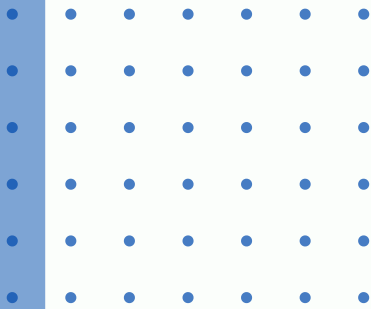




MANAGE Internship: Cultivating Experiences for Future Professionals



Unlocking Potential: My Journey and Learnings from the MANAGE Internship

Hello Everyone, I am Mahiwal Singh from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Pursuing my final year of Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension from College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.



Mahiwal Singh



A Spark That Led to a New Direction

While pursuing my Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension at Kerala Agricultural University, I participated in the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) in 2024, an initiative of MANAGE, Hyderabad, aimed of developing the next generation of agricultural extension professionals. Driven by a strong interest in agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, and strengthening extension systems, I enrolled in the programme to broaden my professional perspective. Subsequently, I participated in the MANAGE Dialogue 2026, which further enhanced my understanding of agricultural extension systems, innovation, policy, and entrepreneurship.

During these engagements, I was introduced to the work of MANAGE-FISHub and its role in promoting fisheries startups and aquapreneurship. Inspired by this exposure, I joined MANAGE-FISHub as an intern to gain practical experience in startup incubation, stakeholder engagement, innovation management, and programme coordination, enabling me to bridge academic learning with professional practice and contribute to India's fisheries innovation ecosystem.

"The future depends on what you do today"
— Mahatma Gandhi

Pre-Internship Expectations and Objectives

Throughout my academic journey in Agricultural Extension and my participation in programmes on innovation, entrepreneurship, and agricultural development, I developed a strong appreciation for the role of extension systems in promoting innovation and connecting research with end users. These experiences helped me understand that effective extension goes beyond technology dissemination it also involves fostering entrepreneurship, facilitating stakeholder linkages, strengthening innovation ecosystems, and supporting the commercialization of new ideas. This motivated me to join MANAGE-FISHub to gain practical exposure to innovation-led extension and startup promotion.

Before joining MANAGE-FISHub, I expected the internship to provide hands-on experience in startup incubation, stakeholder engagement, programme management, and innovation ecosystems within the fisheries sector. As a student of Agricultural Extension, I looked forward to understanding how extension institutions facilitate entrepreneurship through capacity building, mentoring, networking, and institutional support while interacting with entrepreneurs, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts.

I also expected the internship to enhance my communication, coordination, leadership, and professional networking skills while enabling me to apply extension principles in a real-world entrepreneurial setting. Most importantly, I hoped the experience would bridge the gap between academic learning and field practice, equipping me with the knowledge and competencies required to promote innovation-driven agricultural and fisheries entrepreneurship in my future professional career.



"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today"
— Malcolm X

I became part of a dynamic ecosystem that inspired me to learn, innovate, and take ownership of meaningful responsibilities from day one. Every assignment, from developing strategic content and documentation to collaborating with startups, entrepreneurs, experts, and stakeholders across India's fisheries and agripreneurship ecosystem, broadened my perspective and sharpened my communication, coordination, and documentation abilities. More importantly, these experiences transformed my understanding of innovation, entrepreneurship, and institutional support while strengthening my confidence, professionalism, and readiness to contribute meaningfully to the startup ecosystem.

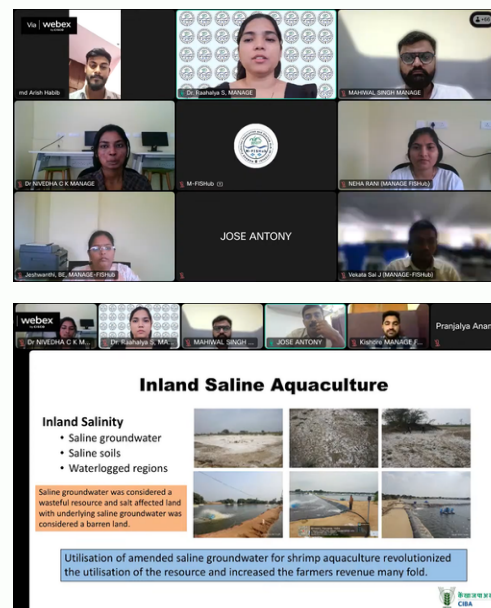


As part of the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) outreach at MANAGE-FISHub, I supported awareness and promotional activities by coordinating with institutions and disseminating programme information through digital platforms and professional networks. The initiative aimed to encourage participation by aspiring young professionals and entrepreneurs in agriculture and fisheries. This experience strengthened my communication, outreach, stakeholder engagement, and coordination skills.

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower"
— Steve Jobs

Fisheries Fortnightly Friday F3 Webinar Series

I actively coordinated and facilitated multiple sessions of the MANAGE-FISHub Fortnightly F3 (Fisheries Friday Forum) Webinar Series, a knowledge-sharing platform dedicated to fisheries entrepreneurship, innovation, startup promotion, and emerging business opportunities. My responsibilities included liaising with expert speakers, coordinating webinar logistics, introducing resource persons, moderating participant interactions, and ensuring the seamless conduct of each virtual session. Through these activities, I gained valuable exposure to leading professionals from academia, industry, government institutions, and the fisheries startup ecosystem, strengthening my understanding of innovation-driven fisheries development.



