भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
Department of Fisheries



# Report on Fisheries-StartUp and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet

07th October, 2026

BICFA, Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) Guwahati, Assam

# 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. (https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub).

## Our Programs

- MANAGE-FISHub Pre-Incubation Program
- MANAGE-FISHub Incubation Program
- MANAGE Aqua Eureka Program
- Fisheries-StartUp & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet
- MANAGE-FISHub Fortnightly Friday (F3) Webinars
- MANAGE-FISHub Internship Program
- MANAGE-FISHub AQUAREACH
- MANAGE-FISHub Aqua Yuva & Udhyami

# Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP), Guwahati, Assam

The Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) at Guwahati Biotech Park provides an enabling ecosystem for innovators and entrepreneurs to transform scientific ideas into commercially viable technologies and businesses. The Centre offers ready-to-use modular laboratory spaces, specialised scientific facilities, technical infrastructure and support services, reducing the initial infrastructure burden for biotechnology startups and entrepreneurs.

GBP supports entrepreneurs through incubation, mentoring, training, capacity-building programmes and access to specialised research and analytical facilities. Its infrastructure includes facilities for analytical instrumentation, bioprospecting, micropropagation, herbal extraction, fermentation and bioinformatics, among other technology support services. These facilities enable startups and researchers to undertake research, product development, prototype testing and validation. Through its incubation and entrepreneurship initiatives, GBP promotes the development of innovation-led ventures across biotechnology and allied sectors. The Park also facilitates connections between entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia and industry, contributing to the growth of a stronger biotechnology and innovation ecosystem in Assam and the wider North Eastern region. The Park encourages the effective utilisation of the region's rich biodiversity and bio-resources for developing innovative products and technologies. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders, GBP creates opportunities for innovators and entrepreneurs to develop, validate and scale their ventures, supporting sustainable entrepreneurship and technology-driven growth. (www.guwahatibiotechpark.com).

## Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA)

The Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), Guwahati Biotech Park focuses on promoting innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship in fisheries, aquaculture and allied sectors. The Centre aims to support startups, entrepreneurs, researchers and technology-based enterprises by facilitating the development, validation and commercialisation of innovative solutions across the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. BICFA supports entrepreneurship through incubation, mentoring, training, capacity-building programmes and linkages with research institutions, academia, industry and other stakeholders. Its activities focus on promoting technology-driven enterprises, strengthening value addition, encouraging sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices, and supporting the growth of innovative businesses in the sector. Through its initiatives, BICFA contributes to the development of a stronger fisheries and aquaculture startup ecosystem by providing opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop, validate and scale their ideas and technologies. The Centre also promotes collaboration, knowledge sharing and industry linkages to support sustainable entrepreneurship and innovation in fisheries, aquaculture and allied sectors. BICFA's sector-specific focus complements GBP's broader biotechnology and innovation ecosystem, creating opportunities for collaboration in biotechnology applications, value addition, research and technology-driven enterprise development across fisheries, aquaculture and allied sectors (www.guwahatibiotechpark.com).

# Program Background

MANAGE proposed a collaboration with Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) and its Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), Assam, to organise the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. Following the collaboration, the programme was successfully conducted on 7 October 2026 at BICFA, Guwahati Biotech Park, Guwahati, Assam, under the theme "Connect. Collaborate. Catalyze."

The organising team comprised representatives from both institutions. From MANAGE, Hyderabad, the team included Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE and CEO, MANAGE-FISHub, and Dr. Nivedha C K, Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub. From Guwahati Biotech Park, the team included Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, ACS, District Commissioner, Kamrup and Chief Executive Officer, Guwahati Biotech Park; Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator (PI), BICFA; Mr. Nabajyoti Das, Project Associate, BICFA; and Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami, Research Associate and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), BICFA.

The programme brought together 170 participants, comprising 96 male and 74 female participants, representing government departments, research institutions, universities, startups and entrepreneurs. The inaugural session featured addresses by representatives from SAMETI, the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), NABARD and the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam.




