



**National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on
Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor
Agri-Startups and Agri-Business**

July 20 - 24, 2026

2026



MANAGE- Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA)

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030, India

<https://www.manage.gov.in/>



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business July 20 - 24, 2026

MANAGE-Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA)

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030, India

<https://www.manage.gov.in/>



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA

Published by

MANAGE–Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA)

(Centre of Excellence in Agribusiness Incubation and Knowledge Partner for the Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) Program)

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

(An Autonomous Organisation of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030, Telangana State, India

© MANAGE, 2026 All Rights Reserved.

About the Publication

This publication is a compilation of the key learnings, insights, and experiences from the five-day National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on “Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business,” held from 20–24 July, 2026 at MANAGE, Hyderabad. The publication captures practical perspectives on faculty mentoring, agri-incubation, innovation assessment, technology commercialization, startup development, IPR, market readiness, funding, and sustainable incubation practices, while highlighting approaches to strengthen the capacity of faculty and incubation professionals to effectively mentor Agri-startups and contribute to a stronger incubation ecosystem.

Disclaimer

This report is based on the sessions, discussions, activities, visits, and interactions conducted during the NFDP. The views expressed are those of the respective resource persons and contributors and do not necessarily represent the official views of MANAGE. The publication may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes with due acknowledgement to MANAGE.

Citation

Saravanan, R., Kajal, S., and Usha Sree, V. 2026. National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on “Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business”, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, India.

Contents

Why a National Faculty Development Program on Agri-Innovation and Incubation?	1
Program Context, Rationale and Objectives	2
Program Highlights and Learning Methodology	4
Program Proceedings	5
Day 1 – Foundations of Agri-Innovation and Incubation	5
Day 2 – Innovation, Technology and Startup Mentoring	8
Day 3 – Commercialization, IPR and Regulatory Readiness	11
Day 4 – Mentoring and Sustainable Incubation	13
Day 5 – Institutional Learning and Way Forward	15
Experiential Learning and Institutional Visits	16
Key Learnings and Faculty Reflections	17
Core Takeaways from the National Faculty Development Program	18
Reimagining Mentoring for the Next Generation of Agri-Business	19
Program Summary	20
National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) Participant's Profile and Participants list	21

Why a National Faculty Development Program on Agri-Innovation and Incubation ?

While government initiatives have created a conducive environment for entrepreneurship, the success and sustainability of Agri-startups depend not only on financial support but also on access to competent mentors who can guide innovators through the complexities of technology commercialization, business development, market access, regulatory compliance, and enterprise growth. Faculty members and incubation professionals, with their strong academic and technical expertise, are uniquely positioned to play this transformative role; however, many require structured exposure to contemporary startup ecosystems and incubation practices. Recognizing this need, MANAGE-Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA) conceptualized the National Faculty Development Program on Agri-Innovation and Incubation to strengthen the mentoring capabilities of faculty, foster innovation-led entrepreneurship, and build a robust network of academic mentors capable of nurturing the next generation of Agri-startups, thereby contributing to the vision of Innovation-Driven Agriculture.

Why Faculty Matters ?

The rapid growth of the Agri-startup ecosystem has redefined the role of faculty members beyond traditional teaching and research. Today, faculty are expected to act as innovation facilitators, startup mentors, technology commercialization advisors, and ecosystem builders who can guide students, researchers, and entrepreneurs in transforming innovative ideas into market-ready enterprises. While faculty possess strong technical and scientific expertise, effective startup mentoring requires additional competencies in business model development, technology commercialization, intellectual property management, incubation processes, investment readiness, regulatory compliance, and industry collaboration. Strengthening these capabilities is essential to bridge the gap between research and entrepreneurship, enabling faculty to foster innovation, nurture startup culture, and contribute to the growth of a vibrant Agri-innovation ecosystem.

