



## MANAGE Internship: Cultivating Experiences for Future Professionals



### Unlocking Potential: My Journey and Learnings at the MANAGE Internship

I am Archana R. from Tamil Nadu, and I have completed my M.F.Sc in Fisheries Extension from Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS). I completed a three-month internship with MANAGE-FISHub from October 6, 2025, to January 6, 2026".

 [Archana R](#)

*"The only way to do great work is to love what you do." – Steve Jobs*

## Pre-Internship Expectations



Before joining MANAGE–FISHub, I carried with me a clear set of expectations—both professional and personal. At this stage of my academic and career journey, I wanted to grow more independent, sharpen my professional abilities, and gain hands-on exposure that could bridge the gap between theory and practice. My interest in MANAGE was strongly shaped by my participation in the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) held in March 2025 at MANAGE, Hyderabad.

The environment left a lasting impression on me and allowed me to imagine myself working in such a space. On the final day of the programme, when I came across the internship notification at MANAGE–FISHub, I applied without hesitation. I was particularly motivated by the opportunity to work under the guidance of Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) and CEO, MANAGE–FISHub. After completing my postgraduate thesis, I joined MANAGE with optimism and a clear sense of purpose, expecting the internship to offer not only technical exposure but also space for reflection and professional growth.

## Initial Internship Experience and Responsibilities

During the initial phase of the internship, identifying fisheries-related startups at both national and international levels was undertaken. Alongside this, I was involved in identifying and coordinating speakers for the F3 Webinar Series, which became an important component of my internship. I successfully confirmed eight speakers, while more than forty potential speakers declined, did not respond, or were unavailable. These experiences exposed me to real professional challenges such as delayed responses and last-minute cancellations, helping me build professional resilience.



Frequent interaction with speakers gradually improved my confidence, particularly in phone-based communication. Over time, I learnt to approach outreach with less hesitation, often reminding myself, “What is the worst that can happen?”. In addition, responsibilities included speaker coordination, webinar management, and documentation, with the preparation of three webinar reports contributing to stronger organisational and reporting skills.

## Coordination of Field Visits

I assisted in coordinating field visits for Meghalaya induction trainees and cohort 13 trainees, primarily by accompanying participants and ensuring smooth movement and coordination. The exposure visits included Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, National Fisheries Development Board, T-Hub, T-Works, and the Deccan Development Society, along with local visits to Necklace Road, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Statue, and Golconda Fort.

This role provided hands-on experience in field-level coordination and improved my communication skills and confidence in managing groups during official exposure programmes.



## Outreach and Awareness Sessions



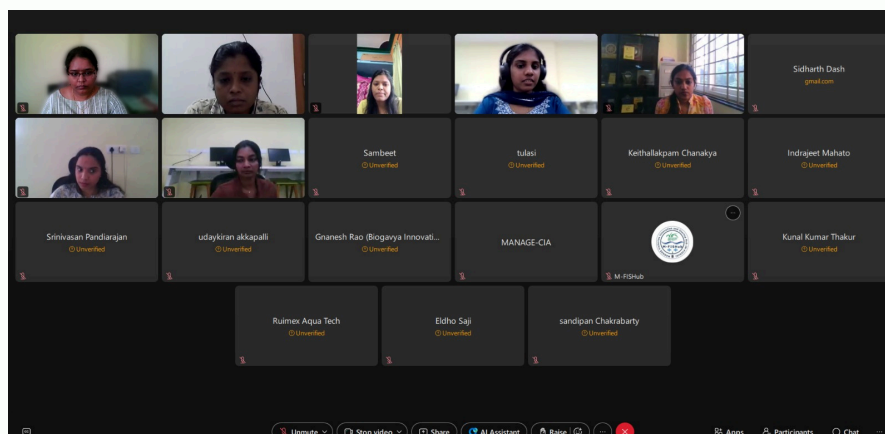
Giving three outreach sessions to create awareness about MANAGE-FISHub programmes, focusing on the institute's objectives and key activities, with particular emphasis on the Pre-Incubation Mentoring Programme for Fisheries Startups. Preparing the presentation materials for these sessions further strengthened the ability to communicate institutional initiatives clearly and effectively to diverse audiences.

### Coordination of Pre-Incubation Mentoring Programme for Fisheries Startups

I coordinated the Pre-Incubation Mentoring Programme for Fisheries Startups, conducted from December 1 to 24, 2025. The programme comprised 14 days of technical sessions, 14 expert speakers, 11 experience-sharing sessions, 13 individual mentoring sessions, and two pitching sessions.

As the first major programme handled after joining MANAGE-FISHub, I was entrusted with end-to-end coordination responsibilities. These included preparing the programme schedule, confirming and following up with speakers, managing participant communication and mailers, handling WebEx sessions, coordinating back-to-back sessions, processing pre-receipts, and preparing participation certificates.

This experience significantly strengthened skills related to programme management, professional communication, time management, and the execution of multi-session institutional programmes.