The programme schedule included startup experience sharing, a startup exhibition, networking interactions and startup pitching sessions. Four startup pitches and five exhibition stalls formed part of the programme, providing opportunities for entrepreneurs to present their ideas, showcase their initiatives and interact with stakeholders. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, participant feedback and a vote of thanks.

The stakeholder meet provided a platform for strengthening institutional linkages, facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting collaboration among fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders. It aimed to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation while strengthening the support ecosystem for fisheries startups and aquapreneurs in Assam.

# Inaugural Session

The Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet commenced with a warm and cordial welcome address delivered by Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist and Coordinator, Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam. She extended a gracious welcome to the dignitaries, representatives from government departments, academic and research institutions, fisheries professionals, entrepreneurs, startups, and other stakeholders attending the programme.




**Dr. Bula Choudhary**
**Senior Scientist & PI-BICFA**
**Guwahati Biotech Park**
**Guwahati, Assam**

As part of the inaugural proceedings, the dignitaries participated in a symbolic plant-watering ceremony, representing growth, sustainability, collaboration, and the nurturing of entrepreneurial initiatives in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

In her welcome address, Dr. Bula Choudhury highlighted the importance of collaboration among institutions and stakeholders to strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture startup ecosystem. She emphasised the potential of Guwahati Biotech Park and BICFA in facilitating entrepreneurship, supporting innovation, and encouraging technology-based initiatives in the fisheries sector. She also stressed the importance of effectively utilising the available institutional facilities and fostering partnerships to create opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Dr. Choudhury further underscored the need to strengthen linkages among research institutions, government departments, academic organisations, and entrepreneurs to facilitate the translation of innovative ideas and technologies into viable business opportunities. Her address set the context for the stakeholder meet and highlighted the importance of collective efforts in promoting fisheries entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable aquapreneurship in Assam.

***"Fisheries is not just a source of food—it is a source of employment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development"***
***-Sona Dubey***

# Inaugural Session

Following the welcome address, Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, and CEO, MANAGE-FISHub, Hyderabad, presented an overview of the programme and the activities undertaken by MANAGE-FISHub.

He highlighted the need to strengthen the fisheries startup ecosystem by connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with government departments, universities, research institutions, financial agencies, incubation centres, and industry stakeholders. He noted that fisheries and aquaculture offer considerable opportunities for enterprise development, livelihood enhancement, employment generation, and nutritional security.

He also emphasised the importance of bridging the gap between research and entrepreneurship. Technologies, innovations, and services developed by research institutions need appropriate linkages and support systems to reach farmers, fishers, and aspiring entrepreneurs. Stakeholder platforms can help facilitate these connections and encourage the practical application of knowledge.



**Dr. Saravanan Raj**
**Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE**
**&**
**CEO, MANAGE-FISHub**

Dr. Saravanan Raj highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship development, mentoring, incubation support, networking, and institutional partnerships in nurturing fisheries startups. He emphasised the role of MANAGE-FISHub in encouraging innovation, supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, and strengthening linkages among stakeholders across the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.

He encouraged the participating institutions and stakeholders to work together to identify opportunities for collaboration and support the development of sustainable and economically viable fisheries enterprises. He also stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to strengthen the startup ecosystem and ensure that innovations and technologies reach entrepreneurs, farmers, and fishers at the grassroots level.

# Inaugural Session

Mr. Chandan Chetri, State Nodal Officer for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Assam, addressed the gathering and brought the perspective of the state fisheries administration to the stakeholder meet. His participation highlighted the importance of connecting fisheries development initiatives with entrepreneurship promotion and enterprise development.



**Mr. Chandan Chetri**
**State Nodal Officer-PMMSY & PM-MKSSY Directorate of Fisheries**
**Government of Assam**

Government departments play an important role in implementing fisheries development programmes and facilitating access to institutional support for eligible stakeholders. Creating awareness about these initiatives is essential for fishers, fish farmers, and aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to establish, strengthen, or diversify their fisheries-based enterprises. Effective communication between government agencies and entrepreneurs can help stakeholders better understand relevant programme provisions and identify suitable opportunities for engagement.