Harmonizing Agri-Innovation Ecosystems through Faculty Development and Incubation Excellence

About the Program

The National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) was conceived as a strategic initiative to equip faculty with contemporary knowledge, mentoring competencies, and practical exposure to incubation management, technology commercialization, startup financing, and enterprise development. Recognizing this emerging need, the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), through its Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA), organized the National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on “Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business” from 20–24 July 2026 at MANAGE, Hyderabad. The program was designed to strengthen the mentoring capabilities of faculty members, incubation professionals, and innovation practitioners by providing practical exposure to the startup lifecycle, incubation management, technology commercialization, investment readiness, legal and regulatory frameworks, and successful incubation models.

The program adopted a comprehensive learning approach comprising expert lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, institutional visits, group activities, and experience-sharing sessions with leading startup ecosystem enablers. By empowering faculty as innovation leaders and startup mentors, MANAGE-CIA aims to contribute to the development of a robust agripreneurship ecosystem where innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture become key drivers of inclusive economic growth. It aimed to build a national pool of faculty mentors capable of fostering innovation, supporting Agri-startups, and strengthening incubation ecosystems within academic and research institutions.





Objectives of the Program

- To strengthen the knowledge and mentoring competencies of faculty members and incubation professionals in the Agri-startup ecosystem.
- To provide a comprehensive understanding of innovation, incubation, and startup development processes.
- To build capacities in technology commercialization, business development, market access, and investment readiness.
- To expose participants to best practices in Agribusiness Incubation through interactions with leading incubation centres and startup ecosystems.
- To promote collaboration among academia, incubators, industry experts, and policymakers for strengthening the national Agri-innovation ecosystem.
- To develop a pool of competent faculty mentors capable of supporting Agri-startups from ideation to commercialization.

National Faculty Development Program on Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business

 20-24 July, 2026  **MANAGE**



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

(An Organisation of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030, Telangana, India

<https://www.manage.gov.in/>

Catalysing Agri-Innovation: Understanding the National Incubation Ecosystem



Welcome Address

Ms. V. Usha Sree

Manager, MANAGE-CIA

Ms. V. Usha Sree warmly welcomed the distinguished resource persons, faculty members, incubation professionals, and participants from universities, research institutions, and incubation centres across the country. She encouraged the participants to actively engage in the technical sessions, interactive discussions, and institutional visits to enhance their mentoring competencies and gain practical insights into the Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem for supporting Agri-Startups and Agribusiness.

Learning Priorities at Program Inception

At the outset of the National Faculty Development Program, the learning expectations of the faculty were captured to understand their priority areas and practical requirements. The responses reflected a need for greater exposure to Agri-startup mentoring, incubation practices, technology commercialization, funding and investment readiness, market linkages, IPR and regulatory compliance, and ecosystem development. These initial inputs provided a useful baseline for the program and helped contextualize the five-day learning journey towards strengthening the practical capabilities of faculty as mentors, facilitators, and enablers of Agri-startups and agribusiness.



Establishing the Learning Context

“

Innovation does not begin with infrastructure; it begins with empowered minds. Resources may enable progress, but expertise, resilience, and the willingness to learn from every challenge are the true foundations of a sustainable Agri-innovation ecosystem.

Dr. Saravanan Raj

Director (Agricultural Extension) &
CEO, MANAGE-CIA

”



Dr. Saravanan Raj, commenced the program with an engaging interaction that laid the foundation for the five-day learning journey. In his address, he emphasized the growing importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in transforming Indian agriculture and highlighted the pivotal role of faculty members in nurturing the next generation of Agri-entrepreneurs. He noted that while India has witnessed remarkable growth in the Agri-startup ecosystem, there is an increasing need for faculty members to strengthen their mentoring capabilities in areas such as innovation, incubation, technology commercialization, and enterprise development. Through an interactive session, he encouraged participants to share their expectations and experiences, creating a collaborative learning environment. He further emphasized that the programme was designed to equip faculty with practical knowledge, exposure to best practices, and opportunities to engage with leading incubation centres and startup ecosystem experts, enabling them to effectively mentor and support Agri-startups within their respective institutions.



