



Open Food Network (OFN) India Project Proposal

Prepared for: OPEN FOOD NETWORK (OFN), www.openfoodnetwork.org

Prepared by: Satya Sarathy Sahoo on authority of BASAL INITIATIVES PRIVATE LIMITED, KALPAVRIKSH and NP2 TECHNOLOGIES AND SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Objective

Open Food Network (www.openfoodnetwork.org) believes in

“Most distribution systems are obscure... a few big groups control a very important share of the market. The farmers and eaters don't really have a say on which products they want to grow/eat, how it's been produced, the prices they should get/pay for those products for the system to be fair and sustainable.

OFN can be a powerful lever to create a transparent food system and enable consumers and producers to connect, either directly, or through the middlemen that they want, each one being autonomous.”

Above excerpt taken from (<https://community.openfoodnetwork.org/t/building-your-ofn-group-or-organisation-in-a-new-country-region/156>).

Power Of Three

BASAL INITIATIVES shares the same ideology with OFN and our mission is to spread this vision across PAN India with our NGO partner KALPAVRIKSH and technology partner NP2 TECHNOLOGIES & SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED.



www.np2tech.com



www.basalinitiatives.com

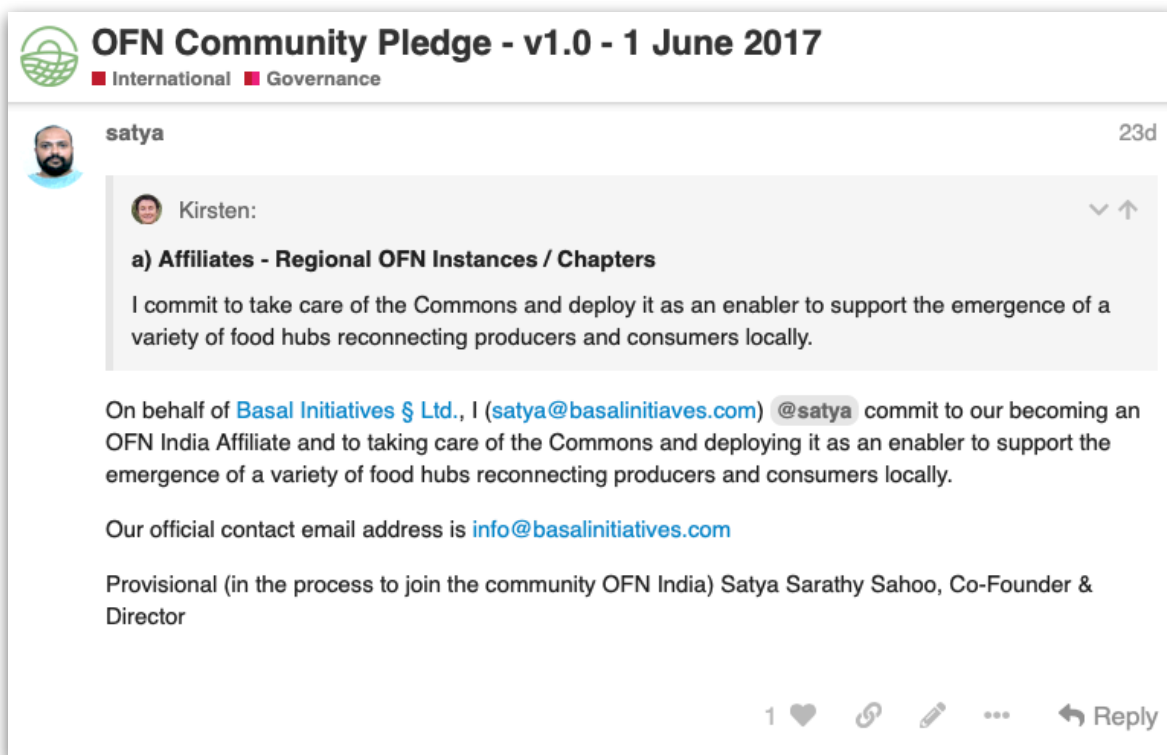


www.kalpavriksh.info

This proposal highlights the willingness of our team to establish OFN India and democratically ensure OFN India's sustenance for long term.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pledge



The screenshot shows a post titled "OFN Community Pledge - v1.0 - 1 June 2017" with sub-categories "International" and "Governance". The user "satya" has posted a pledge. A quote from "Kirsten" is included: "a) Affiliates - Regional OFN Instances / Chapters. I commit to take care of the Commons and deploy it as an enabler to support the emergence of a variety of food hubs reconnecting producers and consumers locally." The main text of the pledge states: "On behalf of Basal Initiatives § Ltd., I (satya@basalinitiaves.com) @satya commit to our becoming an OFN India Affiliate and to taking care of the Commons and deploying it as an enabler to support the emergence of a variety of food hubs reconnecting producers and consumers locally. Our official contact email address is info@basalinitiaves.com. Provisional (in the process to join the community OFN India) Satya Sarathy Sahoo, Co-Founder & Director". The post has 1 heart and a "Reply" button.

