



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
मत्स्यपालन विभाग  
Department of Fisheries



NAVARATNA  
MATSYA SEVANA KENDRAM

# AquaReach

## Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program

*Hands-on training to help households start aquaculture income models*

Organized by

**MANAGE - FISHub**

In collaboration with

**Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram**



13-01-2026



**Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, Aqua Farm,  
Ala Gothiruth, Thrissur, Kerala**

**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**

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MANAGE FISHub



MANAGE-FISHub



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# 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

  
Waste to Wealth

  
Integrated &  
Secondary  
Aquaculture

  
AI & IOT in  
Fisheries

  
Aquaculture  
Mechanization &  
Innovation

  
Fisheries Input & Feed  
Technology

  
Fisheries Extension  
& Advisory

  
Post - Harvest & Cold  
Chain Innovations

  
Blockchain  
Technology

  
Biotechnology &  
Genetics

  
Other Innovations in  
Fisheries &  
Aquaculture

# Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram (N.R.M.S.K)

Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram (N.R.M.S.K) is a fisheries service and aquaculture support centre based in Thrissur, Kerala, founded by Dr Akhilamole M A, an experienced aquaculture consultant. The firm provides end-to-end services for fish farmers, including water-quality testing, fish-seed production and supply, ornamental fish units, disease diagnostics, and on-farm technical consulting for pond preparation, species selection, feeding, and disease management. Through its lab, consultancy, and field-level support, the centre aims to strengthen fish farming livelihoods and improve access to quality inputs and technical knowledge across Kerala. Akhilamole actively trains women's groups, farmers, students, Kudumbashree units, and SHGs, demonstrating practical aquaculture models backed by real farm data and profitability charts. With strong community linkage and a passion for capacity building, she continues to inspire new entrants, especially women to adopt sustainable, profitable aquaculture as a reliable livelihood.

**Practical  
Exposure**

**Includes pond management , lab diagnosis, poultry integration, agriculture, and waste to wealth**

**Infrastructure**

**25 acres of operational multi-system integrated farm, demonstration units, and open land**

**Expertise**

**Experienced aquaculture practitioner + training background**

**ACABC  
Credential**

**Certified under MANAGE entrepreneurship program**

## 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

## Who Can Attend?



**Farmers**



**FFPO and Cooperatives**



**Students**



**Youth**



**SHGs**



**Aspiring Entrepreneurs**

MANAGE proposed a collaboration with Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram (N.R.M.S.K), Thrissur, to conduct the first edition of the AquaReach - Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program in Kerala. Following acceptance from the CEO of N.R.M.S.K, Dr. Akhिलamole M A, the program was scheduled and successfully conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the N.R.M.S.K Aqua Farm, Thrissur. The organising team for the programme comprised members from both institutions. From MANAGE, the team included Dr Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, and Ms Vrinda P Sunil, Business Executive, MANAGE-FISHub.

From N.R.M.S.K, Thrissur, the organising team included Dr Akhिलamole M A, CEO of N.R.M.S.K. A list of proposed farmers and aspiring students from the fisheries startup ecosystem of Kerala was prepared, and invitation calls were made to fisheries startups, aquapreneurs, fishers, fish farmers, and fisheries colleges and allied institutes in Thrissur. A comprehensive list of proposed farmers and aspiring students from the fisheries startup ecosystem of Kerala was prepared, and invitation calls were made to fisheries startups, aquapreneurs, fishers, fish farmers, and students from fisheries colleges and allied institutes in Thrissur and nearby districts. The registration link for the program was widely circulated through MANAGE-FISHub and institutional social media platforms, enabling broad outreach and participation. The program schedule was thoughtfully designed to include an inaugural session, followed by a guided farm visit, technical lectures, interactive discussions, and a valedictory session. The farm visit provided participants with hands-on exposure to modern aquaculture practices, infrastructure, and innovative farming techniques adopted at the N.R.M.S.K Aqua Farm.

A total of 80 participants registered for the program, including farmers, students, and professionals from the fisheries sector. The program, conducted at the Aqua Farm, N.R.M.S.K, was attended by 55 participants, comprising 10 dignitaries who graced the dais, 40 farmers from various regions of Thrissur district, and 5 students from different fisheries colleges in and around Thrissur. The active participation and enthusiastic engagement of the attendees reflected the growing interest in aquapreneurship and innovation-driven fisheries development.



## Inaugural Session



**Ms. Vrinda P Sunil**  
Business Executive  
MANAGE-FISHub

**Ms Vrinda P Sunil, Business Executive, MANAGE-FISHub,** welcomed the participants to the AquaReach - Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program, jointly organized with MANAGE, Hyderabad and Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram. She stated that the focus of the program is to create practical, income-generating models that households can adopt immediately after training. She acknowledged the key support of Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, Thrissur, particularly Dr. Akhिलamole M A, and extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries, resource persons, startup aspirants, faculty, students, and farmers. She emphasised that such initiatives help bridge research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, enabling ideas to be transformed into viable fisheries enterprises.