Building the Foundations of Agri-Innovation and Incubation

PM-RKVY and Best Practices in Agribusiness Incubation

Incubation is far more than providing financial assistance—it is a structured process of identifying, nurturing, mentoring, and handholding entrepreneurs from the ideation stage to enterprise growth. A successful incubation ecosystem requires well-defined operational procedures, rigorous startup screening, continuous mentoring, and systematic monitoring to ensure that public resources are invested in genuinely innovative and scalable ventures. Innovation should be the core selection criterion, supported by a capable founding team, market validation, farmer outreach, and a clear value proposition, rather than incremental improvements or non-commercial ideas.

Drawing upon the operational experience of MANAGE-CIA under the PM-RKVY Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Program, emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the incubation process. Practical insights were shared on screening startup applications, assessing innovation potential, evaluating team strength, and monitoring grant utilization through structured milestones and utilization certificates. The discussion also highlighted the distinct incubation approaches for students, idea-stage startups, and revenue-generating agribusinesses, while emphasizing that every startup requires customized mentoring based on its stage of growth.

“Successful incubation extends beyond funding- it is built on mentorship, collaboration, capacity building, and sustained handholding.

Ms. V. Usha Sree
Manager, MANAGE-CIA



Understanding the Startup Life Cycle and Innovation Ecosystem

The success of an Agri-startup begins with identifying a real problem and developing innovative solutions that create value for farmers and the agricultural sector. Innovation extends beyond technology and must be technically feasible, commercially viable, and economically sustainable. Every startup evolves through stages—from ideation and proof of concept to commercialization and growth, each requiring appropriate strategies, mentorship, and market validation. Understanding the startup lifecycle enables entrepreneurs to make informed decisions on product development, branding, marketing, and business expansion.

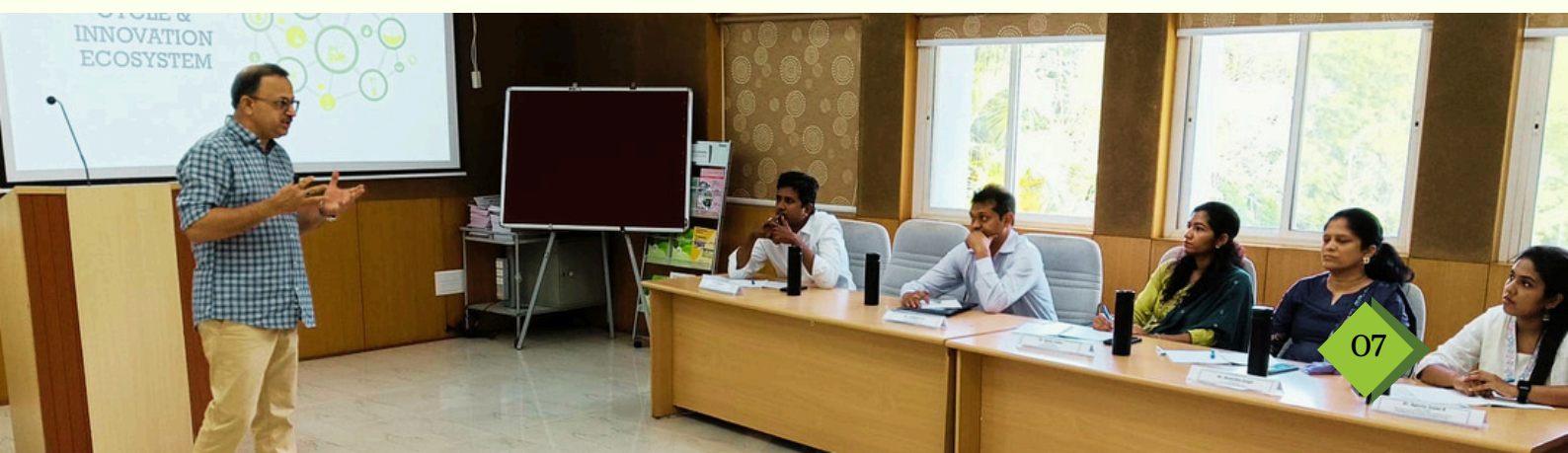
Anticipating future market needs, building strong brands, and continuously adapting products throughout their lifecycle are essential for sustaining competitiveness in the evolving Agri-startup ecosystem. Successful enterprises are built by combining innovation with market understanding, strategic execution, and continuous value creation for end users.

