



BEYOND PURPOSE SOCIAL
VENTURES PVT LTD



Centre for Accelerated Development

Call For Knowledge & Research Partnerships

For Universities, Institutions of National Importance, Research Organisations, Non-Profits & Think Tanks

Three-Year Partnership | India & South Asia

Expressions of Interest due: 20 July 2026

Call for Research and Knowledge Partnership

Complex public challenges require collaborative research that combines academic rigor with field-based learning. We are inviting academic institutions, research organisations, and think tanks to partner with us in generating evidence that informs policy, strengthens practice, and enables scalable social innovations. Through the partnerships, we shall raise funding and investments to design and develop new technologies and social innovations.

Our work is grounded in real-world implementation across the Northeast and East of India, creating opportunities for research that bridges theory and practice. We are interested in collaborations that involve primary and secondary research, action research, experimental studies, impact evaluations, market research, behavioural insights, and interdisciplinary knowledge creation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Field Laboratory Access: Direct research access to active interventions across multiple blocks and districts in Meghalaya and beyond, covering youth development, rural enterprise, early childhood education, and the green economy.

Longitudinal Data and Institutional Memory: Four years of programme data, field documentation, and community interaction records available for co-analysis, enabling rare panel and longitudinal study designs.

Pathways to Policy Impact: Active partnerships with the Government of Meghalaya, World Bank-funded programmes, and UNDP create direct channels for translating research findings into state-level policy and programme design.

Co-Authorship on Original Research: Joint publications, policy briefs, conference presentations, and working papers from an underrepresented geography in Indian development literature.

International Partner Network: Engagement with CLASP, UNDP, SGP-GEF, Rainmatter Foundation, United Way of Hyderabad, The Delta, and SELCO Foundation, opening cross-institutional learning and co-funding possibilities.

Institutional Presence in Northeast India: A three-year structured engagement offering researchers a meaningful foothold in one of India's most underresearched development regions.

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RESEARCH PRIORITIES: 2026-2028

- Consumer behaviour and market insights in rural and peri-urban Northeast India.
- The green economy, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in ecologically sensitive geographies.
- Youth development, education, and the future of work in post-conflict and post-pandemic community contexts.

OUR CAPABILITIES

- Action research and experimental study design for social innovations
- Develop and test AI and digital technologies in social innovations
- Government partnership and public systems integration
- Knowledge management, documentation, and research communications
- Mixed-methods data collection, qualitative, quantitative, and participatory
- Co-design and community-centred facilitation using the CFAD approach
- Blended finance and market-based systems design
- Implementation support across blocks and districts for action research

Eligibility

Heads of Departments, Directors, or other authorised representatives of higher education institutions (including universities, institutions of national importance, and research centers), think tanks, research organisations, and research-based nonprofits based in India and South Asia are eligible to submit an Expression of Interest.

How to Submit

Please email your Expression of Interest to info@sauramandala.org by 20 July 2026 with the subject line: Expression of Interest – Knowledge & Research Partnership | [Institution Name]

Your submission should briefly outline:

- **Research areas and expertise**
- **Thematic alignment with SMF/BPSV**
- **Geographic focus**
- **Preferred collaboration or funding modalities**
- **Institutional profile and relevant experience (optional)**

Who We Are

Sauramandala Foundation

Sauramandala Foundation began with a simple intention: to bridge the gap between communities that have been historically disconnected and the systems that shape their lives. We saw that traditional models of development often moved too fast or too far from the ground realities—wellintentioned, but misaligned with what people actually needed or wanted. Over the years, this intention evolved into a deeper practice. We realized that real change doesn't start with projects. It starts with trust. It grows through relationships. And it sustains through collaborations and systems that are built with people, not just for them. That belief is what led us to develop the Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD)—our core approach to public problemsolving.

Beyond Purpose Social Ventures (BPSV)

Beyond Purpose Social Ventures is the social enterprise arm of Sauramandala Foundation — built on the belief that lasting social impact must be underpinned by sustainable economic models. Many community-led solutions carry real potential but often lack the means to sustain and scale what they start. This gap between promise and capacity, is what Beyond Purpose Social Ventures was designed to address.

Over the years, that belief has deepened into practice. Impact does not end with implementation. It grows through enterprise, creates value through markets, and endures when every product, service, and partnership strengthens the mission it was built to serve. Proceeds from consulting, products, and enterprises are reinvested to strengthen communities and deepen impact across programmes.



