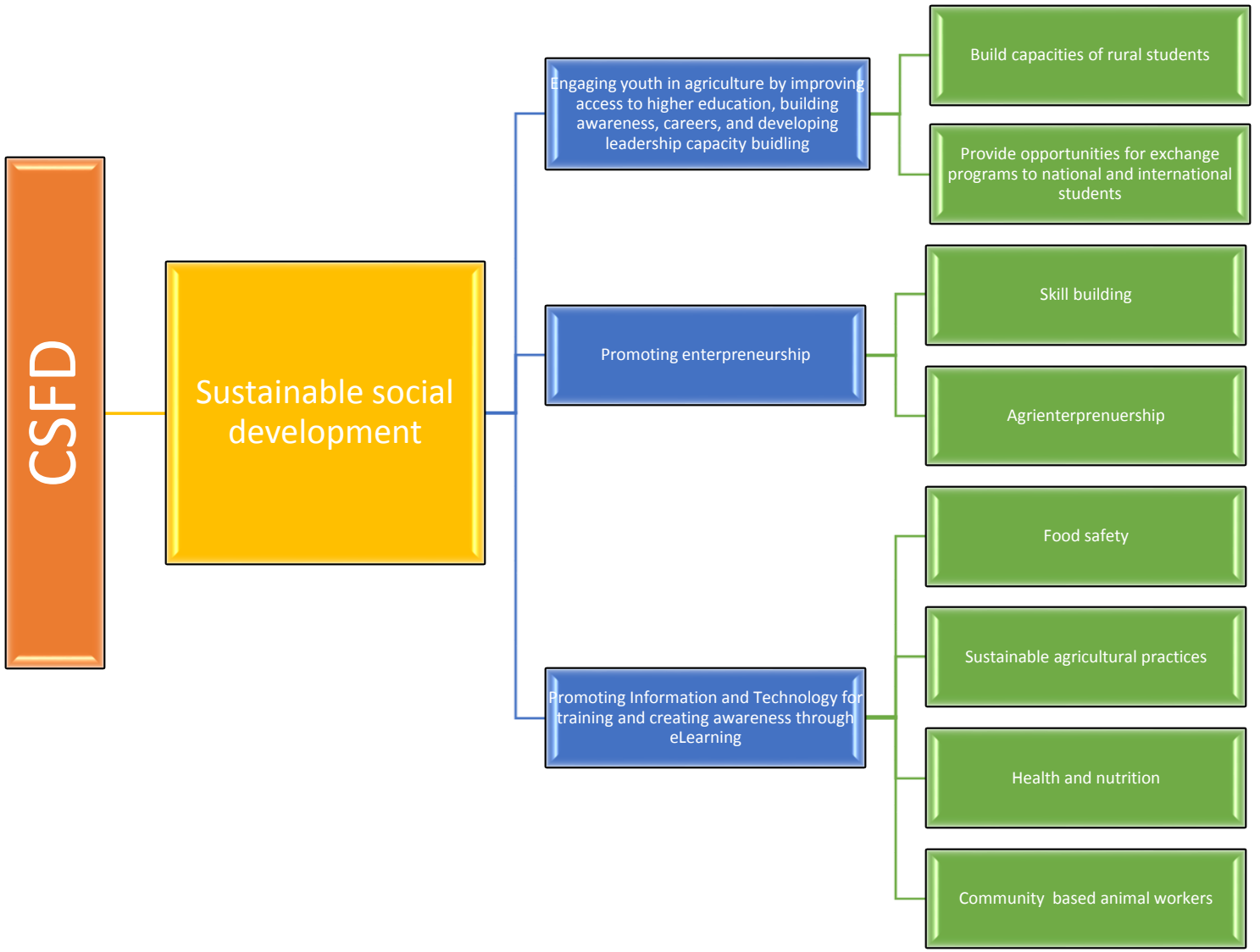
About Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD)

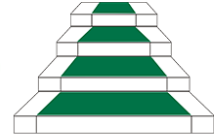
CSFD is the corporate social responsibility arm of Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad. The foundation was registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act 2001, India in the year 2004. CSFD was formerly known as Sathguru Foundation and was later renamed in the year 2005. CSFD was established in collaboration with Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

About Cornell and Sathguru

Cornell University is one of the best universities in the world for Agriculture, Food Science research and Education. Cornell University is recognized as one of the model universities for interweaving liberal education and fundamental knowledge with practical education and impact on societal and world problems. At the core of the initiative is innovation in teaching and learning through shared practices that connect students, faculty and curricula with communities in the public realm across the globe.

Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad, India, has been in existence for over 30 years and is known globally for its expertise in science management, technology management, enterprise incubation, institutional capacity creation and policy advocacy. Over the years, Sathguru has built a very unique niche of experts with combined strength in science and technology research management and enterprise management. This has provided Sathguru the ability to excel in technology management, corporate strategy planning process and institutional capacity building. Sathguru has a wide global presence in several countries such as America, Africa, several parts of the South Asian region and the Pacific.





Cornell Sathguru Foundation
for Development

Vision

Creating an enabling environment for promoting sustainable social development through life sciences and technology

Mission

To contribute towards sustainable agriculture and development by enhancing capacities, knowledge creation, promoting entrepreneurship and gender equity

From the Chairman's desk

The Foundation continued to pursue its mission during the year with the provision of scholarship to exceptionally bright students from India, enabling them to accomplish professional success. The foundation supported a PhD student to pursue higher education in the field of agriculture. The foundation continued to pursue partnership efforts with Indian agriculture Universities in the area of higher education and grant of scholarship for students to pursue their higher education. All the students supported by the Foundation in the earlier years have concluded their education and are pursuing research or productive employment.



During the year, the Foundation supported eight students and two faculty coordinators from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and Assam Agricultural University (AAU) to participate in IARD 402 and 602 courses with College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), Cornell University. The Indo US Science and Technology Forum provided complimentary funding support for the participation of students from Cornell University in this initiative. The Indian students and the faculty were supported to participate in a life-changing course that provided exposure to agriculture food chain and rural development issues. The seven months long course brought together Indian students and US in real field environment in India to understand and find solutions for problems in the area of crop production, nutrition, post farm value addition and gender inequities. This flagship program has enhanced the potential for Indian students gain productive international placement for further research or for securing productive employment.

The Foundation has contributed to the convergence of scientists, policy planners and industry to discuss the crop improvement strategies in wheat on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Norman Borlaug's engagement in South Asian region. The efforts pursued in partnership with Indian Council of Agriculture Research during August 2014 was aimed at finding solutions to mitigate rust in wheat and to improve the wheat productivity in the light of increasing stress factors affecting wheat productivity.

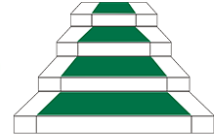
The foundation thanks the contribution of the Indo US Science and Technology Forum, academic partners, industry contributors and the faculty from Cornell University who have volunteered services for the activities pursued by the Foundation.

With best wishes,



W. Ronnie Coffman

Chairman of the Board.



Initiatives 2013-14

Borlaug Global Rust Initiative Technical Workshop, 2013

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) had jointly organized a Technical Workshop during 19-22 August 2013 in New Delhi, India to discuss the progress and challenges in protecting the world's wheat supply from rust. CSFD had financially and technically contributed to this technical convergence of scientists, policy planners and industry professionals to discuss crop improvement strategies in wheat. Among the professionals who participated in the program, six were sponsored by CSFD.

"Just as important as developing rust-resistant varieties of wheat is getting rid of the old 'rust sucking' varieties that pose a major threat to wheat production and food security in the path of stem rust and yellow rust," –

*Dr Ronnie Coffman,
Cornell professor of plant breeding,
Principal investigator, Director of the
Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat
(DRRW) project and Vice Chair of
the Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI)*

One of the major reasons for extending the technical support to this convergence was Sathguru's instrumental presence in collaborative efforts in rust surveillance and wheat research among the SAARC nations (the largest contiguous wheat growing region in the world) to meet the growing world demand for food through its project, The Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat (DRRW). This project aimed at mitigating the threat posed by wheat rusts through coordinated activities that will replace susceptible varieties with durably resistant ones, created by accelerated multilateral plant breeding and delivered through optimized developing country seed sectors.