He highlighted the relevance of coordination between the state fisheries administration, development agencies, research institutions, and entrepreneurial organisations in strengthening the fisheries ecosystem. Such coordination can facilitate information exchange, improve institutional linkages, and encourage the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in fisheries and aquaculture.

The engagement of government representatives in entrepreneurship platforms is particularly important for connecting policy-level initiatives with the practical needs of enterprises. Collaboration among stakeholders can help identify sectoral challenges, encourage innovative business approaches, and strengthen support systems for emerging aquapreneurs.

His participation reinforced the importance of aligning fisheries development initiatives with entrepreneurship promotion and strengthening linkages between government institutions and the startup ecosystem. Such collaborative efforts can contribute to creating a more supportive environment for fisheries-based enterprises and sustainable sectoral development in Assam.

# Inaugural Session

Shri Ashim Kumar Borah, Senior Executive and Officer-in-Charge of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Guwahati, addressed the stakeholders on the ongoing schemes and activities of NFDB and the Department of Fisheries, Government of India. His address provided an overview of the institutional initiatives supporting fisheries and aquaculture development and highlighted their relevance to stakeholders across the sector.

He explained the importance of development agencies in strengthening the fisheries ecosystem through institutional support and initiatives aimed at promoting sectoral growth. Understanding the activities and support mechanisms of these organisations is important for fishers, fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and startups seeking to explore opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture.

The address was particularly relevant to the stakeholder meet's objective of connecting entrepreneurs with government institutions and development agencies. Awareness of institutional initiatives can help aspiring aquapreneurs identify relevant support opportunities and understand the broader framework within which fisheries enterprises operate. Effective communication between development agencies and entrepreneurs is also important for improving awareness and facilitating engagement with available institutional resources.

His address highlighted the significance of strengthening coordination between fisheries development agencies, research institutions, academic organisations, and entrepreneurs. Such interactions can help bridge information gaps, encourage institutional partnerships, and support the growth of innovative fisheries enterprises. The session reinforced the importance of connecting government-led development initiatives with entrepreneurial efforts to strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



**Shri Ashim Kumar Borah**
**Senior Executive & Officer-in-charge NFDB**
**Guwahati, Assam**

# Inaugural Session

Prof. (Dr.) Arup Kumar Hazarika, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences and Head, Department of Zoology, Cotton University, Guwahati, addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of strengthening the relationship between academic institutions, research organisations, and the fisheries entrepreneurship ecosystem. He emphasised the relevance of scientific knowledge and research in identifying emerging opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture development.



**Prof. (Dr.) Arup Kumar Hazarika**
**Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences&**
**Head of the Department**
**Department of Zoology**
**Cotton University, Guwahati**

He highlighted the role of universities in generating knowledge, promoting scientific research, and developing the technical capabilities required to address challenges in the fisheries sector. Academic institutions can contribute to fisheries development by encouraging research-based approaches, promoting interdisciplinary learning, and facilitating the application of scientific findings to practical situations. Such efforts can help identify innovative approaches to aquatic resource management, aquaculture practices, and the sustainable utilisation of available resources.

He further emphasised the importance of collaboration between universities, government departments, research institutions, and entrepreneurs in creating an enabling environment for innovation. Strong institutional linkages can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise, improve access to technical guidance, and create opportunities to translate research outcomes into practical solutions. These connections are particularly important for aspiring entrepreneurs who require scientific and technical support to develop and strengthen their business ideas.

The integration of academic expertise with entrepreneurship can also encourage the development of innovative, knowledge-based enterprises in fisheries and aquaculture.

His address highlighted the significance of a collaborative approach in which academic institutions contribute not only through education and research but also through active engagement with the wider fisheries sector. Strengthening these partnerships can support knowledge dissemination, encourage innovation, and create opportunities for aspiring aquapreneurs to benefit from scientific and institutional support.

# Inaugural Session

Dr. Pradip Ch. Bhuyan, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries Science, Assam Veterinary and Fishery University, Raha, Assam, addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of specialised fisheries education and technical expertise in strengthening the fisheries and aquaculture sector. His participation brought the perspective of fisheries education and professional training to the stakeholder meet, emphasising the relevance of institutional collaboration in promoting fisheries entrepreneurship.

