भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
Department of Fisheries



Report on Fisheries-StartUp and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet

01st September, 2026

College of Fishery Science
Kamdhenu University
Navsari, Gujarat

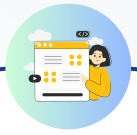
MANAGE

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



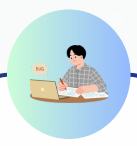
MANAGE Aqua Eureka Program



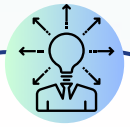
Fisheries-StartUp & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet



MANAGE-FISHub Fortnightly Friday (F3) Webinars



MANAGE-FISHub Internship Program



MANAGE-FISHub AQUAREACH



MANAGE-FISHub Aqua Yuva & Udhyami

Kamdhenu University

Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is a State University established by the Government of Gujarat with a mandate to advance education, research, extension and technology transfer in veterinary, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries and allied sciences. The University promotes scientific and sustainable development of the livestock and fisheries sectors through human resource development, research, innovation and dissemination of appropriate technologies.

The College of Fisheries Science, Navsari, a constituent college of Kamdhenu University, was established in 2014–15 to address the growing need for skilled human resources and technological development in the fisheries sector of South Gujarat. The College serves as a nodal centre for education, research and technology transfer, with research focusing on fisheries resource management, aquaculture, harvest and post-harvest technology, aquatic animal health and related areas. It offers the B.F.Sc. programme and provides practical training, demonstrations and skill-development programmes for fisherfolk and fisheries entrepreneurs. (https://www.kamdhenuuni.edu.in/cofs-navsari)

Objectives

01. To impart higher education in fisheries sciences and technology to create a cadre of fisheries professional to meet the demands of fisheries sector of Gujarat

02. To carry out research on location specific problems of Inland Brackish/Fresh/Marine fisheries Transfer of technology

03. To achieve the above envisioned goal, human resource development drive taken up on a mission mode will serve the purpose of generating professionals, middle level technicians and skilled workforce to augment fisheries production and timely processing to ensure profitability to the fish farmers/Entrepreneurs

Program Background

MANAGE proposed a collaboration with College of Fisheries Science, Kamdhenu University in Gujarat to conduct the Fisheries Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. Following acceptance from the university authorities, the program was scheduled and successfully conducted on 01st September, 2026, at the College of Fishery Science (CoFS), Navsari, Gujarat.

The organizing team comprised representatives from both institutions. From MANAGE, the team included Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension) and CEO of MANAGE-FISHub, along with Dr. Raahalya S, Innovation Scaling Specialist, MANAGE-FISHub. From Kamdhenu University, the organizing team included Dr. P. H. Tank, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. J. S. Patel, Director of Extension Education, Dr. H. G. Solanki, Principal and Professor Dr. A. S. Kotia, Professor and Head, Department of Fisheries Extension, Kamdhenu University, Navsari, Gujarat.

A list of proposed stakeholders from the fisheries startup ecosystem of Gujarat was prepared, and invitation mails were sent to fisheries startups, aquapreneurs, fishers, fish farmers, producer organizations, research institutions, industry players, service providers, and fisheries colleges and allied institutes. The registration link for the program was circulated through MANAGE-FISHub and institutional social media platforms.



The program schedule was designed to include an inaugural session, followed by technical sessions comprising startup experience sharing, technology demonstrations, startup pitching, exhibition and networking, and concluding with a valedictory session.

A total of 170 participants registered for the program, including Farmers, startups, students, faculty members, and other professionals. Confirmation mails were sent to all registered participants, and they were requested to join a WhatsApp group created for further communication and coordination. Among the startups that expressed interest in pitching and exhibition, a screening process was undertaken, following which 6 startups were shortlisted for the pitching session; 03 stalls were shortlisted for the exhibition.

The programme held in the conference hall of the College of Fisheries Science, Kamdhenu University at Navsari, Gujarat witnessed the participation of 170 attendees representing diverse stakeholder groups. The gathering included 6 dignitaries on the dais; 10 representatives from the Department of Fisheries; 120 fish farmers; 30 students from the College of Fisheries and 2 from incubation centres. The diverse participation fostered meaningful interactions, knowledge exchange, and networking among academia, government, industry, startups, and the farming community.