Concept Developing – refining an initial idea into a workable concept

During my internship, I played an active role in developing a diverse range of digital communication and outreach materials to promote fisheries entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup initiatives. My responsibilities included creating content for social media campaigns such as the Do You Know? series, Spotlight series, Insights of various programs, promotional videos, event announcements, and awareness campaigns. The work involved conducting content research, preparing scripts, designing graphics, editing videos, and tailoring communication to engage diverse target audiences. These experiences enhanced my competencies in content creation, digital communication, visual storytelling, graphic design, multimedia production, and digital marketing, while providing practical insights into effective stakeholder engagement and the strategic dissemination of information through digital platforms.

Communication & Outreach

During my three months internship, I actively contributed to documenting the MANAGE-FISHub Fortnightly F3 Webinar Series and taken technical sessions on Aqua Reach program under the Fisheries Incubation Program. I also prepared Kerala, Rajasthan, and Haryana State Fisheries Reports and done data compilation, content development, and report drafting. In addition, I coordinated with fisheries colleges, universities, and research institutions across India to facilitate collaborations for Fisheries Stakeholder Programmes. These experiences enhanced my skills in technical writing, documentation, professional communication, report preparation, and stakeholder coordination.

Learning Environment

The internship at MANAGE-FISHub offered an intellectually stimulating and professionally enriching environment that fostered innovation, collaboration, and experiential learning. It provided extensive opportunities to engage in multidisciplinary assignments, contribute to key institutional initiatives, and develop practical competencies in fisheries entrepreneurship, startup incubation, knowledge management, stakeholder engagement, and technical communication.

A significant strength of the internship was the continuous guidance and mentorship provided by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) & CEO, MANAGE-FISHub. His visionary leadership, constructive feedback, and unwavering encouragement greatly enhanced my professional capabilities, strengthened my understanding of innovation-driven agricultural development, and inspired a proactive approach toward entrepreneurship, research, and institutional collaboration.



I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Raahalya, Innovation Scaling Specialist, MANAGE-FISHub, for her constant support, expert guidance, and constructive feedback throughout the internship. Her mentorship significantly enhanced my learning experience and deepened my understanding of innovation scaling and entrepreneurship and I also express my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Usha Sree, Manager, MANAGE-CIA, for her valuable insights, continuous encouragement, and unwavering support. Their guidance, professionalism, and emphasis on quality, precision, and attention to detail greatly enriched my professional development and contributed meaningfully to the successful completion of my internship.

The cooperation of other working staff, along with the collaborative spirit of fellow interns from MANAGE-FISHub and MANAGE-CIA, fostered a positive environment for teamwork, knowledge sharing, and mutual learning, making the internship both professionally rewarding and personally enriching.



SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE GAINED

- Programme Planning, Coordination, and Event Management
- Stakeholder Engagement, Partnership Development, and Networking
- Digital Content Development and Outreach
- Professional Communication, Public Speaking, and Facilitation
- Technical Report Writing, Documentation, and Knowledge Management
- Startup Incubation and Entrepreneurship Support

One of the key takeaways from this internship was a deeper understanding of the role of institutional support, collaboration, innovation, and structured incubation in strengthening the startup ecosystem. Through my involvement in incubation activities, mentoring programmes, stakeholder interactions, webinars, and outreach initiatives, I gained valuable insights into how coordinated efforts and professional support can transform innovative ideas into viable and sustainable ventures.

The internship also reinforced the importance of practical exposure alongside academic learning. I strengthened my skills in event coordination, stakeholder engagement, professional communication, public speaking, content creation, graphic design, video editing, report writing, documentation, and social media outreach. These experiences enhanced my confidence, adaptability, teamwork, and entrepreneurial mindset, providing a strong foundation for my future career and my long-term goal of establishing a sustainable entrepreneurial venture.



"Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things"
— Theodore Levitt

As I complete the first three months of my internship at MANAGE-FISHub, I reflect with immense gratitude on the diverse experiences and learning opportunities that have shaped my journey so far. As an Agricultural Extension student, working and learning at MANAGE has always been a cherished aspiration, given its significant role in agricultural extension, innovation, entrepreneurship, and capacity building. This internship has provided me with valuable exposure to startup incubation, entrepreneurship, event management, stakeholder engagement, and institutional activities, significantly contributing to my professional and personal growth. The continuous guidance and mentorship of Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) & CEO, M-FISHub have been particularly valuable, providing me with insights, encouragement, and direction that have strengthened my confidence and approach toward professional growth.

With three more months of the internship ahead, I am enthusiastic about embracing new challenges and contributing more meaningfully to the organization. The experiences gained so far have strengthened my communication, leadership, teamwork, adaptability, and professional outlook. I look forward to further developing my skills, building meaningful professional relationships, and making the most of the opportunities ahead. Being part of MANAGE-FISHub has been more than an internship—it has been an important step in shaping my professional journey and bringing a long-held aspiration closer to reality.



"The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know."

— Albert Einstein

Mr. Mahiwal Singh
MANAGE-FISHub Intern
extn.mss@gmail.com

MANAGE-Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub(MANAGE-FISHub)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA

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



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