Technological innovation alone is not sufficient for startup success. Equal emphasis should be placed on understanding market demand, customer behaviour, branding, effective communication, and value creation to achieve successful commercialization.

Technology may create an innovation, but only market understanding, customer acceptance, and effective execution can transform it into a sustainable Agri-enterprise.

Mr. P.V.G.K. Murthy

Founder, Ingrain Technologies &
Startup Mentor



Mentoring Excellence: Communication, Coaching and Ethical Practices

Effective mentoring extends beyond technical guidance and focuses on enabling entrepreneurs to evolve through continuous learning, trust, empathy, and meaningful engagement. A mentor's role is to facilitate critical thinking, provide constructive feedback, actively listen, and support founders in making informed decisions while fostering confidence and resilience. Strong mentoring relationships are built on mutual respect, open communication, ethical conduct, and a shared commitment to long-term entrepreneurial growth.

Successful entrepreneurship requires a product-first approach, early customer engagement, and the ability to develop scalable and sustainable business models. Continuous learning, adaptability, ethical decision-making, protection of intellectual property, and inclusive mentoring practices are fundamental to building resilient startups. Rather than avoiding failures, entrepreneurs should embrace them as opportunities for learning and refinement, while mentors should create an environment that nurtures innovation, integrity, collaboration, and lifelong entrepreneurial development.

“

Great mentors do not create dependence; they build confidence, inspire independent thinking, and empower entrepreneurs to transform challenges into opportunities.

Mr. Rajesh Kumar Addla
Ex CEO, T-Hub

”



From Inception to Impact: The Evolution of MANAGE-CIA

The evolution of MANAGE-CIA reflected how a clear institutional vision, innovative thinking, and sustained commitment can transform a modest initiative into a nationally impactful incubation ecosystem. The journey highlighted the progressive stages of establishing an incubation centre—from creating awareness and identifying innovators to developing mentoring programs, strategic partnerships, specialized interventions, and nationally recognized incubation initiatives. The experiences offered practical inspiration for participants to initiate similar ecosystem-building efforts within their own institutions, irrespective of resource constraints.

The journey of MANAGE–Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA) illustrated how a beginning with limited infrastructure, resources, and prior incubation experience, the Centre gradually evolved by leveraging its institutional strengths, building strategic partnerships, adopting frugal yet impactful approaches, and continuously introducing need-based programs for entrepreneurs. Rather than following conventional incubation models, MANAGE-CIA developed its own context-specific practices through consistent experimentation, outreach, mentoring initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and ecosystem collaboration, demonstrating that successful incubation is built through continuous learning and innovation rather than the availability of extensive resources.

“

Institutions become Centres of Excellence not by what they begin with, but by what they consistently build.

Dr. Saravanan Raj

Director (Agricultural Extension) &
CEO, MANAGE-CIA

”



MANAGE-CIA Saturday Webinar Series: Strengthening India's Agri-Startup Ecosystem

The MANAGE-CIA Saturday Webinar Series has emerged as a flagship knowledge dissemination initiative, demonstrating how continuous learning and digital engagement can strengthen the Agri-startup ecosystem. Since its launch in October 2020, the initiative has successfully conducted 302 webinars, bringing together 668 expert speakers and engaging 62,687 participants, and 1.48+ lakh YouTube views. Conducted every Saturday without interruption, the webinar series has evolved into a sustained platform for knowledge sharing, mentorship, networking, and capacity building, connecting participants from 26 States, 5 Union Territories, and several international locations.

The initiative reflects the importance of creating an accessible and inclusive learning ecosystem through consistent engagement with domain experts. Covering diverse themes such as government policies, startup development, digital agriculture, food processing, marketing, climate-smart agriculture, financial management, and regulatory compliance, the webinar series has enabled innovators, entrepreneurs, faculty members, researchers, and students to gain practical insights into the evolving Agri-startup landscape. The systematic dissemination of recorded sessions, presentation materials, and learning resources has further strengthened its outreach, making quality knowledge available beyond the live sessions and promoting continuous professional development across the Agri-innovation ecosystem.