Pledge reference: <https://community.openfoodnetwork.org/t/ofn-community-pledge-v1-0-1-june-2017/948/19>

Goals

After discussions with members of #India, it was highlighted that democracy in running OFN India would be in best interest of OFN commons and members of #India.

“With the relevant stakeholders, establish a legal entity, NGO, foundation, association, cooperative or company whose mission is in line with the OFN goals and values. This legal entity will enable your instance to look for grants, and also to invoice the hubs for the use of the platform...”

Excerpt taken from <https://community.openfoodnetwork.org/t/building-your-ofn-group-or-organisation-in-a-new-country-region/156>.

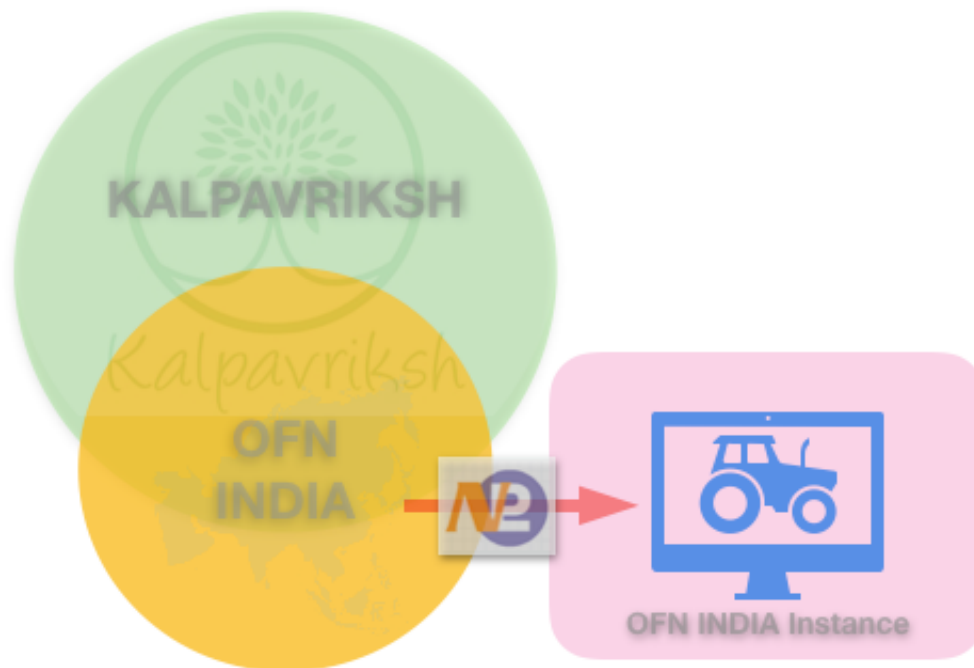
To democratically run OFN India, OFN India needs to have its **legal entity** in line with above excerpt. This goal can be realized and achieved through BASAL INITIATIVES' NGO partner KALPAVRIKSH.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Solution

In order to adhere with OFN commons values (<https://www.openfoodnetwork.org/values/>), to lawfully achieve the above set goals and to function democratically, our solution is start a **Project** named “**OFN INDIA**” through our NGO partner KALPAVRIKSH.

This *project* **OFN INDIA** will be the legal entity which will be responsible to manage decisions and operations of the OFN India instance/ platform and other activities as governed by its Core Team.



Under the umbrella of NGO partner KALPAVRIKSH, **OFN INDIA** will be a **Project** undertaken.

To handle technological challenges, NP2 TECHNOLOGIES & SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED can take care of the hosting and all technology/ software related matters for project **OFN INDIA**.

BASAL INITIATIVES, apart from being part of *OFN INDIA* instance’s HUB member, BASAL INITIATIVES through its network can support **OFN INDIA** in marketing, promotion and establishing resources/ agripreneurs for better functioning of **OFN INDIA**.

There is a reason for the use of the term “**Project**”. Details on why a “**Project**” and how KALPAVRIKSH will aide in setting up this **Project OFN INDIA** are mentioned in the section [Project OFN India](#).

PROJECT OFN INDIA

PROJECT OFN INDIA

Project Outline

The project **OFN INDIA** will be an independent legal entity governed by a Core Team. Interested and committed members of [#India](#) can be stakeholders of **OFN INDIA** Core Team. Few of the responsibilities of this Core Team will be to democratically govern **OFN INDIA's** activities:

- Formulate Core Team's executing roles namely Chair-person, Secretary, Treasurer
- Create bank account with signatories
- Manage overall books of accounts for half yearly and yearly audits
- Manage OFN India instance/ platform hosting
- OFN India instances' maintenance, enhancement, development, localization
- Create sustenance model
- Contribute back to OFN global commons
- Contribute back to OFN platform software development

OFN INDIA Formation

KALPAVRIKSH is a registered NGO under Indian laws and it can legally engage in any development projects for the welfare of communities.