He highlighted the role of fisheries universities and specialised academic institutions in developing skilled professionals, strengthening technical knowledge, and promoting research relevant to the sector. These institutions contribute to fisheries development through education, scientific research, technical guidance, and the dissemination of improved practices. Connecting these academic capabilities with the needs of fishers, fish farmers, and entrepreneurs is important for translating technical knowledge into practical applications.

He further emphasised the importance of strengthening linkages between fisheries institutions, government departments, research organisations, incubation centres, and emerging startups. Such collaboration can create opportunities for sharing technical expertise, identifying enterprise prospects, and addressing practical challenges associated with fisheries production, aquaculture management, and value-chain development. Engagement with specialised institutions can also help entrepreneurs access relevant knowledge and explore scientifically informed approaches to business development.

The integration of fisheries education with entrepreneurship development can encourage students, graduates, and aspiring entrepreneurs to explore innovative business opportunities within the sector. Institutional support and technical guidance can help transform promising ideas into viable enterprises while promoting the adoption of appropriate technologies and sustainable practices. Stronger connections between academic institutions and the startup ecosystem can also facilitate the exchange of experiences and identification of emerging opportunities across the fisheries value chain.



**Dr. Pradip Ch. Bhuyan**
**Dean, Faculty of Fisheries Science**
**AVFU, Raha, Assam**

# Inaugural Session

Dr. Siddhartha Purkayastha, Former Joint Director of Fisheries, Government of Assam, graced the programme as the Chief Guest and addressed the gathering during the inaugural session of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet held at Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam.



**Dr. Siddhartha Purkayastha**
**Former Joint Director of Fisheries**
**Government of Assam**

The Chief Guest's participation added significance to the programme by bringing the perspective of an experienced fisheries administrator to a platform that connected government departments, research institutions, academic organisations, startups, and aspiring aquapreneurs. His extensive professional association with the fisheries sector provided an important institutional perspective on the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Assam.

The Chief Guest Address was an important component of the stakeholder meet, which focused on strengthening the fisheries entrepreneurship ecosystem through collaboration, innovation, and institutional partnerships. The programme highlighted the need to connect scientific advancements, technical expertise, government initiatives, and entrepreneurial opportunities to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

The presence of senior fisheries professionals at such programmes is particularly valuable in bridging the gap between institutional support systems and emerging entrepreneurs. It also reinforces the importance of bringing together government agencies, research organisations, educational institutions, and startup enterprises to identify opportunities for technology adoption, enterprise development, and improved market linkages.

The Chief Guest's participation further strengthened the programme's emphasis on creating an enabling environment for fisheries-based enterprises, encouraging stakeholder engagement, and promoting coordinated efforts towards the growth of fisheries and aquapreneurship in Assam.

# Inaugural Session

Dr. Sulip Kumar Majhi, Head and Principal Scientist at the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Guwahati Regional Centre, addressed the gathering as part of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet organised at Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam.

His participation represented the research and scientific perspective within the fisheries entrepreneurship ecosystem. ICAR-CIFRI plays an important role in inland fisheries research, and the institute's involvement in the stakeholder meet highlighted the relevance of scientific knowledge and research-based approaches to fisheries development.

The session provided an opportunity to emphasise the connection between fisheries research, technological advancement, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Research institutions can contribute to the development of fisheries enterprises by generating scientific knowledge, developing appropriate technologies, and facilitating the transfer of research outputs to stakeholders involved in fisheries and aquaculture.

The interaction between research organisations, government departments, academic institutions, and entrepreneurs is essential for identifying practical applications of scientific innovations. Such collaboration can help emerging enterprises explore technology-based solutions, improve production practices, and identify opportunities for value addition and sustainable resource utilisation.

Dr. Majhi's participation complemented the objectives of the stakeholder meet by bringing a research-institution perspective to the discussions on strengthening fisheries and aquapreneurship in Assam. The session reinforced the importance of closer linkages between research and enterprise development for building a stronger and more innovation-oriented fisheries sector.