Our Approach

The Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD) is not a project framework. It is a platform for systemic change, built on the premise that the most effective solutions to public problems are designed closest to where those problems exist. CFAD uses a systems lens, builds local capacity, and co-designs evidence-based programmes in partnership with the community, district and state governments.



Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Gain Insights & Build Social Capital	Aggregate Partners to Co-Design & Implement	Evidence Generation & Policy Advocacy
3-6 months	3-6 months	24-30 months
Deep community listening, ethnographic research, PRA, and need assessments across health, education, livelihoods, energy, gender, climate, and water.	Bringing in NGOs, government departments, and knowledge partners to co-create contextual interventions.	Documenting learning, generating evidence, and translating findings into public systems and policy adoption at district and state level.

Since 2021, with approximately ₹4.3 crore (USD 0.5 million) in philanthropic seed funding, SMF launched focused pilots across Meghalaya. By FY 2024-25, this patient groundwork had unlocked ₹160 crore (USD 20 million) in public investment across sectors, demonstrating the CFAD approach's leverage potential.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Chief Minister's Youth Centres (CMYC) — Youth Development

Youth disengagement is not simply a problem of motivation; it reflects a structural mismatch between the skills rural young people develop and the opportunities available to them. In Meghalaya, where geographic isolation and limited infrastructure compound this challenge, the Chief Minister's Youth Centres (CMYC) offer a different model.

Implemented under the World Bank-funded MPOWER project and in partnership with the Government of Meghalaya, India Ultimate, Project Defy, Avni, and MBMA, CMYC has built a network of 22 operational centres across the state. Each centre runs five interdependent learning tracks: Nook, Sports, Library, Arts, and a Nano Grant entrepreneurship pathway. These tracks are designed to develop both practical skills and the disposition to act on them.



The Forgotten Folklore Project (TFFP) — Early Childhood Education

Project (TFFP) addresses this gap directly, developing contextualised storybooks rooted in indigenous languages and building the storytelling capacity of Anganwadi workers who serve as the primary interface between young children and structured learning.

TFFP works with a consortium including Pratham Storyweaver, The Nudge Institute, Meghalayan Age Limited, Eklavya, Leiden University, the Meghalaya ECD Mission, and the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya. The project has produced 66 books across seven states in Northeast India, piloted the approach in 12 Anganwadis across Meghalaya, and distributed 13,640 books to date. More than 250 children have been reached through this model, which positions folklore not as supplementary content but as the primary bridge between early childhood experience and structured learning.



E-Mobility & Ecotourism Initiative — Green Economy

Meghalaya's ecological sensitivity and scenic geography create conditions where conventional development approaches often undermine the very assets on which local livelihoods depend. SMF's E-Mobility and Ecotourism Initiative supports a different path: integrating clean energy infrastructure with ecotourism as a paired livelihood model for communities in ecologically sensitive landscapes along the Shillong-Sohra-Dawki tourism circuit.

Working with Bharathiya Vikas Trust, Sustain Plus, PRIME Meghalaya, SGP-GEF, CLASP, Climate Rise Alliance, and eight partner organisations, the initiative has established solar-powered e-mobility hubs as anchor infrastructure for responsible tourism enterprises. Eight ecotourism entrepreneurs now access a combined fleet of 35 e-cycles and 20 e-scooters, supported by 48 kilowatts of installed solar charging capacity across eight sites. A pilot at Shangkhai (Sohra) recorded 206 rides and revenue of INR 71,352 with a 90% profit margin within its first eight months.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



PRIME Rural Entrepreneurship Fellowship (PSREF) — Rural Enterprise

Rural businesses in Meghalaya operate in environments defined by thin markets, fragmented supply chains, and limited access to structured enterprise support. Many entrepreneurs have the skills and ideas but lack the technical guidance to formalise, price, and grow their operations. The PRIME Rural Entrepreneurship Fellowship (PSREF) responds to this gap by placing trained field fellows directly in communities to provide doorstep incubation support across business planning, costing, product branding, enterprise registration, and market linkage.

Deployed across 12 blocks in Meghalaya in partnership with PRIME Meghalaya and Rainmatter Foundation, PSREF also integrates a blended finance model linking LIFCOM, MBMA, and SELCO Foundation to extend clean energy access alongside enterprise development. Since launch, the programme has supported 285 entrepreneurs, facilitated the establishment of 45 businesses, helped brand 417 products, and conducted 103 trainings, with 62 DPRs prepared for LIFCOM blended finance linkage.



