Millennium Alliance Round 4 Awards ₹8.15 Crore to 24 Social Innovators

NEW DELHI, 21 July 2017: The Millennium Alliance Initiative on Thursday recognized 24 high-impact social innovations from India at an award ceremony organized in New Delhi. The 24 finalists selected from a pool of 710 applications will together receive funding support worth Rs. 8.15 crore.

Union Minister of Science, Technology & Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan presided over the ceremony along with Mr. Mark A. White, Mission Director of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in India; Dr. A. Didar Singh, FICCI Secretary General; Mr. Gavin McGillivray, Head of DFID India and Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Giving away the awards, Union Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** said**,** "Millennium Alliance awardees are providing low cost affordable solutions at the last mile for the needy and at the same time have developed business models to sustain and scale their ventures. I strongly believe Science for Society is the new mantra with innovation and entrepreneurship being two strong pillars driving India's socio-economic growth".

Welcoming the guests **Dr. A. Didar Singh**, Secretary General, FICCI stated "Millennium Alliance is a perfect example of discovering and catalyzing technology and innovation for developing nations that are vital to generating socio-economic impact. Millennium Alliance synergizes with the visionary agenda of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Start-up India, Digital India, Skill India and Make in India."

Mr. Mark A. White, USAID Mission Director to India added, "The Millennium Alliance has been on an impressive growth journey. It has grown from a seven million dollar alliance with three founding partners in 2012 to now a more than 25 million dollar alliance having nine partners. The Alliance leverages the best of our partner institutions and the best of private Indian philanthropy to develop successful solutions to tough challenges."

Since its inception in 2012, the Millennium Alliance Initiative has received and evaluated over 4,000 applications of which 62 innovations have already been awarded. With additional 24 awarded at the ceremony, the total number of social enterprises supported by the program has gone up to 86.

An India-led initiative, the Millennium Alliance is an innovation-driven, impact-focused platform leveraging Indian ingenuity and resources to identify, test and scale innovative solutions to global development challenges in key focus areas like early education, agriculture, water and sanitation, health and clean energy. Contributing to social and economic development in over 20 Indian states and 7 developing countries, the program has so far directly benefitted more than 6.8 million people. Additionally, innovators have also been able to leverage their association with Millennium Alliance to raise external funds worth Rs. 451 million as well as develop over 90 partnerships for extensive and sustainable project implementation.

The Round 4 Awards Ceremony was jointly organized by the Technology Development Board (Department of Science & Technology), USAID, FICCI, UK's Department for International Development, ICCO Cooperation, ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth, Wadhwani Initiative for Sustainable Health, the World Bank and Facebook. The occasion was graced by guests from the diplomatic community, government as well as international development and social innovation ecosystem in India.

For further details, please visit www.millenniumalliance.in

FICCI MEDIA DIVISION

Attached: List of Awardees

Millennium Alliance Round 4 Awardee List

AGRICULTURE

1) ***CropConnect Enterprises Pvt Ltd****:* Original Indian Table seeks to bring to consumers (both B2B and B2C) traditional foods directly sourced from farms that engage in healthy and safe agricultural practices. They help farmers commercialize their products and increase their incomes.

2) ***Chitkara University*****:** Their innovation is an irreversible cell necrosis of weeds done selectively by using radio frequency irradiation. The novel process is implemented using directive applicator. Automatic weed detection enables selective processing of weed only. E-DeWeeder traverses the farms without disturbing the crops, detects the weeds and causes irreversible cell necrosis to weed plant.

3) ***Jayalaxmi Agrotech Pvt Ltd:*** The company has developed crop specific mobile apps for farmers in regional languages. And to address the connectivity gap, they have developed "Ägri pole" which can disseminate apps to farmers in the absence of internet. In the pilot phase, apps reached 80,000 farmers. As per the dip stick survey from preliminary study, these apps are reducing the input cost by 17%.

