Building the sector

1. Livelihood and Microfinance Promotion Fund (LAMP FUND)

LAMP Fund which started with the contribution from India Grameen Services, a BASIX group of company worth Rs. 20 Lakhs in the year 2001. Later Developpement International Desjardins, Canada (DID) with support from CIDA as a part of its Banking with the Poor in India project, reinvested the term loan of Rs. 53 Million which was extended to Bhartiya Samruddhi Finance Limited (Samruddhi) of BASIX group to this fund, for strengthening many smaller micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) that are emerging in the country today, linking many more poor people to the formal banking sector.

The primary purpose of the fund is to promote and support micro finance and livelihood initiatives, as well as community based organisations and community based micro-finance institutions in India. The use of this fund focussed on attaining long-term sustainability and contributes to positive outcomes in terms of the promotion of micro finance as a means of livelihood promotion and rural poverty reduction.

The overall goal of the LAMP Fund is:
To contribute to the improvement of the livelihood situation in rural India, especially for the disadvantaged sections of the society, through developing products and supporting financial services to small NGO microfinance institutions (NGO-MFIs), as well as community owned microfinance institutions (CO-MFIs).

The objective of the LAMP Fund is pursued in two major thrusts, each addressing the target clients from the same angle to achieve the desired goal:
- To build the capacity for broadening the offering of the NGO/CO-MFI from micro-credit to livelihood promotion support through networking with other financial institutions and service providers (such as for training, IT, Insurance, livelihood promotion), as the NGO/CO-MFI begins to graduate.
- To provide access to Financial Services to small and upcoming NGO microfinance institutions (NGO-MFIs) run by NGOs as well as community owned microfinance institutions (CO-MFIs).

2. The Livelihood School focuses on livelihood promotion, and not rural development or micro-finance; working with people who lack access to good training due to their inadequate command over English language and not their basic intelligence; guided by practitioners working closely with academicians; involving a mix of classroom learning and learning on site; at different locations; by an extended faculty group (EFG); in collaboration with multiple institutional.

The School places high values on delivery of high quality. Towards this the School has set up a referral system in addition to an internal review system. It has also developed a rigorous system of faculty selection and makes significant investments in faculty development processes. The School endeavors to ensuring greater involvement of women and to building autonomous, non-hierarchical collaboration with academic institutions, livelihood support agencies and support agencies. For more details click on the www.thelivelihoodschool.in

3. With other institutions