**Dr. Sulip Kumar Majhi**
**Head & Principal Scientist**
**ICAR-CIFRI- Guwahati Regional Center**
**Assam**

# Inaugural Session

Prof. (Dr.) Dandadhar Sarma, Head of the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Guwahati, addressed the gathering during the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet organised at Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam.

His participation brought an academic and scientific perspective to the stakeholder meet, highlighting the relevance of higher educational institutions in strengthening the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Universities can contribute to sectoral development through research, scientific expertise, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of knowledge and skills among students and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The involvement of academic institutions in fisheries entrepreneurship initiatives is important for creating stronger linkages between scientific knowledge and practical enterprise development. Collaboration among universities, research organisations, government departments, incubation centres, and startups can facilitate the exchange of expertise and encourage the application of research outcomes to address field-level challenges.

The stakeholder meet provided a platform for bringing together representatives from diverse institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration and strengthen the fisheries startup ecosystem. Academic institutions can play a supportive role in this process by encouraging innovation, facilitating knowledge exchange, and connecting emerging entrepreneurs with relevant scientific and technical expertise.

Prof. Sarma's participation complemented the programme's focus on institutional partnerships and collaborative approaches to fisheries development. The session underscored the relevance of connecting academic and research expertise with entrepreneurial initiatives to encourage innovation and support the long-term development of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises.



**Prof. (Dr) Dandadhar Sarma**
**Head of the Department**
**Department of Zoology**
**Gauhati University, Assam**

# Inaugural Session

Dr. Bipul Kumar Kakati, Assistant Professor and Head (In-charge) of the Department of Fisheries Engineering, was present during the inaugural session of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. His presence represented the technical and engineering perspective relevant to the development of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises.

Fisheries engineering plays an important role in supporting aquaculture infrastructure, the design and operation of production systems, water management, and the adoption of appropriate technologies. Technical expertise in these areas can contribute to improving operational efficiency, addressing production-related challenges, and strengthening the technological capabilities of fisheries-based enterprises.

The involvement of specialised academic departments in stakeholder platforms helps establish connections between technical knowledge, research, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Collaboration among fisheries engineering professionals, research institutions, government agencies, and startups can facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage the application of suitable technologies to practical challenges in fisheries and aquaculture.

His presence highlighted the relevance of integrating engineering expertise with entrepreneurship development to support innovation, strengthen technical capacity, and create opportunities for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture enterprises in Assam.



**Dr. Bipul Kumar Kakati**
**Assistant Professor and Head (In-charge) of the Department of Fisheries Engineering**
**College of Fisheries, AAU**

# Inaugural Session

Dr. Sonmoina Bhuyan, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kamrup, Assam Agricultural University, was present during the inaugural session of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. His presence brought the perspective of agricultural extension and technology dissemination to the stakeholder platform, highlighting the relevance of extension institutions in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in fisheries and allied sectors.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras play an important role in disseminating improved technologies, providing technical guidance, and building the capacities of farming communities. Through their extension activities and field-level engagement, they help connect scientific research with practical applications and support farmers in adopting appropriate technologies and improved practices.

The involvement of extension institutions is particularly relevant to fisheries entrepreneurship, where access to technical knowledge, capacity-building opportunities, and institutional support can help fishers and fish farmers explore new enterprise opportunities. Stronger linkages between KVKs, fisheries departments, universities, research organisations, and startups can facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage the adoption of innovative approaches to production, resource management, and livelihood diversification.

His presence also reflected the importance of an integrated approach to agricultural and fisheries development, wherein extension agencies can contribute to awareness creation, skill development, and the dissemination of relevant technologies among rural communities. Collaboration among extension professionals, researchers, government agencies, and entrepreneurs can help identify field-level needs and connect emerging enterprises with appropriate technical and institutional support.



**Dr. Sonmoina Bhuyan**
**Senior Scientist and Head**
**KVK, Kamrup, AAU**

# Inaugural Session-Vote of Thanks

Dr. Nivedha C K, Programme Coordinator, MANAGE-FISHub, delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, invited speakers, institutional representatives, entrepreneurs, and participants for their valuable presence and contribution to the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet held at Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam.