4) ***Sanjeevani Disaster Equipment Pvt Ltd:*** In 'Hot and Cold' storage system, the condensation heat of air conditioning unit or refrigeration in the cold storage is utilized for providing free energy at temperatures of 40-45°C for a hot storage which could have the potential for providing resistance during storage of food grains. The technology is aimed to save more than 80 percent of the cost required for hot storage.

5) ***Banyan Roots Organic Pvt Ltd:*** Banyan Roots has developed collection systems of the organic produce that tribal farmers produce locally at village level. These collection centers operate in an efficient way by using technologies like ERP. These centers also have set up monitoring

system and PGS certification for these villagers. The model increases the possibility to fetch good price and increase shelf life of their produce and develops innovative food processing unit which can efficiently run in remote areas, like solar base processing.

6) ***Deepak Foundation:*** The innovative solution provides opportunity for processing pulses, so that these pulses are packaged and sold locally and marketed through e-retail channels. The by-product, that is, the broken pulses and indigenously grown rice could be processed and packaged as instant khichdi mix and sold as a cost effective meal throughout the year.

7) ***Centre for Technology and Development*****:** Their project introduces a novel millet based FSSAI compliant packaged product range, such as breakfast cereals, flakes, pops, instant food mixes, etc. into the market that not only improves the food and nutritional security but also open a new market for farmers in urban areas to improve their income and development of highly improved products.

8) ***Naugachiya Jan Vikas Lok Karyakarm:*** Bhagalpur Banana Fibre Project is offering a very effective single solution for plantation of banana. The wasted banana trunks could be collected at the source and transported to small work sheds set up for extraction of high quality Banana Fibres from the banana trunks. This would provide direct employment to especially the women. The bio waste after the extraction of the fibre is highly suitable for composting and could be turned in to organic manure as a byproduct.

CLEAN ENERGY

9) ***SunMoksha Power Pvt Ltd:*** SunMoksha has developed a holistic solution – Smart NanoPower. The key interventions are (1) Smart Nanogrid™ for uninterrupted, reliable green energy supply (2) NanoSkill for development of locally relevant skilled workforce and (3)

NanoBiz for creating and implementing microenterprises including sustainable business models for Smart Nanogrid that are scalable and geared for local adaptation.

10) ***Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT)****:* Their project combines process and product innovation to offer a unique package that includes 1) Auditing services to educate households on nuances of energy usage such as bill calculation, appliance's wattage consumption, changes in wiring to reduce energy wastage, and use of renewable and energy efficient products (2) sale of customized green energy technologies such as solar lighting-cooling systems; CFLs, LED, stoves, innovative building technology such as Roof Ventilation & Modular insulated roof systems (3)end-user financing with tailored loans & flexible collection (4)after sales service.

EDUCATION

11) ***National Brain Research Centre:*** The Dyslexia Assessment for languages of India (DALI) was developed to meet the need for a nationally validated standardized screening tool for learning disability. DALI consists of a screening tool to be used by school teachers and assessment tools to be used by psychologists. The innovator has also created a hardware and software technology that will take DALI metrics as an input, convert it into games to generate data that can be analyzed to understand the severity and nature of Dyslexia amongst students.

12) ***Snehadhara Foundation:*** Kala Samavesh will select, train and certify Arts Based Therapy Practitioners, from 60 educational institutions, each institution working with a minimum of 50 children with disabilities to achieve Educational and Social Inclusion Goals.

13) ***ZMQ Development:*** Through Smart Madrasa, ZMQ aims to establish a courseware for building reading/writing and mathematics, life-skills for

Madrasa Students while at the same time undergoing Madrasa Education; Establishing digital Game based courseware & labs for building Reading/Writing skills in English and Hindi, entry level Mathematic and Life-skills.

14) ***Sikshasandhan:*** Sikshasandhan has built build human resources from the community itself as well as from the neighboring community who are not uncomfortable with the terrain and are motivated to work for their community development. Joyful and child centres learning practices in mother tongue will be introduced in schools to bring required competencies among the children.

