

India Agri Fellowship

--Andhra Pradesh--

The Crises

Fair livelihood opportunity is fundamental to an equitable society. While each Indian farmer is an independent entrepreneur, s/he takes disproportionate risks in the food value chain when compared to input suppliers, marketing or food companies.

Less than Rs. 1600 monthly income, being forced to travel to cities for menial labor work; our food producers are taking extreme steps. While placing food on our plates, they are living under acute impoverish conditions.

The fact that access to new Agri business models, proven farm practices, direct market linkage and allied semi processing skills has wide-ranging benefits for farmers, Indian farmers are deprived of access to these services. With nearly 3 in 4 farmers' children wanting to move away from farming or agri-business, India today stands at an inflection point; where we go from here depends in large part on our ability to provide equal opportunities to small and land-less farmers.

The fact is that government alone cannot solve this crisis; we also need community participation by urban youth, informed consumers and aligned value chain companies to support farmers in India.

India Agri Fellowship aims to plug gaps in agri-value chain by empowering small & marginal farmers.

The Intervention

Diversified Crop Portfolio

Building a healthy mix of crops that allows for de-risking from uncertain weather and market conditions. And that ensures regular sales and inflow of income, as opposed to waiting for long harvest cycles.

Climbing Up the Value Chain

Acquiring processing or semi processing machinery and skills at the village level that increases shelf life of produce, possesses more innate value and fetches many times more than raw harvests.

Direct Access to Market Channels

Jumping hops of middle layers to get access to B2B and B2C markets. Establishing farmer owned brands & farmer owned marketing companies run by professional service providers.

Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Adopting best agricultural practices that enriches soil and water table, no or minimal use of inorganic help.

Grassroots Agri-Business Academy

Establish nation-wide Grassroots Agri Business Academy that helps farmers upskill themselves and learn agri business strategies that today are only accessible to urban youth through esteemed B Schools and Agricultural Universities.

Fellowship Stipend

India Agri Fellows will be provided a sum of Rs. 3,00,000 spread over 12 months as stipend to cover living, travel and food costs during the fellowship.

About India Agri Fellowship

India Agri Fellows with University of Commons commit one year, full-time, to providing their farmer friends with the opportunities that can put them on a different life path.

The Fellowship journey is one of coaching and learning, of working for farmers while developing your leadership. IAF Fellows are on a mission to assist farmers climb out of poverty and through this, they develop a long-term commitment to multiplying that impact as Alumni.

Each Fellow is assigned a group of farmers in one of Mindtree's locations, and charged to coach farmers directly or through a non-profit partner, adhering to core values and to give their farmers access and exposure they need to reach their personal, long-term visions.

Recruitment and Selection

IAF Fellows come from a diverse array of backgrounds including the nation's leading corporates and a wide range of universities - both local and abroad. Aspirants can apply at www.universityofcommons.com/iaf

Eligibility

- Age: 20 to 40 Years
- Language: Telugu and English/Hindi
- Experience/Education: Undergraduate, Postgraduate. Previous volunteering and corporate experience preferred.

Important Dates

- Application Deadline: 15th March 2019.
- Shortlist Announcement 20th March 2019.
- Face to Face / On Call Interviews: 25th March 2019.
- Results & Wait List: 30th March 2019.
- Fellowship Begins: 20th April 2019.

Training and Support

Mindtree provides IAF Fellows with extensive training and support throughout the course of the Fellowship. Designed to equip Fellows with the knowledge, skills and mindsets to become successful coach to farmers, our support is both pre-service and in-service:

Induction & Training: Fellows undergo a rigorous three-week residential training program in Bangalore that focuses on classroom practice and leadership development at Mindtree Campus.

Ongoing Support: Throughout the two years, Fellows receive ongoing support through a combination of in-person training sessions, leadership forums, as well as online training courses and resources. In addition, each Fellow has a full-time Program Manager who provides on the ground, intensive technical, leadership and emotional support.

Apply at www.universityofcommons.com/iaf

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