Program Background



Dr. H. G. Solanki,
Principal and Professor
College of Fisheries Science
Kamdhenu University

The Fisheries-Startup and Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet commenced with a warm and cordial welcome address delivered by Dr. H. G. Solanki, Principal and Professor College of Fisheries Science, Kamdhenu University, Navsari, Gujarat. He extended a gracious welcome to all the dignitaries, officials, academicians, fisheries professionals, entrepreneurs, startups, farmers, fishers, and other stakeholders participating in the program.

He welcomed Dr. P. H. Tank Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE, Dr. Pareshkumar Himmatlal Rathod Senior Scientist & Nodal Officer, NGRC, ICAR CIBA, Dr. Sumit R. Salunkhe Senior Scientist & Head KVK, Dr. Anand Bhadalkar Director Savli Technology & Business Incubator (STBI), Dr. A. S. Kotia Professor and Head, College of Fisheries Science, Dr Udaya Sankar Sethi, Aquaviva, Group founder and Dr. Udaya Sankar Sethi, Aquaviva, Group founder and Dr Raahalya, Innovation Scaling Specialist, MANAGE FISHub

As part of the inaugural proceedings, the dignitaries participated in the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge, enlightenment, innovation, and the collective commitment towards the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture.

Following the lamp-lighting ceremony, MANAGE's "Gandhi Talisman" was presented to the distinguished dignitaries as a symbol of the values of service, inclusiveness, sustainability, and commitment to the welfare of farming and fisheries communities.

IIn his welcome address, Dr. H. G. Solanki emphasized the significance of fostering collaboration among stakeholders from fisheries, aquaculture, research, education, government, and entrepreneurship. He highlighted the role of stakeholder interactions in facilitating knowledge sharing, exploring innovative opportunities, and strengthening linkages among institutions and entrepreneurs to promote sustainable growth and development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Activities of MANAGE FISHub



Dr. Sandipamu Raahalya
Innovation Scaling Specialist
MANAGE FISHub

Dr. Sandipamu Raahalya, Innovation Scaling Specialist, MANAGE-FISHub, MANAGE, Hyderabad, presented an overview of the programme and activities of MANAGE-FISHub, highlighting its scope in promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and startup development in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. She discussed the importance of identifying promising innovations, facilitating their scaling and commercialisation, and strengthening linkages among researchers, entrepreneurs, industry stakeholders, and financial institutions.

She elaborated on the various opportunities available to stakeholders through MANAGE-FISHub, including the Incubation Programme, Internship Programme for PG and PhD Scholars, Aqua Eureka, Pre-Incubation Programme, and MANAGE-FISHub FishTech Programme. She explained how these initiatives support aspiring entrepreneurs, students, researchers, and innovators through capacity building, mentorship, idea development, and entrepreneurial guidance. She further highlighted the role of these programmes in fostering innovation, encouraging startup creation, and facilitating the transformation of promising ideas into viable enterprises, thereby contributing to the growth and sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.



Dr. Sumit R. Salunkhe
Senior Scientist & Head
KVK

Dr. Sumit R. Salunkhe, Senior Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), highlighted the role of KVKs in promoting fisheries and aquaculture-based livelihoods through technology transfer, farmer training, and field-level demonstrations. He emphasised the importance of connecting scientific research with farmers' practical needs, creating awareness of innovative aquaculture practices, and encouraging farmers and rural youth to explore entrepreneurship opportunities. He also underscored the potential for collaboration among KVKs, MANAGE-FISHub, research institutions, and other stakeholders to strengthen capacity building, promote enterprise development, and support sustainable livelihoods in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Inaugural Session

Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE and CEO, MANAGE-Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE-FISHub), Hyderabad, highlighted the scope and potential of MANAGE-FISHub in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. He discussed the emerging opportunities across the fisheries value chain, encouraging stakeholders to explore innovative business ideas, develop entrepreneurial ventures, and identify potential areas for startup development. He emphasized the importance of connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with research institutions, industry experts, financial institutions, and government agencies to facilitate access to technical guidance, mentoring, and institutional support.



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

He also underscored the role of MANAGE-FISHub in nurturing entrepreneurial talent, strengthening stakeholder partnerships, and translating innovative ideas into viable business ventures. He highlighted that such initiatives can contribute to value addition, employment generation, and sustainable livelihood opportunities while strengthening the fisheries startup ecosystem.

