भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
Department of Fisheries

AquaReach

Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program

Hands-on training to help households start aquaculture income models

Organized by

MANAGE - FISHub

In collaboration with

Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU)

19-09-2026

College of Fisheries, BASU, Kishanganj, Bihar



MANAGE

The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is an apex body for Agricultural Extension Management in India. MANAGE offers services like Capacity building, Management Education, Piloting and Implementing Flagship National Schemes, Consultancy, Research, Knowledge Management and Policy Advocacy in Agricultural Extension Management (https://www.manage.gov.in).

MANAGE-FISHub

MANAGE-Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE-FISHub) is a national-level incubation and innovation platform established at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, in 2025 with the support of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India. MANAGE-FISHub aims to transform India's fisheries and aquaculture sector through innovation, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem development by mentoring and promoting fisheries startups, creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities aligned with national priorities, and enabling the rapid commercialization of technologies emerging from research, academia, and individual innovators.

Our Focus Areas



(https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/)

BASU

Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU) has been established with its headquarters at Patna through an act of Bihar State (BASU Act No. 15 of 2016, notified in the Bihar Gazette on 29 August 2016). The University became operational from 13 June 2017. The new University has been carved out of the Bihar Agricultural University as two of its constituent colleges at Patna viz. Bihar Veterinary College and Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Dairy Technology have been transferred to the BASU (https://basu.org.in/).

The College of Fisheries, Kishanganj was incorporated in the Bihar Animal Sciences University Act as one of its constituent college. This College is situated on the banks of river Mahananda in the campus of Dr. Kalam Agriculture College at Arrabari in Kishanganj district of Bihar. The college formally inaugurated and announced the start of first academic session on 29th August 2018. This college offers a credible fisheries education institution that nurtures the next-generation of professionals and entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector and contributes to the state and nation by pursuing innovations and research which is relevant to local needs and directed towards maximizing outcomes for economic, social and environmental well-being. The College of Fisheries is committed to become a centre of excellence in Fisheries education in the region.

Objectives

- To make arrangement for giving education in different branches of study, particularly Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Fisheries, Dairy and other allied branches of learning and scholarship
- To advancement of learning and conducting of research, particularly in Veterinary & Animal Sciences and other allied sciences
- To undertake the extension of education of such sciences and technologies that are relevant for the rural people of the State;
- To facilitate and ensure qualitative improvement in the teaching and learning processes and methodology;
- To facilitate and ensure quality research in the contemporary and frontier areas of animal science and technologies;
- To facilitate the need for an organized process of life long learning;
- To disseminate knowledge and findings emerging in the University, its colleges, and institutions;
- To establish partnerships with the industries and other entities working in animal science and technology and agriculture manufacturing;
- To establish Hospital for treatment/ research-role of the University.

About the Program

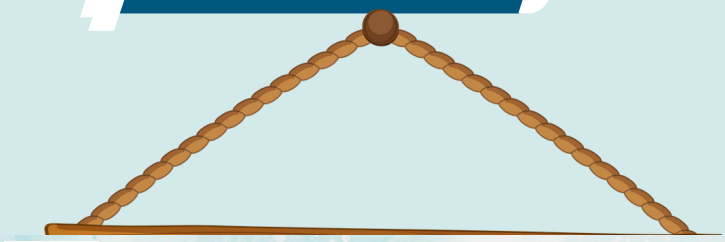
The AquaReach program is an initiative by MANAGE- FISHub for district-level aquapreneurship acceleration. The program to create practical, income-generating models that households can adopt immediately after training. Under this program, each month one district in one state will be selected for a focused hands-on training session.

Objectives of the program

- To create multiple income streams within limited house-hold resources
- To build community based micro enterprise units
- To build aquapreneurs in each district through hands on practical demonstration

Your paragraph text

Who Can Attend?





Farmers



FFPO and Cooperatives



Students



Youth



SHGs



Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Focus Areas

- Aquaculture Mechanisation & Innovation
- AI & IOT in Fisheries
- Waste to Wealth
- Biotechnology & Genetics
- Integrated & Secondary Aquaculture
- Blockchain Technology
- Fisheries Extension & Advisory
- Post-Harvest & Cold chain innovations
- Fisheries Inputs & Feed Technology
- Other Innovations in Fisheries & Aquaculture

Key Takeaways

Hands-On Skills
Learn practical, low-cost aquaculture models that can be started immediately at the household level.

