

Agri-Startup Stakeholders Connect Program –  
Fostering Collaboration & Partnership

MANAGE – Centre for Innovation and  
Agripreneurship



**A Report on**  
**Agri-Startup Stakeholders Connect**  
**Program**  
**at Tripura**  
**June 07, 2024**

**Venue: Institute of Chartered Financial  
Analysts of India (ICFAI), Tripura.**

**Program Director**

**Dr. Saravanan Raj**

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

**Program Coordinators**

**Mr. Siddharth**

Innovation Manager  
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MANAGE-CIA, Hyderabad

Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (CIA)

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### About the Program

MANAGE – Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (CIA), a designated Centre of Excellence in Agribusiness Incubation, operates under the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. Renowned as one of India's top agribusiness incubators, MANAGE-CIA has extended funding support to 158 startups and incubated over 383 agri-ventures, while offering tailored mentorship to more than 754 agripreneurs spanning various domains of agriculture and allied sectors.

To reinforce regional innovation ecosystems and foster entrepreneurial synergy, MANAGE-CIA launched its 4th Agri-Startup Stakeholders Connect Program—an engaging platform designed to facilitate dynamic collaboration among startup leaders and key agribusiness enablers in Tripura.

This strategic initiative aimed to bring together essential stakeholders—researchers, incubators, policymakers, agripreneurs, startups, agro-industrialists, investors, extension experts, students, and allied partners—across Tripura to exchange innovative ideas, practical insights, and entrepreneurial journeys in the agribusiness sector.

The event organized in collaboration with the **Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI), Tripura**, the event drew enthusiastic participation from a wide range of agricultural innovators and stakeholders. It marked a meaningful leap toward nurturing a vibrant and resilient agripreneurial ecosystem in the Tripura state.

### Objectives of the Program

- To foster meaningful collaborations among agripreneurs, researchers, and industry experts, strengthening the agricultural innovation landscape throughout Tripura.
- To close the gap between academic institutions and the agribusiness sector by promoting joint efforts that tackle real-life agricultural issues and reveal new avenues for sustainable growth.
- To create an engaging platform for sharing breakthrough ideas, strategic insights, and advanced technologies that uplift agricultural startups and fuel sector-wide innovation.

### Participants of the Program

The program was honoured by the esteemed presence of distinguished guests from national institutions, academia, state departments, and the agri-startup ecosystem. Representing the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), **Dr. Saravanan Raj**, Director (Agricultural Extension) and CEO of MANAGE – Centre for



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Innovation and Agripreneurship (CIA), actively contributed to the event by sharing thought-provoking insights that shaped the discussions and direction of the proceedings.

The event's Chief Guest, **Prof. A. Ranganath**, Registrar of the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI), Tripura, added great value with his presence and support, further amplifying the significance of the occasion.

A distinguished team from ICFAI Tripura also participated enthusiastically. Notable attendees included **Prof. Subhasish Chatterjee**, Dean of Academic Affairs, and **Dr. Dipangshu Dev Chowdhury**, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Management and Commerce. Their involvement, alongside other faculty and administrative staff, elevated the academic spirit and institutional engagement of the program.



The event drew representation from key officials across various state and national organizations. Among the prominent attendees were **Mr. Anil S Kotmire**, General Manager, NABARD, Tripura; **Mr. Arabinda Debbarma**, Director of T-SAMETI, Tripura; **Prof. Dedashish Sen**, Principal, College of Agriculture, Tripura; **Dr. Kouberi Nath**, Scientist, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura; and **Dr. Pradyut Biswas**, Assistant Professor and Co-PI (R-ABI), College of Fisheries, CAU (Imphal), Tripura.

Adding entrepreneurial energy to the gathering, **23 agri-startups** from Tripura showcased their innovations, forged valuable connections with stakeholders, and explored collaborative prospects—reflecting the vibrant and emerging agripreneurial spirit in the region.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from **100 students**, including **90** from the **Agricultural Program** and **10** from the **Master of Business Management** stream. Their active engagement highlighted the event's strong educational influence and its role in nurturing future leaders in agribusiness.



### Inauguration of the Program

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The program began with a warm and inspiring welcome address by **Prof. Subhasish Chatterjee**, who stressed the importance of innovation and differentiation in navigating today's competitive startup environment. He encouraged entrepreneurs to continuously refine their offerings in response to customer feedback and evolving market trends. He also emphasized strategic scaling, urging startups to plan growth carefully while attracting and retaining skilled talent as a cornerstone of long-term success.