She acknowledged the support and cooperation extended by Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) and the Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA) in facilitating the programme. She also conveyed her appreciation to the representatives of government departments, research organisations, academic institutions, and fisheries-sector stakeholders for their participation and engagement in the event.

Dr. Nivedha highlighted the importance of bringing together diverse stakeholders to strengthen linkages between research, institutional support, and entrepreneurship. She expressed the hope that the interactions initiated through the meet would encourage further collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnership-building among the participating institutions and emerging fisheries entrepreneurs.

She also thanked the organising team and everyone who contributed to the successful conduct of the programme. The Vote of Thanks concluded the inaugural session and acknowledged the collective efforts of all stakeholders in supporting the development of fisheries startups and aquapreneurship.



**Dr. Nivedha C K**
**Innovation Research Fellow**
**MANAGE-FISHub**

# Inaugural Session














## Glimpses from the Inauguration Ceremony

*"A shared platform, diverse perspectives and collective action—together, we can transform opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture into sustainable enterprises and meaningful livelihoods"*

# Startups Exhibition and Networking













# Startup Pitching Session

**Tanvikaa Agrotech Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati, Assam**
**Founder Directors: Dr. Sachin Rajmurti and Ms. Indrani Khaund**



Dr. Sachin Rajmurti
Tanvikaa Agrotech Pvt Ltd

## Business Vision

Tanvikaa Agrotech Pvt. Ltd. aims to develop technology-driven machinery and customised industrial solutions that support manufacturing, processing, and industrial development. The company focuses on converting technical ideas into practical solutions tailored to customer requirements.

## Problem Addressed

Small-scale enterprises and emerging processing units may face challenges in accessing suitable machinery, scaling up production, and identifying equipment that meets their specific operational requirements. Inadequate access to customised machinery and technical consultancy can create difficulties in improving processing efficiency and establishing or expanding manufacturing activities.

## Proposed Solution

Tanvikaa Agrotech offers a range of machinery and customised equipment for industrial and processing applications. According to its product catalogue, its offerings include electric, solar, and hybrid solar dryers; construction machinery; material-handling equipment; and machinery for various processing industries.

# Startup Pitching Session

The company also identifies opportunities in food and agricultural processing, including dehydrated fruits and vegetables, spice processing, banana processing, and feed manufacturing, including fish feed, cattle feed, and poultry feed. Its emphasis on customised machinery and manufacturing consultancy provides an approach for addressing equipment-related requirements of different enterprises.

**Business Model**

Tanvikaa Agrotech follows a machinery manufacturing and customised solutions model, connecting customer requirements with equipment design, supply, and manufacturing support. Its business activities include providing machinery for different processing applications, customising equipment according to industry needs, and offering consultancy for manufacturing and procurement-related challenges.

**Relevance to Fisheries and Aquaculture**

The company's product portfolio identifies fish-feed manufacturing machinery as one of its potential application areas relevant to the fisheries sector. Such equipment can support enterprises interested in establishing or expanding fish-feed production units. Its drying and processing solutions may also have potential applications in allied agricultural and food-processing activities, subject to the specific requirements of the enterprise.

**Core Value Proposition**

“Providing customised machinery and practical technology solutions to support processing enterprises, manufacturing growth, and industrial development.”

# Startup Pitching Session

**BlueGrow – Kalpavriksha Future Works Pvt. Ltd.**
**Founder: Ms. Nandini Borah**
**Location: Assam**

**Vision**

BlueGrow aims to promote the cultivation and live-sale delivery of native catfish, particularly Singi and Magur, through a conservation-oriented aquaculture model. The enterprise seeks to connect fish production with local markets while creating livelihood opportunities for small farmers and street vendors.



Dr Nandini Borah
Kapavriksha Future Works Pvt Ltd

**Problem Addressed**

Conventional fish marketing may involve challenges related to maintaining fish freshness, handling, and last-mile delivery. Native fish species such as Singi and Magur also require suitable cultivation practices and market linkages to support their production and availability. Small farmers and local vendors can benefit from more organised connections between aquaculture production and consumer demand.