Multiple Income Streams
Understand income diversification strategies using fish, vegetables, poultry, floriculture, and waste-to-wealth techniques.

Build Network
Build connections with community networks, SHGs, youths, and local market linkages to support micro-enterprise growth.

Ongoing Mentorship & Support
Become part of a district-level aquapreneur community, supported by MANAGE–FISHub's month-long follow-up system.

Program Background

MANAGE-FISHub, in collaboration with the College of Fisheries, Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Kishanganj, Bihar, organized the Aqua Reach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme on 19th September 2026 at the College of Fisheries, BASU. The programme aimed to provide participants with practical exposure to scientific aquaculture practices while promoting fisheries entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub, under the guidance of Dr. Saravanan Raj, CEO, MANAGE-FISHub. The programme received support from Programme Committe of College of Fisheries, BASU, Kishanganj Dr. Sangeetha Kumari and Dr. Md. Aman Hassan

The programme included technical sessions, practical demonstrations, interactive discussions, and entrepreneurship-oriented sessions, covering soil and water quality analysis suitable for fish farming, pond culture and scientific pond management, fish feeding techniques and feed management, integrated fish farming models, fisheries entrepreneurship opportunities, PMMSY schemes, and startup support mechanisms.

A total of 31 aspiring aquapreneurs attended the programme. The practical and field-oriented sessions enabled participants to gain hands-on understanding of aquaculture management practices and explore diversified income-generation opportunities through integrated fish farming and fisheries-based enterprises.

The programme successfully strengthened participants' understanding of scientific aquaculture, entrepreneurship, innovation, government support mechanisms, and sustainable fisheries-based enterprises, contributing to the overall objective of the Aqua Reach initiative.





Training Session

Session 1 : Soil and Water Quality Analysis Suitable for Fish Farming

Mr. Ravi Anand, Progressive Fish Farmer, delivered a practical session on "Soil and Water Quality Analysis Suitable for Fish Farming." The session focused on the importance of understanding the suitability of soil and water resources before establishing and managing a fish farming enterprise.



He explained how proper assessment of soil and water conditions forms an important foundation for successful aquaculture. The session emphasized the need for farmers and aspiring aquapreneurs to regularly observe and assess the conditions of their culture environment so that appropriate management practices can be adopted at the farm level.



The practical orientation of the session enabled participants to connect basic soil and water quality considerations with day-to-day fish farming operations. The session also helped them understand how proper resource assessment can contribute to maintaining suitable conditions for fish growth, improving farm management, and reducing potential production-related challenges.

"Understanding and maintaining suitable soil and water conditions is the first step towards establishing a healthy and productive fish farming enterprise."

Mr. Ravi Anand
Progressive Fish Farmer
Kishanganj

Training Session

Session 2: Pond Culture Demonstration

Mr. Vikas Jha, Progressive Farmer, conducted a practical session on "Pond Culture Demonstration," covering pond preparation, stocking density, feeding practices, and pond management.



The session provided participants with practical exposure to the different stages involved in establishing and managing a pond-based fish culture system. The demonstration highlighted the importance of preparing the pond appropriately before stocking and adopting suitable stocking densities according to the culture system.



Special attention was given to feeding practices and routine pond management, helping participants understand the importance of systematic management throughout the culture period. The practical approach allowed aspiring aquapreneurs to relate technical concepts with actual farm-level practices and understand how better management can support fish growth and production.

The session was particularly useful in demonstrating that successful pond culture requires continuous attention to the culture environment, stocking, feeding, and overall pond management rather than relying on a single intervention.

"Scientific pond preparation, appropriate stocking, systematic feeding, and regular management together form the foundation of successful pond-based fish farming."

Mr. Vikas Jha
Progressive Fish Farmer
Kishanganj

Training Session

Session 3: Fish Feeding Techniques and Feed Management

Mr. Rajesh Kumar delivered session on "Fish Feeding Techniques and Feed Management." The session focused on the importance of proper feeding practices as an essential component of efficient fish culture.