**Dr. Saravanan Raj** followed with a heartfelt note of gratitude to the Chief Guest and all dignitaries, officials, startups, and student participants. He shared compelling insights into the objectives of the program and the rapidly growing agri-startup ecosystem in India. Calling for collective action, he inspired participants to become proactive drivers in scaling agripreneurship for broader national impact.

**Mr. Anil S Kotmire** addressed the gathering with a detailed discussion on the startup ecosystem in agriculture. He shed light on the vast opportunities and existing challenges in the sector, emphasizing the vital roles played by incubators, accelerators, and supportive government policies in nurturing innovative agri-startups.



**Mr. Arabinda Debbarma** highlighted the crucial role of collaboration among startups, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders. He underlined how such partnerships are key to advancing sustainable agriculture and fostering inclusive rural development through innovation-led solutions.

**Prof. Dedashish Sen** spoke on the powerful impact of startups in generating employment, especially within high-growth domains such as agriculture, technology, and green energy. He noted that attracting passionate talent is vital, and stressed the importance of validating market needs through research and iterative development to ensure alignment between product and demand.



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**Dr. Pradyut Biswas** elaborated on the entrepreneurial spirit of startups, recognizing their ability to fuel economic development, disrupt traditional industries, and create scalable solutions. He advocated for building an ecosystem that embraces innovation and risk-taking, which in turn empowers startups to drive transformative change.

**Dr. Kouberi Nath** discussed how startups are pivotal forces of innovation and job creation. She pointed out that beyond direct employment, startups boost economic activity by engaging freelancers, contractors, and allied businesses, particularly in dynamic sectors like biotechnology and agri-tech.



Each distinguished speaker offered enriching perspectives on the transformative power of agri-startups, highlighting their role in building a resilient, tech-enabled, and inclusive agricultural economy. Their insights emphasized the growing relevance of startups in shaping the future of Indian agriculture.



Finally, **Prof. A. Ranganath** expressed sincere appreciation to MANAGE, Hyderabad, and Dr. Saravanan Raj for orchestrating such a meaningful and forward-looking initiative. He reflected on the future trajectory of agricultural startups in a global context, noting that they are engines of innovation—introducing disruptive technologies, revolutionizing industries, and enhancing both efficiency and user experience through bold, boundary-pushing ideas.

## Overview the Program

A dynamic startup presentation session served as a highlight of the program, offering a powerful platform for participating agri-startups to showcase their pioneering business models. Each startup articulated the specific agricultural challenges they are addressing and unveiled their innovative, solution-oriented strategies designed to revolutionize the sector.



Following the presentations, engaging Q&A sessions sparked lively interaction between the audience and startup founders. These conversations promoted a rich exchange of ideas, where participants offered thoughtful feedback, posed probing questions, and shared valuable suggestions—fostering a deeper understanding and mutual learning experience.



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Adding to the energy of the event, a vibrant startup exhibition was held, featuring a diverse array of products, technologies, and services tackling real-world agricultural issues. The exhibition created a buzzing hub of activity, enabling startups to network with potential investors, collaborators, policymakers, and academic experts.



Attendees enjoyed hands-on exposure to ground-breaking agri-tech solutions while engaging in meaningful dialogue with the innovators behind them. This interactive format promoted cross-sector collaboration, encouraged the exchange of knowledge, and reinforced partnerships within the broader agri-startup community.



The program concluded on a gracious note with a vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. Siddharth**, Innovation Manager at MANAGE – Centre for Innovation and Agripreneurship (CIA). He expressed deep gratitude to Program Director **Dr. Saravanan Raj** for conceptualizing and leading such an impactful initiative. He also acknowledged the enthusiastic participation of all attendees, whose collective involvement was key to the event's outstanding success.