**Solution**

- Cultivates native Singi and Magur catfish using a soil-based Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS).
- Follows a production process involving tank preparation, water pre-conditioning, biofilter maturation, fish stocking, feeding, and water-quality monitoring.
- Promotes live-fish sales rather than relying solely on iced or dead-fish retail formats.
- Uses aerated fish bags to support live-fish transportation and vendor-enabled last-mile delivery.
- Seeks to connect small farmers and local vendors with consumers through an integrated production and distribution model.

# Startup Pitching Session

**Business Model**

BlueGrow follows an integrated model: Tank Preparation → Fish Seed Stocking → Grow-out → Harvesting → Vendor Distribution → Live Sale to Consumers.

Revenue is generated through the sale of live fish, while the vendor-network approach creates opportunities for local market participation. The company brochure reports a pilot batch sale of 140 kg and the in-principle onboarding of 30 farmers from Nalbari, Assam.

**Core Value Proposition**

"Native catfish, grown clean and delivered alive, while supporting local livelihoods and conservation-oriented aquaculture."



BICFA demonstration unit, Guwahati Biotech Park



Soil-RAS tank in pre-conditioning



# Startup Pitching Session

**Iluscube – Nature Aquarium and Aquatic Plant Enterprise**
**Founder: Mr Dhrubajyoti Kalita**

**Business Focus:**
Planted aquariums, aquatic plants, terrarium plants, vivarium plants, and aquascaping materials.



**Mr. Dhrubajyothi Kalita**
**Iluscube**

**Vision**

Iluscube aims to bring nature into living spaces by creating nature-inspired aquarium ecosystems and offering aquatic plants and materials for aquarium enthusiasts.

**Problem Addressed**
Creating and maintaining natural-looking aquariums requires suitable aquatic plants, appropriate materials, and knowledge of ecosystem design. Aquarium enthusiasts may need access to specialised plants and products to develop and maintain planted aquariums that provide a suitable environment for aquatic life.

**Proposed Solution**
Iluscube offers nature aquarium design services and an online platform for purchasing aquatic plants and related materials. Its product range includes premium aquatic plants, terrarium and vivarium plants, and hardscape materials used in aquascaping. The enterprise focuses on recreating natural ecosystems within aquariums by combining aquatic flora and suitable design elements to create environments for aquatic animals.

# Startup Pitching Session

**Business Model**

The enterprise follows a combination of online product sales and aquarium design services. Its website provides an online shop for aquatic plants and related products, alongside a service through which customers can have nature-inspired aquarium spaces designed. This model connects aquatic plant cultivation and retail with aquarium design and nature-based decorative solutions.



Potential Relevance to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ecosystem
iluscube's activities are associated with aquatic plants, aquarium ecosystems, and ornamental aquatic environments. Its specialised product range represents a niche enterprise opportunity within the broader ornamental aquatic sector. However, the company's website does not establish a direct focus on commercial fish farming, fisheries production, or aquaculture technology.




**Core Value Proposition**

“Bringing nature closer to people through planted aquariums, aquatic plants, and nature-inspired aquatic ecosystems.”

# AquaTalks: Voices from the Fisheries Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet

As part of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet held at the Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP), Guwahati, Assam, the AquaTalks initiative of MANAGE-FISHub featured engaging podcast conversations hosted by Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub.

The podcast conversations provided a platform to highlight fisheries startups, aquapreneurship initiatives, innovative business models, and emerging opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The discussions aimed to bring forward entrepreneurial experiences and practical insights on innovation, value addition, marketing, and enterprise development relevant to the fisheries ecosystem.

Through AquaTalks, entrepreneurial experiences and stakeholder perspectives were brought together to promote knowledge sharing and raise awareness of opportunities in fisheries-based entrepreneurship. The initiative complemented the stakeholder meet by extending its knowledge-sharing objectives to a wider audience through the MANAGE-FISHub YouTube channel.









# Valedictory Address

The Valedictory Session of the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet featured an address by Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, Business Incubation Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture (BICFA), Guwahati Biotech Park, Assam.