The session highlighted the need for farmers to adopt systematic feeding practices and manage feed resources carefully during the culture period. Participants were introduced to the importance of understanding feeding requirements and following appropriate feeding practices to support healthy fish growth.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of efficient feed utilization in aquaculture enterprises. Proper feed management can help farmers avoid unnecessary wastage while ensuring that fish receive adequate nourishment for growth and production.

Through the practical orientation, participants gained a better understanding of how feeding practices are directly connected with the management and profitability of an aquaculture enterprise. The session encouraged aspiring aquapreneurs to view feed management not merely as a routine farm activity, but as an important component of efficient enterprise management.



"Effective feeding practices and careful feed management are essential for healthy fish growth, efficient resource utilization, and better aquaculture enterprise management."

Mr. Rajesh Kumar
Assistant Professor
CoF, Kishanganj

Training Session

Session 4: Integrated Fish Farming Models for Additional Income



Dr. Uday Kumar delivered a session on "Integrated Fish Farming Models," focusing on Fish + Poultry, Fish + Duck, and Fish + Horticulture as approaches for generating additional income.

The session introduced participants to the concept of integrating fish farming with complementary agricultural and livestock activities. The different models demonstrated how farmers can combine enterprises within the same farming system and make better use of available farm resources.



The discussion highlighted the potential of integrated models to provide additional income opportunities while encouraging diversified farming systems. Participants were encouraged to consider how fish farming could be combined with poultry, duck rearing, or horticulture depending on their available resources and local conditions.

The session provided an entrepreneurial perspective to integrated aquaculture by demonstrating that income generation need not depend solely on a single production activity. Such models can help aspiring aquapreneurs explore diversified enterprise options and develop more sustainable livelihood strategies.

"Integrating fish farming with poultry, duck rearing, or horticulture can help farmers diversify income, utilize farm resources efficiently, and develop sustainable aquaculture-based livelihood models."

Dr. Uday Kumar
Assistant Professor
CoF, Kishanganj

Training Session

Session 5: Integrated Fish Farming Models for Additional Income

Dr. Narendra Kumar Verma delivered a session on "Fisheries Entrepreneurship Opportunities, PMMSY Schemes and Startup Support Mechanisms." The session focused on connecting fisheries and aquaculture activities with emerging opportunities for entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

The session provided participants with an overview of the potential opportunities available within the fisheries sector and highlighted the importance of understanding government support mechanisms while planning a fisheries enterprise. Particular emphasis was placed on PMMSY schemes and startup support mechanisms, helping participants become aware of avenues through which aspiring entrepreneurs can seek institutional and financial support.

The session encouraged participants to look beyond traditional fish production and explore fisheries as a broader entrepreneurial sector encompassing different types of enterprises and value-generating activities. It also helped participants understand the importance of identifying suitable opportunities, developing an enterprise-oriented approach, and making use of available support systems.

The interaction provided valuable motivation to aspiring aquapreneurs to explore business opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture and to consider government schemes and startup support as important components of enterprise development.



"Awareness of fisheries entrepreneurship opportunities, government schemes, and startup support mechanisms can help aspiring aquapreneurs convert innovative ideas into viable and sustainable enterprises."

Dr. Narendra Kumar Verma
Assistant Professor
CoF, Kishanganj

Valedictory Session

The programme concluded with the Valedictory Session and Certificate Distribution, supported by Dr. Sangeeta Kumar and Dr. Md. Aman Hassan from the College of Fisheries, BASU, Kishanganj. The session provided an opportunity to reflect on the learning and practical exposure gained by participants during the Aqua Reach programme. Aqua Reach Program schedule BASU

Certificates were distributed to the participating aspiring aquapreneurs in recognition of their participation in the programme. The valedictory session also marked the completion of a day of practical learning covering soil and water quality, pond management, feeding practices, integrated farming models, and fisheries entrepreneurship opportunities.