India became the earliest beneficiary of the Borlaug legacy that contributed to the country accomplishing food security and economic prosperity. The wheat revolution in India triggered by Dr. Borlaug has sustained its relevance due to the continuous engagement of Indian Scientists in enhancing wheat production with consistent focus on food self-sufficiency.

During the convergence, scientists discussed the progress and challenges in protecting the world's wheat supply from rust and commemorated the 50th anniversary of Norman E. Borlaug's introduction of high-yielding wheat varieties in India. The workshop had over 400 delegates from major wheat growing nations from all the continents of the world. Participation included delegates from the South Asian nations of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan as well as the nations of North and South America, Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, the Maghreb region, Africa, Australia, and East Asia.

Dr. Coffman, one among the top wheat scientists participating in this program, opined that "We are significantly closer to our goal of protecting the global wheat crop from rust diseases but the vast wheat-growing region that stretches across North Africa all the way to India and China - two of the world's largest wheat-growing nations - is still vulnerable".

Human Resource Development in agriculture sector

India is largely an agricultural country. Despite rapid urbanization, about two-thirds of the population still lives in rural India with agriculture as their main means of livelihood. Agriculture and allied sectors are one of the largest contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and economic development of the country.

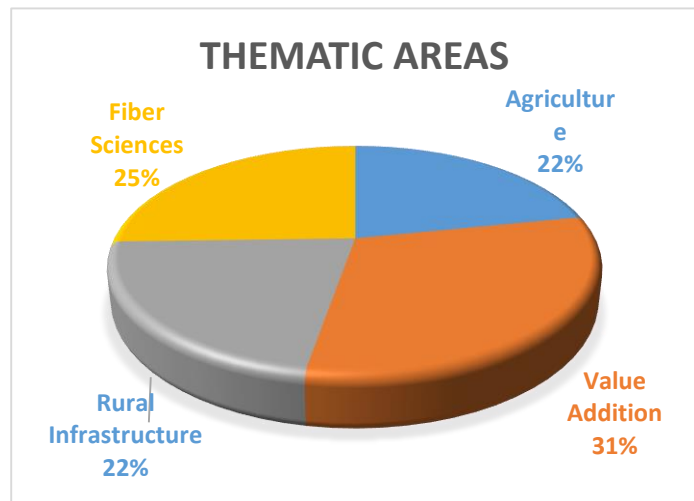
By the year 2020, India will home the youngest population on the planet. Understanding how the nation's youth will contribute to agriculture and use the traditional agricultural methods with modern knowledge is a huge concern. Despite the challenges, human resource development is critical for sustaining, diversifying and realizing the potentials of agriculture. Development agenda 21 refers to promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development – major adjustments are needed in agricultural, environmental and macroeconomic policies at national and international levels especially on education initiatives, economic incentives and development of appropriate and new technologies. Given the need, it is extremely important to improve social awareness and create an enabling environment for students to take up agricultural studies and shape the future of agriculture in India.

Engaging youth in agriculture is extremely important and a key for achieving the goals on the development agenda 21”.

It is the mission of CSFD to provide scholarship to exceptionally bright students from India and enable them to accomplish professional success. This year, CSFD has supported Mr. Dhyaneswaran Palanichamy to pursue doctoral studies in plant breeding delivered by Cornell University. A scholarship of USD 28, 002 was released for the period of 12 months, August-2013 to August-2014). The student will complete his academic session from Cornell and pursue off-campus research work for the next two years at Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) which will begin from August, 2014.