Dr. Bula Choudhury expressed her sincere gratitude to Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, Hyderabad, and CEO, MANAGE-FISHub, for his guidance and support in facilitating the stakeholder meet. She also acknowledged Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, ACS, District Commissioner, Kamrup, and Chief Executive Officer, Guwahati Biotech Park, for the institutional support and collaboration extended towards organising the programme.



**Dr. Bula Choudhury**
**Senior Scientist & PI-BICFA**
**Guwahati Biotech Park**
**Guwahati, Assam**

She conveyed her appreciation to the representatives of government departments, academic institutions, research organisations, startups, entrepreneurs, and other participants for their active involvement and contribution to the event. She highlighted the importance of bringing together diverse stakeholders to strengthen institutional linkages, encourage knowledge exchange, and promote entrepreneurship in fisheries and aquaculture.

Dr. Choudhury emphasised the role of BICFA and Guwahati Biotech Park in fostering innovation and supporting the development of fisheries-based enterprises. She highlighted the importance of continued collaboration between incubation centres, research institutions, government agencies, and entrepreneurs to translate innovative ideas into viable business opportunities and strengthen the fisheries startup ecosystem.

She expressed the hope that the connections established during the programme would lead to meaningful partnerships, further engagement, and new opportunities for aspiring aquapreneurs. The session concluded with an emphasis on collective efforts to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

# Vote of Thanks

Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub, delivered the Vote of Thanks at the Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet, expressing her sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest, Dr. Siddhartha Purkayastha, Former Joint Director of Fisheries, Government of Assam, and all the distinguished dignitaries, invited speakers, and institutional representatives for their valuable presence and contributions to the programme.

She extended her special appreciation to Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, Hyderabad, and CEO, MANAGE-FISHub, for his leadership, guidance, and continued efforts in promoting fisheries entrepreneurship and aquapreneurship. She also acknowledged Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, ACS, District Commissioner, Kamrup, and Chief Executive Officer, Guwahati Biotech Park, for the institutional collaboration and support associated with the programme.

Dr. Nivedha expressed her sincere thanks to Dr. Bula Choudhury, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, BICFA, and the BICFA team for their coordination and support in facilitating the stakeholder meet. She also acknowledged the contributions of the speakers and representatives from the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Assam; the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); Cotton University; Assam Veterinary and Fishery University; ICAR-CIFRI, Guwahati Regional Centre; and Gauhati University for bringing diverse administrative, academic, and research perspectives to the programme.

She conveyed her appreciation to the participating startups and entrepreneurs for sharing their business ideas, innovative approaches, and enterprise experiences through the startup experience-sharing and pitching sessions.
She further thanked all participants, including government officials, researchers, academicians, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders, for their active participation and engagement.

She emphasised the importance of collective efforts in promoting innovation, strengthening the fisheries startup ecosystem, and creating sustainable entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



**Dr. Nivedha C.K.**
**Innovation Research Fellow**
**MANAGE-FISHub**

# Organising Team


**Dr. Saravanan Raj**
Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE &
CEO, MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
ceomfishub@gmail.com

**Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, ACS**
District Commissioner, Kamrup
Chief Executive Officer
Guwahati Biotech Park
Guwahati, Assam

**Dr. Nivedha C K**
Innovation Research Fellow
MANAGE- FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
nivedhanive05407@gmail.com

**Dr. Bula Choudhury**
Senior Scientist & PI-BICFA
Guwahati Biotech Park
Guwahati, Assam
b.choudhury.bicfa@gmail.com

**Mr. Nabajyoti Das**
Project Associate, BICFA
Guwahati Biotech Park
Guwahati, Assam
ndas.bicfa.gbp@gmail.com

**Dr. Rajiv Chandra Dev Goswami**
Research Associate & Co PI-BICFA
Guwahati Biotech Park
Guwahati, Assam
r.goswami@guwahatibiotechpark.com


**Report Prepared by**
**Dr Nivedha C K**
**Innovation Research Fellow**
**MANAGE- FISHub**
**Rajendranagar, Hyderabad**


**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**
https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/