



## The SIFF-RySS India Fellowship Programme 2025-26

### About Us

India needs approximately USD 2.5 trillion by 2030, or roughly USD 300 billion per year, in green finance to meet its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. More than USD 10 trillion is needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. However, the current tracked green finance falls woefully short of what is needed to meet India's climate goals. The Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) recognises the critical role that private capital can and should play in this area so that India can meet its development and climate goals on schedule.

SIFF is a virtuous not-for-profit partnership established in 2017 with catalytic support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Agroforestry Centre and BNP Paribas to leverage private finance for public good into sectors such as sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, freshwater, fisheries, renewables, and forest protection. Currently, SIFF is hosted by the [Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet \(GASP\)](#).

Currently, SIFF supports the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), India, in its pioneering [Community Managed Natural Farming \(APCNF\) programme](#) to transition 6 million farmers from synthetic chemical farming to regenerative agriculture. As part of the programme, SIFF, in partnership with the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) of GoAP, runs a one-year fellowship programme that offers imaginative young minds an opportunity to work in India and contribute to sustainable development, path-breaking research, communications and stakeholder engagement.

### About the fellowship

The SIFF India Fellowship is a one-year career development programme for bright young minds to strengthen and sharpen their research skills and critical thinking of the Indian agrarian & food systems and rural development, empowering them with a deep understanding of sustainable development. Through field immersions and mentorship, the fellows choose their research topics. They are given complete on-field and desk research support to produce a high-quality research output that can contribute to the larger programme of scaling-up regenerative agriculture practices and enhancing sustainable food systems in India.

### Main Pillars of Fellowship

**Field Immersion:** The fellowship will commence with a two-week field immersion tenure dedicated to different development interventions by the Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming Program. These interventions include a range of social and environmental solutions in the field of regenerative agriculture, carbon sequestration, livelihood, community development, women and youth empowerment, water, health & hygiene, sanitation, and communications. At the end of the immersion tenure, each fellow will choose a topic for their research project based on their interest and expertise. Research projects will focus on areas such as conservation,

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strategic communications, biodiversity, energy, subsidies, market off-take, and innovative finance for agriculture.

**Mentorship:** During the fellowship, each fellow will be mentored by the thematic lead of the topic selected for the research. The fellows will lead their own data collection and research but will get complete on-ground support from the field mentors, community workers, farmer champions, and all other relevant stakeholders. The fellows will be given several opportunities to attend various national and international conferences and workshops on topics related to their research under the broader domain of regenerative agriculture.

**Research:** Over one year, each fellow will be expected to select a research topic, collect the relevant primary and secondary data, analyse the results, and produce a high-quality written report. The report will be reviewed by internal and external subject experts and presented to the senior officials of the program. The entire research will be supported and overseen by the head of the research department.

### **Fellowship requirements**

- Applicants must be completed a degree programme in a graduate school (higher degree from a university like a Master's or a further degree like a PhD/MPhil) at the time of applying and are keen to acquire experience in project implementation, research and sustainability.
- Your academic subject **MUST** relate to either of these areas: - environment, ecology, public policy, development studies, rural development, sustainable agriculture, food sciences, agri-economics, management, business development etc.
- Your work experience, if any, should also be in any of the above-mentioned fields will be considered and given priority.
- Project work done during the course in these subject areas or any full-time work experience in these areas would be given preference. Hence, please update your CV accordingly.

**All fellows will work from the SIFF office in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.**

### **Stipend**

- Fellows receive a monthly stipend of INR 40,000 and all travel expenses reimbursement to cover the field visits and other training.

**Fellowships are for a period of 12 months.**

### **Assessment**

No formal exam will be conducted at the end of the fellowship. However, a comprehensive assessment will be conducted during the tenure of the fellowship based on feedback from the field mentors and thematic leads. Each fellow must submit their research report at the end of the fellowship.

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Upon completion of the fellowship, all fellows will be formally awarded a completion certificate and recommendation letter. The fellows can always seek counselling from their mentors and other experts for their post-fellowship professional career.

### What will you gain?

- An opportunity to learn from experts at RySS, UN, World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and beyond
- Hands-on work experience on diverse issues within sustainability, including a path-breaking sustainable system-scale smallholder agriculture project in Southern India
- Practical experience in the food-water-energy-ecosystem nexus
- Real-world understanding of the strategies that can support the efforts of national/local governments to achieve inclusive growth and enhance their linkages with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

### How to apply?

The fellowship is open all year round, and candidates can apply at any given time.

Those interested should submit the following:

- a. Updated Resume
- b. Short essay (500 words) stating their motivation to apply for this Fellowship
- c. Application form (attached below)

Submit to:

[siff.recruitments@gaspworld.org](mailto:siff.recruitments@gaspworld.org)

Visit the below sites for more information:

<https://gasp.world/>

<https://siffindia.org/>

<https://apcnf.in/ryss/>

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## Application Form

<b>Personal Details</b>	
1. Family Name (Surname)	
2. First Name (Given name)	
3. Gender	
4. Date of birth (dd/mm/yy)	
5. Nationality	
6. Mobile	
7. Email address	
8. Permanent Address	
9. Current Address	

<b>Emergency Contact</b>	
10. Name of emergency contact	
11. Mobile/Address	
12. Relationship to applicant	

### Education details

Clearly state the title of the degree(s), the exact starting date and the date when the degree(s) of the current programme will be obtained. Add both the current and/or on-going degrees.

Proof of enrolment in a second university-level programme (for instance, a Master's Degree programme) or higher education (for instance, a PhD programme) during the requested fellowship period may be required at a later stage in the selection process.

13. Name of the institution, city/country		From (mm/yy)	To (mm/yy)

### Other details

14. Publications (if any)	Attach the papers or add the links
15. Scholarship/awards (if any)	Write the details
16. Languages	Read Write Speak
17. Preferred duration of fellowship	From (mm/yy) to (mm/yy)



18. Career goals	Describe it in less than 500-words
19. Declaration	<p>I hereby certify that the foregoing statements and answers are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and can be verified at any time.</p> <p>Signature: (When applying by e-mail, type your name or use an e-signature image)</p>

**N.B.** When the application is submitted by e-mail, please submit all papers as attached documents (preferably in a PDF format). Please use your family name followed by your birth date as the file name (Williams 10-03-2024).