Speaker: Mahesh Patel, Chief Innovation Manager (CIM - equivalent to CEO)

Mahesh Patel, Chief Innovation Manager at Gujarat Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN), holds a Masters degree in Agriculture. Working at GIAN since 1997, Mahesh facilitates incubation of grassroots innovations into products with the help of formal R&D institutes and/or professionals. An innovator himself, he has over seventeen years of professional experience in the areas of project management particularly implementation of innovative projects in rural sectors.

Mahesh, with his team, promotes sustainable enterprise development and commercialization of matured products by helping the innovators in production, marketing, strategizing, patenting, licensing, and forging strategic alliances. He has been able to accomplish many technology transfers of grassroots technologies and undertake innovative projects of different kinds. Under his leadership, GIAN was conferred the National Award for being the best technology business incubator of the country by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for the year 2003.

- **GIAN** – GIAN is a Technology Business Incubator established by SRISTI & Gujarat Government & IIMA. GIAN adjudged as the Best Incubator in the country by Department of Science & Technology Government of India, dedicated to the cause of grassroots innovators in India. A world-wide recognized model of sustainable growth (Ref: Common Wealth Science Council-London). [http://west.gian.org/](http://west.gian.org/)