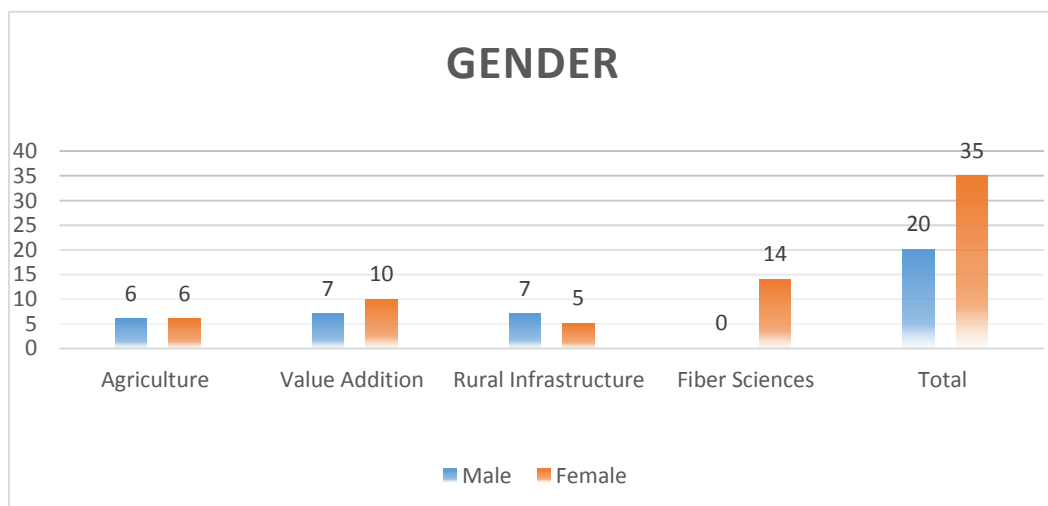
International Agriculture and Rural Development, IARD 602 - Experiential learning program

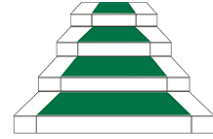
CSFD facilitates International Agriculture and Rural development IARD-602 - an experiential learning visit/program to students and the faculty to interact with experts from industry, academic institutions and policy planners. This program helps students to gain in-depth knowledge and a first-hand practical experience with field visits to various research institutes, NGOs, state agricultural universities as well as attend lectures on rural development delivered by experienced faculty and industry speakers.



This year CSFD facilitated 55 students and faculty from Indian State Agriculture Universities to participate in IARD 402 and 602 courses with College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), Cornell University. There were students from Cornell University, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and Sathguru.

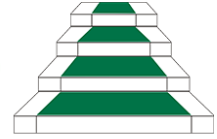
To gain proper insights on subjects, students were taken to government and private institutions working on the specific thematic areas. Significantly, majority of the students who participated in the IARD program were girls.



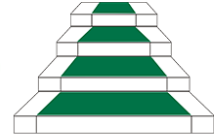


Thematic visits for the year 2014

Agriculture	Rural Infrastructure	Value Addition	Fiber Science
Monsanto Cotton Breeding Station, Kallakal	National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)	Tirumala Milk Products (P) Ltd.	Monsanto Cotton
Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA)	Akshaya Patra (and rural school)	National Research Center on Meat	Breeding Station, Kallakal
BASIX	Pochampally Handloom Park	Tata Global Beverages Limited (formerly Tata Tea Limited)	Suryavanshi Cotton Mills
Directorate of Rice Research (DRR)	Srishti Welfare Centre	Tata Tea packing center	National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad	UPASI (The United Planters' Association of Southern India)	Tata Tea research center	Tarun Tahiliani's Studio
Kothapally Watershed, Hyderabad	Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI)	William Goodacre & Sons India Pvt. Ltd.	RMKV
Tea garden and tea processing unit in Munnar		Synthetic Industries Ltd.	Jyothy Fabricare Services Limited-JFSL
Demonstration cum Seed Production Farms (D.S.P Farms)		Mangala Marine Exim Pvt. Ltd.	Vogue Institute of Fashion Technology
The Rice Research Station located at Monkomp, Thekkkara of Champakaulam Panchayat in Kuttanad Taluk of Alappuzha District			Sri Krishna Spinning and Weaving Mills Private Limited



Agriculture	Rural Infrastructure	Value addition	Fiber Science
Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI)			Bannerghatta National Park
Plantation Corporation of Kerala			Fabindia
			Ramanagara Cocoon Market
			KSIC
			Army Institute Of Fashion Designing
			Bureau Veritas India



Executive Board



Ronnie Coffman
Chairman



K. Vijayaraghavan
Vice Chairman



Ragunathan
Secretary



K.V. Raman
Director



Hemalatha
Director



Ms. Janet McCue
Member

Glimpses of CSFD





**Cornell Sathguru Foundation
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India Office:

Plot 54, Sagar Society, Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, Hyd - 500034, India

Email: info@sathguru.com; www.sathguru.com

Phone: +91 40 3016 0333 ; Fax: +91 40 4004 0554