

Your Talent...Our Space



Announcing The RIN Fellowship Programme

Driven by dreams of a prosperous Rural India, RURAL INNOVATIONS NETWORK is a not-for-profit organization based in South India. Its mission is to identify and incubate grassroots technological innovations developed largely by rural users that can have a significant impact on rural lives and enable these innovations reach rural markets. RIN identifies these innovations and helps develop and market the innovations that have commercial potential.



Rural Innovations Network
Ideas to Reality

Are you inspired by dreams of prosperous rural communities worldwide? Do you believe that it is possible to create self-sustaining rural prosperity by enabling the successful commercialization of grassroots innovations using social enterprise models?

Rural Innovations Network is looking for energetic and talented professionals who share this dream of creating significant outcomes for the rural poor and marginalized.

Interested?

The RIN Fellowship Programme invites you to participate in transforming great ideas into successful innovations that reach the market as commercially viable and affordable products for the rural poor.



Presenting The RIN Fellowship Programme

Rural Innovations Network (RIN), supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, presents the first RIN Fellowships, a 10-month program designed to equip individuals who dare to follow their dreams and can help build a prosperous rural India.

What does the RIN Fellowship offer you?

The RIN Fellowship gives you an exciting opportunity to work for 10 months both independently and alongside RIN professionals.

During the programme, you will contribute to rural prosperity by:

- Mentoring an Innovator and use your entrepreneurial skills to enable the successful commercialization of a grassroots innovation
- Deploying practical, imaginative and decisive leadership in working with innovators, innovations and rural markets
- Acquiring in-depth understanding of the innovation and social enterprise sectors
- Developing specific expertise in technology development and business planning
- Implementing the best (international) practices from industry
- Gaining knowledge and familiarity with RIN and other Social enterprise models by participating in structured knowledge building programmes



Who can become a RIN Fellow?

- Professionals from Corporate who want to contribute to the Rural poor
- Engineers or Agriculture Graduates with 3-5 years of work experience
- Social Entrepreneurs who wish to hone their entrepreneurial ability in a challenging environment
- Emerging Entrepreneurs who aspire to understand the rural sector
- Experience in or exposure to any of the following will be an added advantage:
 - New product development, Project Management or Business planning
 - Venture capital organizations, Rural markets or Social sector
- Individuals who have had success in:
 - Spear-heading change management initiatives
 - Business planning and execution
 - Social change activities
 - Championing new / entrepreneurial initiatives
- Adaptability to new cultures / environments is a must



Interested? Read On ...

Duration and schedule of the Fellowship programme

Date / Period	What
16 th February 2009	The Fellowship begins formally at Chennai with a one week classroom-based Induction programme into all aspects of RIN and an introduction to the Social Enterprise sector
16 th – 28 th February	Induction into the work of RIN with the Fellows spending time at the various offices of RIN and with identified Innovators
2 nd – 10 th March	Visit to other organizations in the Social enterprise sector
10 th – 15 th March	Understanding individual portfolios and defining outcomes and processes for each with the RIN senior person
16 th March – 15 th November 2009	On the ground working on the allotted portfolio and towards the stated deliverables
Mid May, July and September	Interim reviews in April, June and September, primarily to assess progress and offer support where required
16 th – 30 th November	Fellows come back from their projects to spend the next two weeks in putting together their learning and outcomes of the work done by them and present the same to the RIN team
1 st week of December	Fellows spend time with key role holders in RIN, deciphering the path forward for themselves in the sector and nature of support expected from RIN to facilitate the same

In addition, Fellows will also be invited to attend relevant Learning sessions that are planned for the year and held at RIN offices on the 1st Saturday of every month

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Fellowship Location, Compensation & Travel

The Fellows would operate from **Chennai, India**, as the base and may be required to travel or stay at the location of the Innovators they are working with. All travel and stay would be primarily based in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu.

Compensation for the Fellows Program is designed to cover the costs associated with the program, i.e., local travel to and from the office, accommodation, local transportation for business needs, food, health insurance and incidentals.

RIN is pleased to provide you a stipend of Rs. 25,000/- per month to cover meals, housing and incidental costs.

Travel expenses: RIN will reimburse the to and fro transportation of the shortest route for all to Chennai from their place of domicile. In addition, travel expenses to Innovator location, for Quarterly meetings and any other RIN meetings during the Fellowship will be borne by RIN

How to Apply

- Send in your detailed Resume, along with a one page summary (not exceeding 500 words) of why you are interested in applying for the Fellowship, to rinfellowships@rinovations.org before 15th December 2008.
- Shortlisted candidates can expect a phone call from us at a mutually convenient time informing them of the same.
- Finalists would participate in an in-person / teleconference / video conference interview with an eminent Social entrepreneur and senior staff from the RIN selection board.
- The decision on the persons selected for the RIN Fellowship and extension of offers to successful candidates will be sent before the 1st week of January 2009

Apply now to participate in an exciting journey with us!

www.rinovations.org

Rural Innovations Network, 20/6, Lakshmipuram 2nd Street, Lloyds Road, Royapettah, Chennai 600 014

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RIN Fellowship Programme FAQs

1. How many Fellows will be selected for the programme this year?

Answer: This year, we plan to have **5-7 fellows** for the programme. This is the first formal launch of a Fellowship programme for RIN. Prior to this, RIN has housed many Indian and International Volunteers, Interns and Professionals who have contributed to the work of RIN.

2. What is the nature of support that will be offered for RIN Fellows to settle down at the place of work if they are from elsewhere?

Answer: RIN will offer you accommodation in modest but comfortable premises for the first 10 days of your stay in Chennai. During that time, administrative support will be provided to you for identifying a suitable accommodation. Accommodation will be organized while on tour for official purposes.

3. Can RIN Fellows bring their immediate family along with them?

Answer: The Fellowship programme will arrange for travel, work permits and other items only for one person. However, RIN acknowledges and respects the needs of Fellows to bring their immediate family along with them and fellows may bring family or loved ones at their own expense. It should be noted that Fellows will be expected to travel at short notice and at the schedule dictated by the Incubation plan, and that the program is intensive, time-consuming and requires real commitment and flexibility. Fellows should consider these factors carefully before deciding to bring family members.

4. Are RIN Fellows allowed to take leave of absence during the programme?

Answer: RIN Fellows are encouraged to take leave of absence only for reasons of sickness or physical inability to travel to work. Fellows are generally encouraged not to opt for leave beyond this. However, the request for leave on any exceptional reasons may be considered on a case to case basis.

5. What type of mentoring and support will RIN Fellows receive during the programme?

Answer: Each RIN Fellow will be assigned a Mentor from within RIN to whom they are encouraged to share progress on the assignment, or any other matters they wish to receive support on. This Mentor would not be the person they are reporting in for work purposes. Apart from this, RIN has a very positive and supportive work culture and you would be free to seek the support of any RIN employee you choose.

6. Can fellows expect an offer of employment from RIN or its partner organizations on completion of the programme?

Answer: RIN reserves the right to extend employment to any of the RIN Fellows. On completion of the programme, if such an offer is not made from RIN, RIN would still be able to suggest to the Fellow possible organizations that the Fellow can consider for a suitable career, based on RIN's assessment of the Fellow's performance and potential.