Consistent knowledge sharing, continuous mentoring, and open access to expertise are the cornerstones of a vibrant and inclusive Agri-innovation ecosystem.

Dr. Raahalya S
Innovation Scaling Specialist
MANAGE-FISHub



Technology & Innovation Assessment: Evaluating Innovations, TRL Assessment, Validation, and Commercialization Readiness

Successful innovations require systematic assessment before they can create meaningful impact in the market. Beyond technological novelty, innovations should address real-world problems, demonstrate technical feasibility, generate customer value, and possess strong market and commercialization potential. A comprehensive Technology and Innovation Assessment (TIA) framework enables innovators to evaluate technical, economic, market, environmental, and societal dimensions, ensuring that innovations are scalable, sustainable, and capable of delivering measurable impact.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) assessment provides a structured pathway for measuring the maturity of an innovation from basic research to commercial deployment, while validation confirms that the technology meets user requirements, quality standards, and market expectations. Commercialization readiness extends beyond technical success by evaluating customer demand, value proposition, business model, manufacturing capability, regulatory compliance, financial sustainability, and market preparedness. Adopting these systematic evaluation frameworks reduces investment risks, improves commercialization outcomes, and facilitates the successful translation of research into market-ready innovations.

“Innovation gains real value not when an idea is conceived, but when it is systematically assessed, validated, and successfully adopted by the market.

Dr. Sonal H Singh
Assistant Professor
Centre for Entrepreneurship and
Innovation
Mahindra University



IPR, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Agribusiness Mentors

Protecting intellectual property is fundamental to transforming innovative ideas into sustainable and competitive enterprises. A sound understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enables innovators and mentors to safeguard technologies, products, brands, creative works, and designs while facilitating commercialization and attracting investment. Selecting the appropriate form of intellectual property protection—such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, or industrial designs—strengthens innovation management and enhances the long-term value of startups and research outcomes.

Effective commercialization also requires awareness of the legal and regulatory framework governing intellectual property. Patentability depends on novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability, while trademarks establish brand identity and copyrights protect original creative expressions. Early identification of intellectual assets, timely registration, regulatory compliance, and strategic management of intellectual property are essential for minimizing legal risks, strengthening market competitiveness, and enabling sustainable growth of Agri-enterprises.

“Innovation creates value, but intellectual property protection secures that value by transforming ideas into legally protected and commercially sustainable assets.”

Mr. Ranjith Reddy
Legal Expert



Mentoring the Startups for Success Journey (Milestones Achievement & Fund Utilization)

Successful startup mentoring extends beyond technical guidance and focuses on building professionally managed, investment-ready enterprises. Establishing structured systems, regulatory compliance, financial discipline, and effective fund utilization from the early stages create a strong foundation for sustainable growth. Well-defined milestones, realistic timelines, and periodic monitoring enable startups to measure progress, utilize grants responsibly, and remain aligned with their business objectives.

Effective mentoring should facilitate the transition of startups from informal ventures to scalable organizations by strengthening governance, strategic planning, financial management, and market preparedness. A balanced combination of technical and business mentoring, supported by strong industry networks, market linkages, and funding opportunities, accelerates the startup learning cycle and enhances enterprise growth. Mentoring is most impactful when it empowers entrepreneurs to make informed decisions, build resilient businesses, and achieve long-term sustainability rather than creating dependence.

“

Effective mentoring transforms startups from innovative ideas into disciplined, investment-ready, and sustainable enterprises through guidance, accountability, and empowerment.