Dr. P. H. Tank, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, highlighted the importance of strengthening the fisheries and aquaculture sector through education, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He emphasized the need to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application by encouraging the development of innovative solutions to address emerging challenges in the sector.



Dr. P. H. Tank
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
Kamdhenu University,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat

He also underscored the significance of collaboration among universities, research institutions, government agencies, industry, and entrepreneurs in promoting fisheries-based startups, enhancing value addition, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Inaugural Session

Dr. Anand Bhadalkar, Director, Savli Technology & Business Incubator (STBI), Government of Gujarat, highlighted STBI's role in nurturing technology-driven startups by bridging the gap between scientific research and commercial application. He explained the importance of providing innovators with access to scientific infrastructure, laboratory facilities, prototyping support, technical guidance, and mentorship to develop and validate their innovations. STBI's focus on biotechnology, life sciences, and other technology-based enterprises offers a platform for researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs to advance promising ideas towards commercialisation.



Dr. Anand Bhadalkar
Director
Savli Technology & Business Incubator (STBI)
Government of Gujarat

He also emphasised the importance of enabling startups to access funding opportunities, industry linkages, and business development support to move from the proof-of-concept stage towards viable enterprises. In the context of the Fisheries-Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet, STBI's experience in technology incubation provides a relevant model for exploring how research-based innovations in fisheries and aquaculture can be developed into market-oriented solutions. Such institutional support can help aspiring aquapreneurs address technical and business challenges while strengthening the pathway from innovation to enterprise development.



Technical Session II



Dr. Udaya Sankar Sethi
Group founder
Aquaviva

Dr. Udaya Sankar Sethi, Group Founder, Aquaviva, shared insights into the commercial and operational aspects of aquaculture, drawing on Aquaviva's integrated agro-industrial and seafood business model. Aquaviva operates across aquaculture feed, fish and shrimp farming, seafood, and farm consultancy, including hatchery and nursery development, indoor farming systems, and outdoor pond-based aquaculture. He highlighted the importance of combining technical expertise with efficient farm design, biosecurity, and sustainable production practices to strengthen aquaculture operations.

He also highlighted the role of technology-enabled farm management and professional consultancy in addressing practical challenges in aquaculture production. Aquaviva's services, including feasibility assessment, project design, operational protocols, farm construction, and training, illustrate how technical support can help entrepreneurs establish and manage aquaculture enterprises. These industry experiences offered valuable perspectives for aspiring aquapreneurs on developing commercially viable farming models, improving resource efficiency, and creating opportunities across the aquaculture and seafood value chain.



Mr. Parth Pandya
Incubation Manager
i-Hub

Mr. Parth Pandya, Incubation Manager, i-Hub, Gujarat, shared perspectives on nurturing early-stage startups and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem. i-Hub, an initiative of the Government of Gujarat, supports innovators in transforming ideas into market-ready ventures through incubation, mentorship, networking, intellectual property support, and access to funding opportunities. Drawing on his experience in supporting startups from proof of concept to investment readiness, he highlighted the importance of structured guidance in developing and advancing innovative business ideas.

In the context of fisheries and aquapreneurship, his experience in supporting startups in the Blue Economy offered a valuable perspective on helping emerging enterprises address technical and business challenges. He highlighted the relevance of incubation support, industry connections, and investment readiness in translating innovative solutions into sustainable businesses. Such support can help aspiring aquapreneurs strengthen their business models and explore opportunities for growth across the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.