15) ***Kaivalya Education Foundation:*** The School Transformation Program (STP) aims to intervene with 3 key stakeholders for 4 years - Teachers, Principals and Resource Persons. Post the STP in 110 schools of Udaipur, the sustained positive changes in the attitude and mindset of school staff and education officers will ensure that all the students in the 110 schools perform to a grade appropriate level.

HEALTHCARE

16) ***Pentavalent Bio Sciences Pvt Ltd:*** Pentavalent Bio Sciences has developed a rapid technology comprised of point of care testing. The device provides treatment decision within 5 hours. The device has a high degree of specificity and sensitivity at zeptogram (10-21) concentration of the targets. Through the device, affordable TB diagnosis will reach the large untapped poor sectors worldwide.

17) ***Chitkara University:*** Chitkara University is deploying the following technologies in order to provide virtual presence of doctor: Transmission of patient's vital signs to doctor on smart-phone/tablet/pc Transmission of real time video of patients to doctor. Allow doctor to Plan/Deliver the Drug through Smart Phone. Making

portable trolley equipped with all lifesaving drugs in infusion pump and vital sign devices.

18) ***Leowin Solutions Pvt Ltd:*** This is a patented technology, "MozziQuit": a Mosquito Trap Device made in three Models i.e. MozziQuit MQ-MAX, MozziQuit MQ-MINI-3 Pins and MozziQuit MQ-MINI-2 Pins which attracts, traps and kills female Mosquitoes in large numbers every day at lowest operating cost of less than 10 paisa per day without use of any Chemicals or Consumables or Liquid or Mats or Coils.

19) ***Pluss Advanced Technologies Pvt Ltd:*** Pluss Advanced Technologies has developed an innovative CE marked neonatal cooling device MiraCradle™ that is priced at 1/10th of the current imported devices. Developed in collaboration with Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore, MiraCradleTM is a robust device engineered with proprietary Phase Change Materials to maintain the clinically recommended temperature of 33-34^{0}C consistently for the entire duration of treatment of 72 hours.

20) ***ExCel Matrix Biological Devices Pvt Ltd:*** ExCel Matrix Biological Devices P. Ltd. offers a novel solution to wide spectrum wounds care. A single composite device to handle all types of wounds for primary or secondary care is contrary to the current paradigm. This Device fills the gap beyond BandAID/ Burnol till professional clinical attention is available.

WATER & SANITATION

21) ***ENVIRON:*** Through the project, biodegradable solid waste will be utilized for producing organic manure and bio-pest repellent by the use of "Waste Assimilator" which will also initiate 'Organic Kitchen Gardening' and 'Domestic Organic Tea Gardening'. On the other hand,

beneficiary households will segregate plastic waste through "Money Earning Litter-bin" and utilize their daily generated plastic waste through' plastic craft'.

OTHERS

22) Dhakka Brake: The innovation is a regenerative brake device for storage of momentum when brakes are applied. As the brakes are released, this device provides the necessary highly strenuous initial force to restart the vehicle.

***23) Magic Bus India Foundation*:** Magic Bus shall transform the lives of 40 youth by providing them with the right and structured training and career plan to establish entrepreneurships in the rural areas. The Youth will be intensively engaged in the training provided by Magic Bus on Life Skills, employability skills, ideation workshops, exposure visits to successful entrepreneurs, advance training on entrepreneurship, financial linkages and continuous mentoring support.

24) Kritsnam Technologies Pvt Ltd: Kritsnam Technologies will develop low-cost wireless infrastructure for rural settings using Low-Power Wide Area Networks technology. The developed infrastructure will then be integrated with water level monitoring instruments for deployments on ponds, wells and streams. Further Kritsnam will address the water-distribution problems identified in the pilot area, which coincides with the hydrological experimental area being setup by IIT Kanpur.