Mr. Emmanuel Murray
Investment Director, Caspian

”



Building Mentoring Competence through Scenario-Based Learning

An interactive scenario-based role-play exercise was conducted to provide participants with practical exposure to real-world incubation and startup mentoring challenges. Participants assumed the roles of mentors, incubation managers, evaluation committee members, and startup founders to analyse situations involving innovation assessment, founder behaviour, grant readiness, and investment expectations. Working collaboratively, each team evaluated the scenarios, identified key challenges, and proposed appropriate mentoring strategies and incubation decisions. The activity encouraged critical thinking, collaborative decision-making, effective communication, and practical application of mentoring principles, enabling participants to strengthen their problem-solving and startup evaluation competencies in a realistic incubation environment.



Opportunities to Establish Incubation Centres and Identifying Revenue Streams to Run Incubators

Establishing a successful incubation centre requires a strategic vision, institutional commitment, and effective utilization of available resources rather than extensive infrastructure. Institutions should identify their core strengths, assess regional innovation potential, build collaborative networks with academia, industry, government agencies, and financial institutions, and develop incubation models aligned with local entrepreneurial needs. A well-planned incubation ecosystem supported by competent mentors, structured processes, and stakeholder partnerships can effectively nurture innovation and enterprise development. Long-term sustainability of incubation centres depends on developing diversified revenue streams beyond grant support.

Training and capacity-building programmes, consultancy services, incubation and mentoring support, technology commercialization, project-based collaborations, sponsored initiatives, corporate partnerships, and fee-based innovation services contribute to financial sustainability while strengthening institutional impact. A balanced approach combining resource mobilization, ecosystem partnerships, and continuous innovation enables incubation centres to operate effectively and support the growth of Agri-startups.



Immersive Exposure to India's Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem

The institutional visits formed a significant experiential component of the program, leveraging Hyderabad's rich concentration of research institutions, innovation hubs, and incubation centres in and around the MANAGE campus. The exposure to Nutrihub-ICAR-IIMR, ICRISAT's innovation ecosystem, T-Hub, and a-IDEA-ICAR-NAARM offered a comprehensive view of how different institutions approach innovation discovery, startup incubation, technology development, market linkage, and enterprise support. The visits enabled a practical understanding of diverse incubation models, institutional strengths, stakeholder networks, and pathways for converting research and innovations into market-oriented ventures. This institutional exposure complemented the classroom sessions by bringing the theory, practices, and realities of incubation ecosystems together in a single learning experience, providing valuable perspectives that could be adapted to strengthen innovation and incubation initiatives across participating institutions.



t-Hub



NutriHub, ICAR-IIMR



Agri Innovation Platform (AIP), ICRISAT



a-IDEA, ICAR-NAARM

Valedictory Session

Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) and CEO, MANAGE-CIA, concluded the five-day program by bringing together the key learning from the program and encouraging faculty to translate these insights into practical mentoring and incubation practices within their institutions. The learning journey highlighted the importance of problem-driven innovation, effective mentoring, market-oriented thinking, technology validation, IPR and compliance, financial discipline, institutional linkages, and sustainable incubation models. The experience was further strengthened through practical exposure to incubation centres and innovation ecosystems, enabling faculty to view incubation not simply as a program, but as a continuous institutional mechanism for nurturing Agri-startups. The reflection also brought forward the need for faculty to identify opportunities within their own institutional strengths, build relevant mentor networks, connect startups with the right ecosystem stakeholders, and support entrepreneurs beyond ideation towards commercialization and growth. The program thus provided a foundation for faculty to carry forward the learning through stronger mentoring practices, institutional collaborations, and locally relevant incubation initiatives. The five-day journey concluded with a shared focus on turning knowledge into mentoring capability and mentoring capability into measurable Agri-business impact.



Core Takeaways from the National Faculty Development Program

- Strong incubation depends on expertise, collaboration, and resourcefulness, not infrastructure alone.
- Faculty need to evolve into mentors, facilitators, and ecosystem builders.
- Innovation must solve real agricultural problems and create market value.
- Startups need continuous mentoring, market understanding, financial discipline, and commercialization support.
- Effective mentoring enables startups to learn, adapt, and grow through success and failure.
- Connected ecosystems linking research, industry, government, investors, and markets are essential.
- Incubation models should be built around institutional strengths and regional opportunities.
- Sustainable incubation requires innovation, partnerships, diversified revenues, and measurable impact.
- The ultimate goal is to transform ideas and research into viable enterprises and meaningful agricultural impact.