OFN commons values (<https://www.openfoodnetwork.org/values/>) and [Objectives](#) rightly showcase welfare of communities and **OFN INDIA** will align with the same. Hence, this is the reason how **OFN INDIA** will be a “**Project**” undertaken by KALPAVRIKSH.

WHY KALPAVRIKSH?

- KALPAVRIKSH is a 15 years old renowned NGO working with Government (specifically government projects and with other organizations, institutions, donor agencies).
- KALPAVRIKSH has a huge network statewide as well as nationwide.
- KALPAVRIKSH has a huge base of farmers, agriprenuers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO).
- Due to its presence across different government departments, liaising as required will be easier.
- Fundraising will be easier as 80G and FCRA (for foreign funds) can be acquired, since KALPAVRIKSH meets the criterion for the licenses. This could be advantageous for **OFN INDIA**.
- Goodwill of KALPAVRIKSH can be used for propaganda of **OFN INDIA** amongst communities.
- **OFN INDIA** project can immediately be started without any delay. No additional expenditure will be required to create a new entity. Also, KALPAVRIKSH has advantages due to its long presence and established Good Will, a new entity will have to wait and grow its presence first.

PROJECT OFN INDIA

PREREQUISITES

In order to make **OFN INDIA** an independent legal entity under KALPAVRIKSH, the following (in no particular order and this listing is not exhaustive) needs to be presented to KALPAVRIKSH's board.

- Core Team members list with valid national identify proof.
- **OFN INDIA's** project guidelines (this can be similar to the clauses mentioned in OFN UK Articles). This is an essential document that will give the legal identity of **OFN INDIA**.
- KALPAVRIKSH will pass a resolution in its annual general body meeting that it will implement project **OFN INDIA**.
- New bank account will have to be opened in the name of **OFN INDIA** (*name can be decided by the Core Team along with signatories who will operate this bank account will have to be elected by Core Team*). Please note that for the creation of the bank account in any Nationalized banks, an application with instructions will be issued in KALPAVRIKSH's letter head duly signed by its executive board. This letter will give authenticity to **OFN INDIA's** bank account.
- KALPAVRIKSH, as per the law will have to include all its development project's transactions in its yearly audit reports, separately, project wise. Hence, **OFN INDIA's** banking transactions will have to be reflected in KALPAVRIKSH's Audit report. For this the Core Team needs to submit such reports to KALPAVRIKSH as and when required. This is yet another authenticity for **OFN INDIA** being a legal entity.
- All legal matters related to **OFN INDIA** will be managed solely by **OFN INDIA**.
- **OFN INDIA** to prepare an undertaking stating that KALPAVRIKSH will not be part of any legal matters pertaining to **OFN INDIA** and KALPAVRIKSH will not be held liable.
- **OFN INDIA's** control, management and accountability will solely be responsibility of Core Team.

KALPAVRIKSH will only aide in enrolling **OFN INDIA** as one of its development project and will not interfere in **OFN INDIA's** operations and decisions. Below are few points for **OFN INDIA**.

- **OFN INDIA's** Implementation process will be controlled and managed by **OFN INDIA** Core Team independently and there will be no interference of KALPAVRIKSH's board members.
- All activities taken under project **OFN INDIA** will be completely **OFN INDIA's** responsibility and KALPAVRIKSH will have no role in it.
- **OFN INDIA** will have its own Core Team members who will be the stakeholders of the project and key decision makers for **OFN INDIA**.
- **OFN INDIA** needs to set its management structure for management of the project.
- All beneficiaries and members of **OFN INDIA** will not be linked to KALPAVRIKSH directly or indirectly.
- **OFN INDIA** Core Team executive members will sign a contract with KALPAVRIKSH.
- Under KALPAVRIKSH's umbrella **OFN INDIA** will run as an independent Project.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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Why KALPAVRIKSH wants to aid in starting project OFN INDIA?

Well, is it not what NGO's do. KALPAVRIKSH realizes the objectives of OFN in general and the community welfare is welcoming.

What if KALPAVRIKSH's board members change, will it affect OFN INDIA?

Ideally this situation rarely happens as selection of right board members is critical to the Good Will of the NGO. No, change in board members will not affect OFN INDIA because once a resolution is passed in general board meeting, it cannot be altered or interfered abruptly.

Will KALPAVRIKSH take administration charges from OFN INDIA?

The administration charges are for records maintenance, audit reports charges that the Chartered Accountant takes. The directors, the executive board members of KALPAVRIKSH do not take any money in any form for their services, they are self motivated volunteers. KALPAVRIKSH will maintain full transparency with the charges.

Will BASAL INITIATIVES or NP2 TECHNOLOGIES influence OFN INDIA?

No, these companies will not interfere how soever with OFN INDIA. NP2 TECHNOLOGIES has interest only to host and maintain OFN India instance/ platform and deal with software requirements. Whereas BASAL INITIATIVES has interest in running HUBS in OFN India instance/ platform.

Will OFN INDIA members belonging to different states of India affect its operations?

It all depends on the project guidelines set and at Core Team's discretion.