**“Innovation in water creates opportunity on land.”**

**-Ms. Vrinda P Sunil**

## Inaugural Session

**Dr Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) & CEO of MANAGE-FISHub, MANAGE, Hyderabad,** delivered a comprehensive session on “About the Programme and Activities of MANAGE-FISHub” through online mode, outlining the objectives, structure, and expected outcomes of the initiative. He emphasized that AquaReach was designed as a grassroots-level capacity-building and outreach program to strengthen linkages among research, extension, entrepreneurship, and policy support, with special relevance to fisheries and aquaculture.



He further elaborated on the vision and core activities of MANAGE-FISHub, a national-level fisheries innovation and startup hub established in 2025 under the Department of Fisheries, Government of India and hosted at MANAGE. He highlighted that MANAGE-FISHub functions as a catalyst for fisheries entrepreneurship by providing structured support through incubation services, mentorship, technical guidance, funding facilitation, and market linkages. The hub also focuses on nurturing early-stage innovators and startups through training programs, exposure visits, experience-sharing sessions, and ecosystem-building initiatives.

Dr Saravanan Raj also stressed that both AquaReach and MANAGE-FISHub aim to build capacity among farmers, fishers, students, and aspiring entrepreneurs by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop sustainable and scalable enterprises in the fisheries sector. He concluded by reiterating that the success of these initiatives would be measured by their ability to foster innovation, generate viable enterprises, and create long-term institutional collaborations, thereby contributing to the growth and resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture ecosystem.

**“The true success of AquaReach will be reflected in **sustainable enterprises and scalable innovations** for the fisheries sector.”**

**- Dr. Saravanan Raj**



## Inaugural Session



**Shri. S. Satheesh Kumar, Vice President (Panchayat), S. N. Puram, Thrissur,** delivered the inaugural address and expressed his sincere appreciation to MANAGE and Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram for jointly coordinating and organizing the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program.



### **Shri. S. Satheesh Kumar**

Vice President (Panchayat), S. N. Puram  
Thrissur

He acknowledged the efforts of both institutions in bringing such an important initiative to the grassroots level for the benefit of farmers, fishers, and aspiring entrepreneurs of the region.

He emphasized the importance of utilizing platforms like AquaReach to enhance knowledge, build entrepreneurial skills, and explore new opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He urged the participants to actively engage in the sessions and make the best use of the exposure provided through the program to develop themselves as entrepreneurs and contribute to local economic development. He concluded by highlighting that such programs would play a crucial role in empowering the community and promoting sustainable livelihood generation through fisheries-based enterprises.

**“True development begins when local communities turn opportunities into enterprises.”**

**- Shri. S. Satheesh Kumar**



### **Dr. Kesavan K**

**Head of the Department of Aquaculture  
MES Asmabi College, P. Vemballur**

**Dr. Kesavan K, Head of the Department of Aquaculture, MES Asmabi College, P. Vemballur,** addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of academic institutions in supporting fisheries entrepreneurship and skill development. He emphasized that fisheries and aquaculture education must go beyond classroom learning and focus on practical exposure, innovation, and enterprise creation. He underlined the need for integrating scientific knowledge with field-level practices to ensure sustainable and profitable aquaculture ventures.

He also stressed that programmes like AquaReach provide a valuable platform for students, farmers, and aspiring aquapreneurs to interact with experts, understand real-world challenges, and explore emerging opportunities in the fisheries sector.

He encouraged students and participants to make use of such initiatives to enhance their technical competence, entrepreneurial mindset, and confidence to establish successful ventures in aquaculture and allied sectors. He concluded by stating that institutional collaboration between academic bodies and incubation centres is essential for nurturing future-ready aquapreneurs and strengthening the fisheries ecosystem.

**“Scientific knowledge combined with entrepreneurship is the foundation for sustainable aquaculture development.”**

**-Dr. Kesavan K**

## Inaugural Session



**Smt. Sumitha E. B**  
Fisheries Extension Officer  
Matsya Bhavan, Azhikode

**Smt. Sumitha E. B., Fisheries Extension Officer, Matsya Bhavan, Azhikode,** addressed the participants and appreciated the initiative taken by MANAGE in collaboration with Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram for organizing the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program. She highlighted the relevance of such programs in strengthening awareness about modern fisheries practices and entrepreneurship opportunities among farmers and fishers at the grassroots level.

She specially acknowledged the efforts of Dr. Akhिलamole M. A., CEO of Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, for her leadership and commitment in promoting sustainable aquaculture and farmer-orientated extension activities. She also commended MANAGE for bringing structured capacity-building and incubation support to the local fisheries community through AquaReach.

Smt. Sumitha E. B. emphasized that the program would help participants gain valuable insights into technical advancements, government schemes, and entrepreneurial pathways in fisheries and aquaculture. She encouraged the participants to actively engage in the sessions and utilize the knowledge gained to improve their livelihoods and explore enterprise opportunities in the fisheries sector. She concluded by expressing confidence that such collaborative initiatives would significantly contribute to the development of the local fisheries ecosystem.