Next Directions: Translating NFDP Learning into Institutional Action

- Faculty mentoring capacity should be strengthened through continuous exposure to incubation practices, commercialization, finance, IPR, market development, and startup management.
- Institutions should develop incubation approaches around their existing strengths and regional opportunities, rather than adopting a uniform model or waiting for extensive infrastructure and funding.
- Research-to-enterprise mechanisms should be strengthened to facilitate the movement of innovations from research and proof-of-concept stages towards validation, commercialization, and market adoption.
- A structured and multidisciplinary mentor pool should be developed by connecting institutions with technical experts, entrepreneurs, investors, legal professionals, industry specialists, and business mentors.
- Startup support should become more milestone and outcome-oriented, with systematic mentoring, market validation, fund utilization, compliance, progress tracking, and impact assessment.
- Stronger academia–industry–government–incubator linkages should be institutionalized to improve technology transfer, market access, investment readiness, and scaling opportunities.
- Incubation centres should explore diversified and sustainable operating models through training, consultancy, partnerships, commercialization support, and other appropriate revenue-generating activities.
- Need-based and farmer-centric innovation should remain central to incubation, ensuring that startup solutions address genuine problems and generate tangible value for farmers and other end users.
- Successful incubation practices should be documented, evaluated, and shared to facilitate learning, replication, and adaptation across institutions and regions.
- The effectiveness of incubation should increasingly be assessed through tangible outcomes—enterprise sustainability, commercialization, revenue, employment, farmer outreach, and ecosystem impact—rather than activities or startup numbers alone.



Program Summary

The National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) on “Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem to Mentor Agri-Startups and Agri-Business” was organized by the Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, from 20-24 July 2026. Designed as a five-day residential capacity-building program, it aimed to strengthen the knowledge and mentoring competencies of faculty members and incubation professionals in fostering innovation-led entrepreneurship. The program brought together 18 participants from 12 states across India, representing agricultural universities, ICAR institutes, higher educational institutions, Agribusiness Incubation Centres, startup support organizations, and the private sector. The program featured expert lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, institutional visits, startup interactions, and networking sessions, providing participants with practical exposure to the Agri startup ecosystem, incubation management, technology commercialization, startup mentoring, business planning, funding mechanisms, and industry academia collaboration. Through this multidisciplinary learning approach, the program sought to develop a strong network of faculty mentors and incubation professionals capable of nurturing innovative Agri-startups and strengthening the national Agri-Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem.

The Way Forward

“The program calls for a shift from infrastructure-led incubation to capability-led, network-driven, outcome-oriented incubation—where competent faculty mentors, institutional strengths, strategic partnerships, and sustainable practices collectively transform innovation into enterprise and impact.”

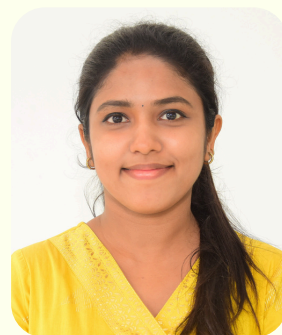
National Faculty Development Program (NFDP) Participant's Profile



Dr. Amita Yadav
Assistant Professor
GLA University
Uttar Pradesh



Dr. Akanchha Singh
Assistant Professor
GLA University
Uttar Pradesh



Dr. Aparna Jayan R
Assistant Professor
Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan University
Tamil Nadu



Mr. Umakanta Giri
Founder & Director
Sevene Foundation
Odisha



Dr. Sailaja V
Assistant Professor (Entomology)
Forest College and Research Institute
Telangana



Dr. Mohanraj K
Associate Professor
Vellore Institute of Technology
Tamil Nadu



Dr. Lalit M. Bal
Associate Professor & Head
Bihar State Institute of Dairy
Technology
Bihar



Dr. Suryamani Kumar
Assistant Professor-cum-Scientist
S. G. Institute of Dairy Technology
Bihar