The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Dr Nivedha C K, Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub, MANAGE, acknowledging the contributions of the resource persons, supporting institution, participants, and everyone involved in the successful conduct of the programme. Aqua Reach Program schedule BASU





Programme Highlights & Media Coverage

The Aqua Reach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme received notable media coverage, highlighting its focus on fisheries entrepreneurship, innovation and startup opportunities. The coverage showcased active student participation and the collaborative efforts of MANAGE-FISHub and College of Fisheries, Kishanganj, BASU, Bihar.

मत्स्य उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देने पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन



डॉ. नरेंद्र कुमार वर्मा द्वारा छात्र छात्राओं के बीच अहम जानकारियों का साझा करते हुए।

पोठिया, निज संवाददाता। मात्स्यिकी महाविद्यालय (कॉलेज ऑफ फिशरीज), अर्राबाड़ी, किशनगंज में राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार प्रबंधन संस्थान मैनेज-फिशब,हैदराबाद एवं बिहार पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, पटना के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 18 एवं 19 सितंबर को दो दिवसीय 'एक्वा उद्यमी' तथा 'एक्वा रीच' कार्यक्रमों का सफल आयोजन किया गया। इन कार्यक्रमों का उद्देश्य मत्स्य किसानों, छात्रों, जलीय उद्यमियों एवं युवाओं को वैज्ञानिक मत्स्य पालन, उद्यमिता, मूल्य संवर्धन, सरकारी योजनाओं तथा आधुनिक तकनीकों से जोड़ना था। 18 सितंबर को आयोजित 'एक्वा उद्यमी' कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभागियों को मात्स्यिकी क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध नए व्यावसायिक अवसरों, वित्तीय सहायता, मूल्य संवर्धन एवं प्रसंस्करण संबंधी संभावनाओं की जानकारी दी गई। महाविद्यालय के डीन सह अधिष्ठाता डॉ. वेद प्रकाश सैनी ने अंतर्देशीय मात्स्यिकी एवं एक्वाकल्चर में उभरते अवसरों पर प्रकाश डाला। डॉ. अभिषेक ठाकुर ने मूल्य संवर्धन एवं प्रसंस्करण के क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध व्यवसायिक अवसरों की जानकारी दी।

AquaTalks Capturing Voices from Aqua Reach

As part of the Aqua Reach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme at the College of Fisheries, BASU, Kishanganj, the AquaTalks initiative of MANAGE-FISHub, hosted by Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, featured conversations with resource persons, fisheries entrepreneurs, fish farmers, and participants.

The discussions highlighted fisheries entrepreneurship, aquaculture practices, innovation, business opportunities, and practical experiences. The initiative helped extend the learning and experiences of Aqua Reach to a wider audience through the MANAGE-FISHub YouTube Channel.







Organising Team

Dr. Inderjeet Singh
Hon. Vice-Chancellor
Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU)
Patna, Bihar

Dr. Saravanan Raj
Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE &
CEO, MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
ceomfishub@gmail.com

Dr. Ved Prakash Saini
Dean
College of Fisheries, BASU
Kishanganj, Bihar
deancof-basu-bih@gov.in

Dr. S. Raahalya
Innovation Scaling Specialist
MANAGE- FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
Email: sandipamuraahalya@gmail.com

Dr. Narendra Kumar Verma
Assistant Professor
College of Fisheries, BASU
Kishanganj, Bihar
fisheynarendra@gmail.com

Dr. Nivedha C K
Innovation Research Fellow
MANAGE- FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
nivedhanive05407@gmail.com

Dr. Sangeeta Kumari
Assistant Professor
College of Fisheries, BASU
Kishanganj, Bihar
sksangeeta93@gmail.com

Dr. R. Naganna
Business Executive
MANAGE- FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
mfishubstakeholdersmeet@gmail.com

Dr. MD. Aman Hassan
Assistant Professor
College of Fisheries, BASU
Kishanganj, Bihar
mdaman.hassan@gmail.com

Report Prepared by
Dr Nivedha C K
Innovation Research Fellow
MANAGE- FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

MANAGE Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE - FISHub)
(A National Fisheries Incubation Centre Supported by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030, Telangana, India
https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/
MANAGE FISHub | MANAGE FISHub | MANAGE FISHub | MANAGE-FISHub | MANAGE-FISHub