**“When institutions work together, farmers gain stronger opportunities for growth and innovation.”**

**-Smt. Sumitha E. B**

## Farm Visit

Following the inaugural session, a farm visit was organized at the Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram Aqua Farm, Thrissur. During the visit, participants were provided with practical exposure to the farm infrastructure, aquaculture systems, and operational practices adopted at the facility. Dr. Akhila M. A., CEO of Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, along with her team of farmers, explained in detail the different fish species cultured, pond and tank setups, feeding practices, water quality management, and disease prevention measures followed at the farm.



The participants were also introduced to the innovative farming techniques and sustainable aquaculture practices implemented at the farm. The interactive nature of the visit allowed farmers and students to clarify their doubts and gain firsthand knowledge about successful aquaculture models.

The farm visit served as an important experiential learning component of the AquaReach program, enabling participants to connect theoretical knowledge with practical field-level applications and motivating them to explore aquaculture as a viable entrepreneurial opportunity.



## Training Session



Following the farm visit, the training session commenced with the first technical lecture delivered by Dr Akhिलामोले M. A., CEO, Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, on the topic of **Pond Preparation for Aquaculture**. In her session, she explained the importance of proper pond preparation as a foundation for successful and sustainable fish farming. She elaborated on the steps involved in preparing ponds, including pond cleaning, removal of unwanted weeds and predatory fish, liming, and soil and water quality management.

Dr Akhिलामोले M. A. also highlighted the role of fertilization and plankton development in maintaining a healthy pond ecosystem for fish growth. She emphasized the need for maintaining optimum water depth, ensuring proper inlet and outlet systems, and adopting biosecurity measures to prevent disease outbreaks. The session provided practical insights into scientific pond management practices and helped participants understand how systematic pond preparation can significantly improve survival rate, productivity, and profitability in aquaculture. The lecture was highly interactive, with participants actively engaging in discussions and seeking clarification on field-level challenges related to pond management.



## Training Session



The next training session was conducted on the topic of **Integrated Aqua-Agri Farming**, highlighting its potential as a sustainable and diversified farming model. Dr. Akhilamol M A explained how aquaculture can be effectively integrated with agriculture and allied activities such as horticulture and livestock to optimise resource utilization and enhance farm productivity. Emphasis was laid on the efficient use of pond water and nutrients for crop cultivation, thereby reducing input costs and improving overall farm profitability.

The session also focused on the advantages of integrated farming systems, including risk reduction, year-round income generation, and environmental sustainability. Practical examples and field experiences were shared to demonstrate how farmers can adopt integrated aqua-agri models based on local conditions and available resources. Participants were encouraged to explore integrated farming as a viable entrepreneurial option that supports both economic growth and ecological balance. The session helped participants gain a broader perspective on holistic farm management and enterprise development in the fisheries sector.



## Training Session



The subsequent training session focused on **Seed Production of Pearl Spot and Cage Culture Practices**. Dr. Akhila mole M. A. explained the breeding and seed production techniques of Pearl Spot, highlighting the importance of quality seed for ensuring better survival and growth performance. She also provided detailed insights into cage culture systems, including site selection, cage installation, stocking density, feeding practices, and routine management measures.

In addition, she elaborated on the cost norms involved in converting one acre of land into a functional aquaculture farm, covering major components such as pond preparation, infrastructure development, seed stocking, feed, and operational expenses. Along with the technical session, a live water quality testing demonstration was conducted by Navarata Matsya Sevana Kendram, staff member **Ms. Roopa Babu** to familiarise participants with basic water parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. The demonstration enabled participants to understand the significance of regular water monitoring for maintaining healthy culture conditions and preventing disease outbreaks. This practical exposure strengthened their understanding of scientific aquaculture management and farm-level decision-making.



## Valedictory Session



**The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms. Vrinda P. Sunil, Business Executive, MANAGE-FISHub**, who expressed her sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful conduct of the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program. She conveyed her heartfelt appreciation to Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram for their support and collaboration in organizing the program and extended special thanks to Dr. Akhिलamole M. A., CEO, Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram, for her guidance and valuable contributions throughout the program.

She also expressed her gratitude to Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, for his constant encouragement and leadership in strengthening fisheries entrepreneurship initiatives through MANAGE-FISHub. Ms. Vrinda P. Sunil further thanked MANAGE for providing the platform and institutional support for conducting the program successfully.

She acknowledged the presence and support of all the dignitaries and resource persons who enriched the program with their insights and experience. She also thanked all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and active engagement in the sessions. Finally, she expressed her appreciation to all the coordinators and organizing team members for their dedicated efforts and teamwork, which ensured the smooth and effective execution of the program.



The program concluded with the certificate distribution ceremony, during which certificates were distributed to all the participants by Dr. Akhिलामोले M. A, CEO, Navaratna Matsya Sevana Kendram. The certificates were presented in recognition of the participants' active involvement and successful completion of the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program. This session marked the formal conclusion of the program and served as an encouragement for the participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained during the training in their respective fisheries and aquaculture ventures.



## Organizing Team

### **Dr. Saravanan Raj**

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