Mr. Yumnam Nandan
Incubation Associate
IIT Tirupati
Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Udaykumar M S

Scientist (Agricultural Economics)
ICAR-National Institute of Secondary
Agriculture
Jharkhand



Dr. Ankita Kataria

Scientist (Food Technology)
ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize
Research
Punjab



Dr. Sekar Megarajan

Senior Scientist
ICAR-CMFRI
Andhra Pradesh



Mr. Deepesh Vangapululu

Venture Coach
GITAM
Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Satish Jangra

Assistant Professor
Lala Lajpat Rai University of
Veterinary and
Animal Sciences
Haryana



Mr. Dinesh V

Incubation Manager
Palar Bio Rich Incubation Forum
Tamil Nadu



Mr. Koustubh Govind Yadre

Team Membe
HORTICON
Maharashtra



Dr. Anjali Chandrol Solanki

Assistant Professor
SAM Global University
Madhya Pradesh



Dr. Akilandeshwari

Guest Faculty (Empanelled)
Faculty of Fisheries Science (FFS)
KUFOS
Kerala

National Faculty Development Program (NFDLP) Participants List

Sl. No	Name & Address
1	Dr. Amita Yadav Assistant Professor Faculty of Agricultural Sciences GLA University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
2	Dr. Akanchha Singh Assistant Professor GLA University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
3	Dr. Aparna Jayan R Assistant Professor Department of Agricultural Extension School of Agricultural Sciences Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan University Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu-621112
4	Mr. Umakanta Giri Founder & Director Seveneva Foundation, SAS Nagar Punjab, Registered: Bhubaneswar, Odisha
5	Dr. Sailaja V Assistant Professor (Entomology) Dept. of Natural Resource Management & Conservation Forest College and Research Institute Mulugu, Siddipet – 502279, Telangana
6	Dr. Mohanraj K Associate Professor School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.
7	Dr. Lalit M. Bal Associate Professor & Head Dept. of Dairy Engineering Bihar State Institute of Dairy Technology (Previously: Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Dairy Technology) Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna- 800014, Bihar
8	Dr. Suryamani Kumar Assistant Professor-cum-Scientist (DT) S. G. Institute of Dairy Technology P.O.- BVC Campus, Jagdeopath, Patna-800014, Bihar
9	Mr. Yumnam Nandan Incubation Associate PMFME - CIC, IIT Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

10	Dr. Udaykumar M S Scientist (Agricultural Economics) Agri-business Development Unit ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture Namkum, Ranchi- 834010, Jharkhand, India
11	Mr. Deepesh Vangapulusu Venture Coach Venture Development Centre, GITAM, Andhra Pradesh
12	Mr. Dinesh V Incubation Manager Palar Bio Rich Incubation Forum Vellore, Tamil Nadu
13	Dr. Ankita Kataria Scientist (Food Technology) ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ladhawal, Ludhiana, Punjab
14	Dr. Satish Jangra Assistant Professor Dairy Business Management, College of Dairy Science & Technology Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Haryana
15	Dr. Akilandeshwari Guest Faculty (Empanelled) Department of Fisheries Extension, Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Fisheries Science (FFS), KUFOB, Panangad, Kerala.
16	Mr. Koustubh Govind Yadre Team Member HORTICON Sr. No. 749, At Post Verveli, Taluka Guhagar Ratnagiri, Maharashtra
17	Dr. Anjali Chandrol Solanki Assistant Professor Faculty of Agriculture Sciences SAM Global University, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh
18	Dr. Sekar Megarajan Senior Scientist ICAR-CMFRI, Visakhapatnam regional centre, Andhra Pradesh



Program Director



Dr. Saravanan Raj

Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE &
CEO, MANAGE-CIA & MANAGE-FISHub

Program Coordinators



Ms. V. Usha Sree
Manager, MANAGE-CIA



Ms. Kajal Soni
MANAGE-CIA Intern

Report Prepared By

Ms. Kajal Soni
MANAGE-CIA Intern

MANAGE- Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (MANAGE-CIA)

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030, India

<https://www.manage.gov.in/>



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA



MANAGE-CIA