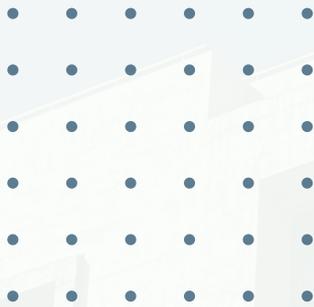




## MANAGE Internship: Cultivating Experiences for Future Professionals



### From Learning to Leading : The MANAGE Internship Experience

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Being selected for the internship at MANAGE-CIA marked an important step in my academic and professional journey, as it provided me with practical exposure to the agri-startup ecosystem and real work experience in an institutional environment. I have completed three months of my internship at MANAGE-CIA, during which I gained hands-on experience in programme coordination, startup-related activities, and stakeholder interaction, helping me align my academic background with professional exposure in agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship development.

I was especially motivated by the opportunity to work under the guidance of Dr. Saravanan Raj, whose extensive experience and contributions to the field of Agricultural Extension are widely recognized. I viewed this mentorship as a valuable opportunity to gain practical insights, refine my understanding of extension systems, and enhance both my personal capabilities and professional orientation.

## Internship Exeperience

During the initial phase of my internship at MANAGE-CIA, I focused on building a solid foundation by collecting and reviewing resources related to the agri-startup ecosystem. This involved studying articles, case studies, blogs, books, and online courses pertinent to agripreneurship and innovation.

Concurrently, I received task in managing and updating the MANAGE-CIA website, where I regularly posted updates about daily activities and program-related content. This phase helped me understand the vital role of knowledge resources and digital platforms in strengthening the startup ecosystem.





A major responsibility I handled was coordinating and successfully executing the Agri-Startup Stakeholders Connect Programme in collaboration with ICAR–Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE). This responsibility provided me with valuable hands-on exposure to the planning, coordination,

and execution of a national-level stakeholder engagement programme. Interacting with Innovative startup founders, subject experts, guests, and institutional representatives enhanced my understanding of professional discussion, time management, teamwork, and coordination within an organizational setting.

As my internship progressed, I was involved in the outreach activities of the Pre-Incubation Mentoring Programme. My responsibilities included promoting the programme, connecting with aspiring agripreneurs, and supporting participant onboarding through both online and offline modes. These activities improved my communication and public interaction skills. Although I faced initial challenges, each experience contributed to my learning and helped build my confidence and professional approach.



In addition, I am actively handling the ongoing Pre-Incubation Mentoring Programme while also assisting with the coordination of Cohort-14 at MANAGE-CIA. Managing multiple programmes simultaneously has helped me further develop my organisational abilities, improve my multitasking capacity, and strengthen my communication and coordination skills. Through these responsibilities, I have gained practical exposure to programme planning, scheduling, stakeholder coordination, and execution within a professional institutional setting. Overall, my internship experience at MANAGE-CIA has been highly enriching and transformational, offering meaningful exposure to the agri-startup ecosystem and contributing positively to my personal growth, professional confidence, and work ethic.



I also had an opportunity to coordinate multiple visits for trainees, accompanying them to ICRISAT, T-Hub, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) during the last three months of my internship.

## Working Environment

One of the most valuable parts of my internship was working closely with Dr. Saravanan Raj. His innovative approach, passion, and leadership in Agricultural Extension were truly inspiring. His guidance has greatly influenced my professional growth and career goals.



The learning environment at MANAGE-CIA was professional, disciplined, and supportive, which helped me develop responsibility and confidence. The cooperative attitude of the team created a positive atmosphere that encouraged learning and initiative. Ms. Usha Sree (Manager) was also supportive during every program and she was very helpful in various tasks and providing guidance whenever needed. Working with my fellow interns—Subashini, Archana, Kalaivani, Santhosh, Ishika, and Gauri—made the experience collaborative and enriching. Overall, the environment promoted teamwork, continuous learning, and personal growth.



## Takeaways and Action Plans



The internship at MANAGE-CIA has been a valuable learning experience that helped me gain practical exposure to the agri-startup ecosystem and real-world institutional functioning. The guidance and support provided by Dr. Saravanan Raj and the MANAGE-CIA team played an important role in shaping my professional attitude, confidence, and work ethic.

As a way forward, I will build on the learning gained during this internship by applying a more innovative and thoughtful approach to my work. I aim to handle future responsibilities with greater efficiency, confidence, and accountability while continuously improving my professional skills and work ethics. The practical exposure and experiences gained during this internship have provided me with a strong foundation, which will support my continued personal development and help me grow professionally as I move ahead in my career.



## MANAGE Internship Journey so far



My internship journey at MANAGE-CIA has been a meaningful and formative phase of my professional life. This experience gave me my first real exposure to an institutional work culture, where learning went beyond observation and involved active participation and responsibility. Each task and programme contributed to shaping my professional outlook and work discipline.

Working in such a dynamic environment helped me gain clarity about my interests and strengthened my confidence in handling real-world responsibilities. The exposure, guidance, and opportunities I received during this internship have played an important role in laying a strong base for my future career. This journey has been both enriching and motivating, and it has encouraged me to continuously learn, adapt, and grow as I move forward.

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