## Coordination of Aqua Eureka 2025 and Incubation Programme (Cohort-I)

I co-coordinated Aqua Eureka 2025 and the Incubation Programme (Cohort-I) of MANAGE-FISHub, conducted from December 15 to 19, 2025, along with my fellow intern Ms. Kalaivani Alagarsamy. My responsibilities mainly included speaker communication, follow-ups, and session coordination throughout the programme. Attending the final round of Aqua Eureka 2025 provided an opportunity to closely observe startup pitch presentations. I also assisted Ms. Usha Shree, Manager CIA, in preparing the programme proceedings, which required attentive participation across the pitch sessions. This exposure helped me understand the key evaluation criteria considered by jury members and speakers during startup assessments.

With a background in fisheries, interpreting the technical feasibility and sector-specific relevance of the pitches strengthened understanding of the fisheries startup ecosystem. Overall, this experience enhanced the ability to critically observe startup pitches, comprehend investor expectations, and gain practical insights into fisheries-based startups and incubation processes.



## Social Media Management



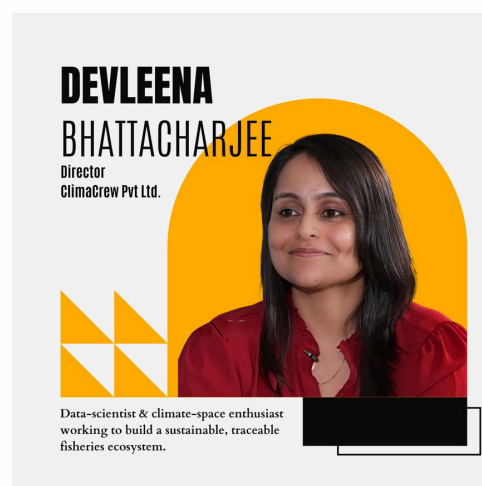
Managing MANAGE-FISHub's social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter (X), and LinkedIn, involved planning, maintaining consistency, and implementing strategic content management across multiple institutional channels.

A key learning moment came when our Director, Dr. Saravanan Raj, explained social media management to me using his presentation, providing valuable insights into content strategy and audience engagement. Following this, introducing daily polls as a regular engagement activity helped improve audience interaction and platform visibility.

Consistently posting and actively engaging audiences across platforms contributed to steady growth of the social media presence, with followers increasing organically from approximately 400 to 2,300. Personally coordinating content flow and handling video editing for five outreach videos, along with editing three programme-based short videos for wider dissemination, ensured messages reached the audience effectively. Designing posters for programmes and events, while regularly sharing fisheries-related updates, startup information, and career opportunities, further strengthened audience engagement and enhanced the institute's digital visibility.

Conceptualizing and designing the “*Startup Wave – Founder Spotlight*” initiative, I created posts highlighting startup founders and their entrepreneurial journeys, managing content, design, and scheduling. Developing a carousel post on “Recap 2025 – MANAGE-FISHub” and a single-page poster allowed key achievements to be showcased in a visually engaging way.

Overall, actively managing content across multiple platforms enhanced my skills in digital communication, content strategy, creative design, and data-driven outreach, while providing hands-on experience in building and sustaining an institutional digital presence.



## Design, Visual Communication, and Data Presentation

Designing communication materials for the MANAGE Dialogue – International Workshop on the Future of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services, including brochures, posters, and social media creatives, provided hands-on experience in maintaining design consistency across multiple platforms. Careful attention was given to colour palettes, fonts, layouts, and overall visual identity to ensure coherence and professionalism appropriate for an international academic and policy-oriented event.

Contributing to the MANAGE-FISHub review presentation involved developing a data-driven PowerPoint with well-organised programme data, visuals, and infographics, which strengthened skills in data handling, interpretation, and visual storytelling.

In addition, compiling detailed information on 40 international fisheries organizations broadened understanding of global fisheries networks and institutions. This collective experience enhanced technical, analytical, and communication skills, along with an appreciation for structured institutional and academic work.

## Working Environment

The most rewarding aspect of my internship at MANAGE-FISHub was the opportunity to work under Dr. Saravanan Raj, a visionary leader who brings innovation and enthusiasm to every task. His passion for his work and the way he approaches challenges served as a true inspiration and a model for my own professional growth.

The working environment at MANAGE-FISHub is highly supportive and empowering. Interns are given space, a voice, and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to ongoing programmes. Contributions are valued and recognised, and the environment encourages exploration, learning, and innovation



This internship reinforced the belief that “learning happens when you step out of your comfort zone and take charge of opportunities,” showing me that curiosity, initiative, and a willingness to embrace challenges are the true drivers of growth and professional development.



The first three months of my internship at MANAGE-FISHub provided meaningful exposure to fisheries startups, incubation programmes, outreach initiatives, and institutional communication. This phase allowed me to translate academic learning into real-world professional practice.

I strengthened my skills in design, visual communication, digital outreach, and data presentation through hands-on involvement in brochures, posters, social media creatives, and review presentations. Managing institutional digital platforms also deepened my understanding of structured communication and audience engagement.

In the coming months, I plan to focus on improving my writing skills, particularly in documentation. I also aim to gain deeper experience in programme coordination and build greater professional confidence.

***“Rather than being limited to assigned tasks, the internship challenged me to think independently, communicate effectively, and take ownership of responsibilities.”***

Overall, my experience at MANAGE-FISHub has aligned strongly with my goal of continuous learning and professional development, and it continues to shape my confidence as I move forward in my career.

**Ms. Archana R**

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