



MANAGE Internship: Cultivating Experiences for Future Professionals



Strength grows when challenges are faced, not feared.

I am Gauri Jaguri, from Uttarakhand. I have completed Masters of Rural Technology from Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (HNBGU), Srinagar, Uttarakhand.

 [Gauri Jaguri](#)

My first three months at MANAGE-CIA were both challenging and rewarding, as I navigated through different tasks to find my pace and identify my strengths.

As a postgraduate in Rural Technology with a strong foundation in Agriculture, I was keenly seeking an opportunity that aligned with my academic learning, field exposure, and professional aspirations. While many available opportunities were inclined towards corporate roles, sales, or banking sectors, my core interest has always been to work in a space that offers meaningful contributions to rural development, community empowerment, and the agricultural ecosystem.

The opportunity at MANAGE particularly appealed to me because of its relevance, impact scope, and alignment with my passion for working at the grassroots level. At a time when many agriculture and rural development graduates are striving to secure roles that truly reflect their expertise, I aimed to explore my strengths, identify where I could contribute most effectively, and gain deeper insights into the evolving opportunities in the agriculture and rural development sector.



Internship Expectations



Initially, the team asked us to choose work based on our interests and capabilities, allowing us to focus on our strengths. Based on these interests, we were assigned different tasks, with a primary focus on innovation, incubation, and how we could contribute to the agri-startup ecosystem.



I was entrusted with responsibilities such as coordinating the MANAGE-CIA Saturday Webinar Series, identifying and contacting keynote speakers, preparing speaker introductions and profiles, drafting formal communication mails, preparing pre-receipts, completing honorarium processes, and coordinating with invited speakers on a regular basis.

A significant part of my work involved supporting the incubation ecosystem under RKVY–RAFTAAR. I was actively involved in the virtual verification of startups, verification of bills, bank statements, and checklists, and the preparation of notes and documents required for fund processing. I coordinated with multiple startups, including Vanabandhu (OPC) Pvt. Ltd., Krishitek Industries Pvt. Ltd., Farm Need, Blue Lotus, Chhota Nandi, Gatisheel Pvt. Ltd., Greengurukulam LLP, KISAAN YANTRA, Echra Innovation Pvt. Ltd., LR Naturals and Stacia Corp. I worked on organizing and correcting startup data, updating information in the Agri Startup Bank, and preparing state-wise as well as district-wise mapping of RKVY–RAFTAAR incubate startups.

Learning Environment



The working environment at MANAGE-CIA is highly collaborative, encouraging, and supportive. Interns are not confined to a single role but are given the freedom to explore different areas, take on new challenges, and discover their potential. The team's guidance and encouragement played a vital role in helping me step out of my comfort zone and contribute meaningfully to tasks that were initially unfamiliar to me.

Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) has consistently provided us with valuable insights and actively engages in discussions on how we can improve and contribute more effectively.

Along with the support of team members, manager, and fellow interns, we were always encouraged to push beyond our limits and strive for excellence. Especially while coordinating training programs, we had the opportunity to learn a lot through the sessions and field visits. These experiences offered us practical exposure and insightful knowledge, often alongside the participants themselves.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

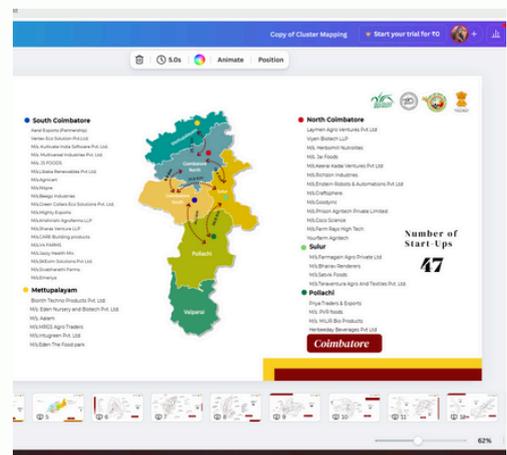
During my internship, I developed a strong blend of technical and professional competencies through continuous engagement in incubation activities, documentation processes, coordination responsibilities, and program facilitation. I significantly enhanced my coordination, communication, and leadership abilities while working closely with startups and consistently organizing the MANAGE-CIA Saturday Webinar Series, which involved identifying keynote speakers, preparing profiles, coordinating invitations, moderating sessions, managing communication, preparing pre-receipts and honorarium notes, documenting proceedings, and maintaining participant records.



I gained practical exposure to startup incubation mechanisms, grant processes, and compliance requirements through virtual verification visits with startups such as Stacia Corp, Krishitek Industries Pvt. Ltd., and Vanabandhu (OPC) Pvt. Ltd., as well as physical verification of KISAAN YANTRA (Cohort 11). Conducting document verification for grant-in-aid release processes allowed me to interact with founders, understand ground-level challenges, and observe how MANAGE-CIA supports startups in scaling their ventures. Attending and documenting the Cohort 7 (KAU) CIC meeting provided insights into how mentors guide startups with constructive feedback.



Working on state-wise and district-wise startup mapping improved my analytical and data management abilities. Additionally, sharing my internship experience with NYPDP participants strengthened my presentation and reflective learning skills. Overall, these experiences deepened my understanding of the agri-startup ecosystem and the critical role of incubation in supporting entrepreneurial growth.





The biggest takeaway from my internship has been discovering my potential in areas like communication and documentation. I had never imagined myself in such diverse roles, but this internship encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, try new tasks, and enjoy the learning process. It reinforced my belief in the power of learning by doing and showed me that with the right platform, guidance, and support, hidden skills can be discovered and honed.

I greatly appreciate the trust MANAGE-CIA places in interns. We were given real responsibilities—managing webinars, documenting CIC meetings, conducting grant verification, facilitating physical and virtual startup visits, and contributing to SIC evaluation—which allowed me to meaningfully contribute to the incubation process. Working on these tasks not only strengthened my technical and professional skills but also gave me hands-on exposure to the agri-startup ecosystem.

I am particularly grateful for the guidance and support of Dr. Saravanan Raj and the entire MANAGE-CIA team. Their approachable nature, encouragement to try new things, and emphasis on experiential learning made this internship a truly enriching experience. I feel privileged to have been part of this program, and the knowledge, skills, and confidence I gained here will have a lasting impact on my professional growth.



MANAGE Internship Journey so far



My internship at MANAGE has been a significant milestone in my professional journey. It offered a platform to learn, contribute, and grow in an area I am deeply passionate about. The exposure to national and international training programs, startup incubation processes, and comprehensive documentation practices provided me with hands-on experience and invaluable insights. This experience has not only reinforced my commitment to working in the agriculture sector but also deepened my belief in the transformative potential of agri-entrepreneurship.

Ms. Gauri Jaguri

MANAGE-CIA Intern &
Former Master of Rural Technology Student
Hemvati Nandan Bahugana Garhal University
E-mail: gaurijaguri0135@gmail.com

MANAGE-Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA
<https://www.manage.gov.in/managecia/>