Efficiency for Access Initiative — Clean Energy for Rural Enterprises

The Efficiency for Access initiative demonstrates how decentralised renewable energy can unlock productivity and income growth for rural enterprises operating in energy-scarce environments. Implemented by BPSV in partnership with CLASP and the MacArthur Foundation, the project deployed Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) systems alongside structured incubation support for nine micro and small enterprises across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. Phase I (May to December 2024) covered enterprise selection and capacity building; Phase II (January to September 2025) focused on solar installation and performance monitoring.

The initiative builds on the CLASP-MAF project (2024), which deployed DRE in four enterprises across Assam and Nagaland in partnership with SeSTA and YouthNet.



Public Health, Health Energy Nexus & COVID-19 Response

Unreliable electricity at rural health sub-centres is not a technical inconvenience; it is a structural barrier to healthcare delivery. Equipment fails, staff do not stay, and communities avoid facilities they do not trust. In 2019, SMF conducted community research in West Garo Hills that identified energy poverty as a root cause of poor maternal and infant health outcomes. Working with SELCO Foundation and the National Health Mission (NHM) Meghalaya, SMF built a proof-of-concept demonstrating that solar-powered, energy-efficient equipment could directly improve service delivery at the last mile.

An Expression of Interest approved on 22 July 2020 committed government resources to solar-power 100 health sub-centres, representing 25% of Meghalaya's sub-centres. Phase 1 was completed; a Phase 2 plan for 342 additional sub-centres followed alongside a district blanket programme for East Garo Hills and Ribhoi. During FY 2021-22, SMF also coordinated with the Government of Meghalaya, NHM, and Crypto Relief to deploy six Vaccine on Wheels vehicles across three districts, expanding COVID-19 vaccination coverage in communities with limited road access. The programme was launched by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Livelihood Infrastructure, LAMP & Mission Organic Value Chain

Rural cooperative societies and farmer producer companies in Meghalaya historically struggled to access government capital for post-harvest processing infrastructure. SMF was empanelled by the Meghalaya Basin Development Agency (MBDA) as a technical partner under two government schemes, providing built environment design and food processing unit planning support that enabled societies and companies to access formal financing.

Under the Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (LAMP), SMF supported 39 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies in unlocking zero-interest loans ranging from INR 10 to 25 lakhs per society for food processing units and Collective Marketing Centres. Under Mission Organic Value Chain Development (MOVCD), 12 Farmer Producer Companies received technical support, each unlocking INR 25 lakhs. In parallel, SMF co-implemented 10 pilot solar-powered cold storage installations with cooperative societies across Meghalaya in collaboration with SELCO Foundation and MBDA.



Apiculture Mission 2.0 — State Beekeeping & Policy

Beekeeping is a traditional livelihood in Meghalaya, but fragmented practice and limited technical support constrained productivity and commercialisation at scale. In 2022, the Government of Meghalaya empanelled SMF as the knowledge partner for Apiculture Mission 2.0, tasked with co-designing state policy alongside the Department of Industries, the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, and the Directorate of Horticulture. SMF's cluster-led model formed the foundation of the mission design.

The policy was launched on 1 March 2022, targeting 100 master beekeepers and 5,000 amateur beekeepers with a projected 500 metric tonne increase in state honey production. During FY 2021-22, SMF directly supported over 50 beekeepers with tools, training, and colonies, and piloted beeswax cosmetics training to expand community earnings. This programme extended earlier work training 25 women beekeepers in Manipur in 2019 in partnership with Barefoot College.



School Electrification & Early NE Outreach (2019–2021)

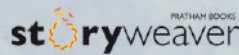
From 2019 to 2021, SMF electrified six community schools and training centres across Meghalaya, Assam, and Manipur, establishing trusted community partnerships.

The initiative supported the Bolmoram Training Centre (five villages), the Addingre Community English School (100 first-generation learners), the Hummingbird School in Majuli, and two Sunbird Trust schools in Tamenglong.

It also catalysed five additional electrification projects, three livelihood initiatives, and the translation of 40 early childhood education books into three local dialects, which later evolved into the Forgotten Folklore Project.



OUR PARTNER ECOSYSTEM



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