### Key Takeaways and Benefits of the Program

- **Building Powerful Networks:** The event served as a dynamic hub for participants to engage with potential partners, clients, mentors, and collaborators—setting the stage for meaningful connections and long-term professional alliances.
- **Enriching Knowledge Exchange:** Thought-provoking sessions led by seasoned industry experts provided attendees with deep insights into evolving agribusiness landscapes and entrepreneurial best practices, greatly enhancing their strategic outlook.
- **Showcasing Startup Brilliance:** Participating startups gained invaluable visibility by presenting their breakthrough innovations on a prominent stage, attracting the attention of key stakeholders within the regional startup ecosystem.
- **Fueling Entrepreneurial Drive:** The inspiring journeys and impactful experiences shared by seasoned entrepreneurs lit a spark among attendees, encouraging them to pursue their ideas with greater passion and perseverance.
- **Accelerating Growth Through Feedback:** Insightful critiques and guidance from experienced mentors and peers offered startups practical takeaways, enabling them to strengthen their solutions and sharpen their market approaches.
- **Catalyzing Collaborative Innovation:** The program unlocked fresh opportunities for cooperation through potential partnerships, joint ventures, and shared innovation goals—paving the way for collective advancement in the agri-startup space.



**List of the Participated Agri-Startups**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Founder Name</b>	<b>Startup Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Focused Area/Bried Idea</b>
1	Mr. Mojammil Abedin & Mr. Rajib Deb	Abedin's Chai	Kailashahar (Tripura)	Production of blended tea with mixing encapsulated flavouring
2	Mr. Sushanta Das	Das Agro Farms and Tourism	Dhalai (Tripura)	Integrated Farming with Tourism
3	Mr. Frankel Debbarma	F.K Food Productions	Agartala (Tripura)	Processing of pork meat.
4	Mr. Leuyen Debbarma	Food Express	Agartala (Tripura)	Processing of raw bamboo shoots
5	Mr. Babul Debnath	Swasti Mushroom Lab	Agartala (Tripura)	Production of quality mushroom spawn
6	Mr. Madan Gopal Saha	M.A.Enterprises	Agartala (Tripura)	Food Processing & Value Addition
7	Mr. Tapas Maity	Tripex Engineering Services Private Limited	Agartala (Tripura)	Renewable Energy Solutions
8	Mr. Jibananda Banik	Opepl Fresh Private Limited	Agartala (Tripura)	Dairy Farming
9	Mr. Rohit Bhadra	Grosale India Private Limited	Agartala (Tripura)	Agri-Tech Solutions
10	Mr. Biswajit Sabdakar	Cold Storage for fruits	Dharmanagar (Tripura)	Cold storage for fruits
11	Mr. Priyatosh Nath	Shivshakti Agro Chemicals	Tilthoi (Tripura)	Agro Chemicals Medicines & equipment
12	Mr. Sagar Namasudra	Gingy	Agartala (Tripura)	Production of ginger candy with locally available ginger
13	Mr. Sujit Ghosh	Rural Haat	Agartala (Tripura)	Provide a sustainable marketing platform for rural artisans and agri-entrepreneurs lacking direct market access
14	Mr. Niresh Chandra Nath	Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Dhalai	Agartala (Tripura)	Providing vocational training on Agri, farm and nonfarm based
15	Mr. Goutam Debnath & Mr. Ashok Das	OPEPL Fresh Pvt. Ltd.	Agartala (Tripura)	The production of organic Manure enriched with Herbal pesticides.
16	Mr. Jasim Miah Khadim	Unakoti Farmer's Producer Company	Unakoti (Tripura)	Works to support local farmers in Tripura through collective farming, input supply, and market linkage initiatives.



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Sr. No.	Founder Name	Startup Name	Location	Focused Area/Bried Idea
17	Mr. Shayan Sarkar	Khayerpur Farmers Producer Company	Agartala (Tripura)	Provides agricultural services and markets farm produce to support local farmers in Tripura.
18	Mr. Laxman Das	Yahva Aries Private Limited	Agartala (Tripura)	Engaged in the manufacture of food products and beverages
19	Ms. Chaiti Dey	DST Master Trainer TRLM &TULM	Agartala (Tripura)	Empower rural and urban communities by providing skill development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood training to improve economic opportunities and reduce poverty.
20	Mr. Sudip Majumder	Bagma Agri Producer Company Limited FPC	Gomati (Tripura)	Focuses on agricultural diversification, financial literacy, sustainable energy solutions, and promoting local agricultural heritage in Tripura.
21	Mr. Sri Priyalal Chakma	Chawmanu Farmers Producers Co-operative	Dhalai (Tripura)	Focuses on organic farming and agricultural activities in Tripura.
22	Mr. Partha Ranjan Das	Biocert international Pvt. Ltd.	Agartala (Tripura)	Provides third-party certification services for organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices.
23	Mr. Sumanth Das	Kabiguru Agrofed FPO	Agartala (Tripura)	Empowers local farmers in Tripura by improving their access to markets, inputs, and technology.

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