Inaugural Session











Glimpses from the Inauguration Ceremony

Startups Exhibition and Networking









Startup Pitching Session







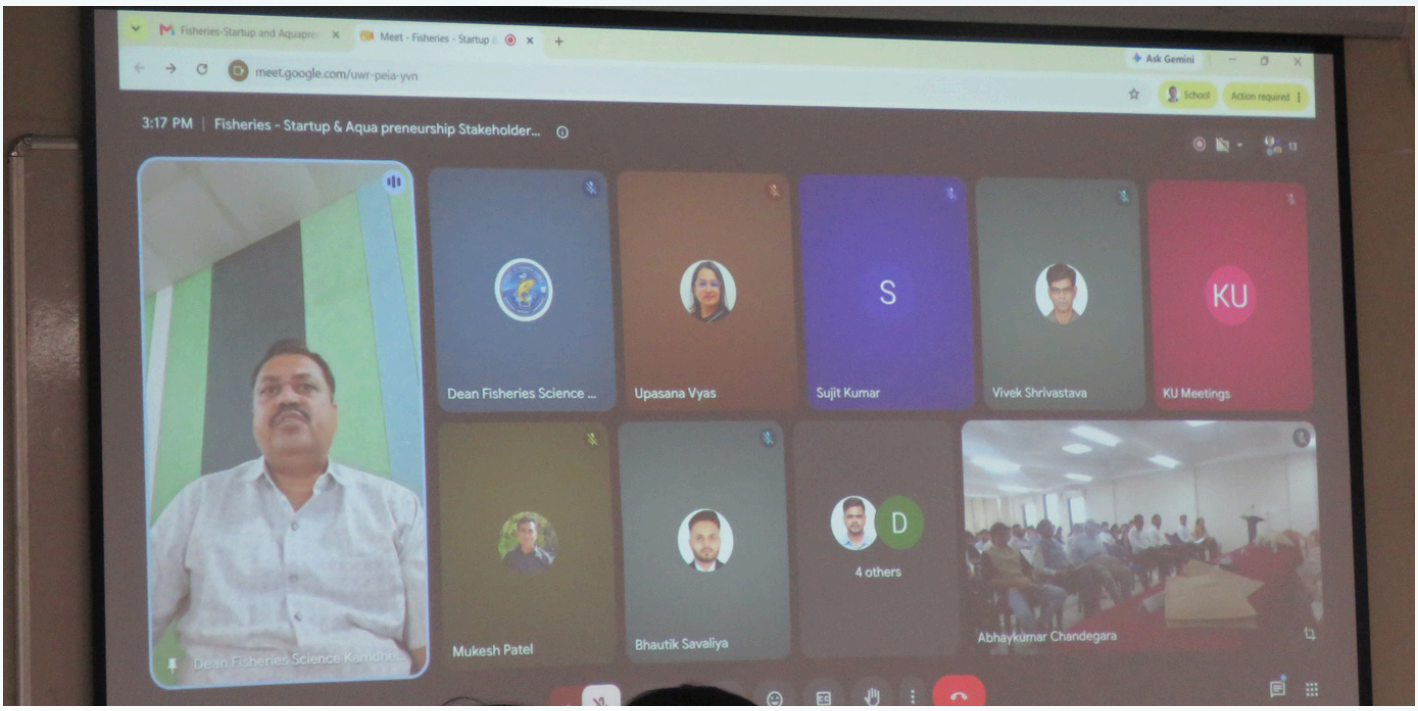




Address by Guest of Honor

Dr. Sajid Khan I. Yusufzai, Dean, College of Fisheries, Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, addressed the gathering as the Guest of Honour at the Fisheries-Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. His participation highlighted the importance of academic institutions in advancing fisheries education, research, technological innovation, and entrepreneurship. The meet provided a platform for connecting academic expertise with industry experience and startup support systems to explore emerging opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Dr. Yusufzai's academic leadership and expertise in aquaculture are particularly relevant to discussions on developing viable fisheries enterprises and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices. His address documented as emphasising the need to strengthen linkages between fisheries education, research, extension services, and entrepreneurship, enabling students, researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs to translate scientific knowledge into practical, market-oriented solutions



Dr. Sajid Khan I. Yusufzai
Dean
College of Fisheries Kamdhenu University, Gandhinar

Concluding Address

Dr. A. S. Kotia, Program Coordinator, College of Fisheries Science, Navsari, delivered the concluding address of the Fisheries-Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. He reflected on the significance of bringing together academic institutions, research organisations, industry representatives, incubation centres, and aspiring entrepreneurs to explore opportunities for innovation and enterprise development in fisheries and aquaculture.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening collaboration between academic institutions and the startup ecosystem to translate scientific knowledge and technological innovations into practical solutions. He encouraged participants to build on the insights and connections gained during the meet and to explore emerging opportunities in aquaculture, value addition, and fisheries-based entrepreneurship. He expressed his appreciation to MANAGE-FISHub, the invited experts, participating stakeholders, and the organising team for their contributions to the successful conduct of the programme.



Dr. A. S. Kotia
Program Coordinator
COFS, Navsari



Vote of Thanks

Dr. S. Raahalya, Program Coordinator, MANAGE-FISHub, MANAGE, Hyderabad, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing her sincere gratitude to the dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the Fisheries-Startup & Aquapreneurship Stakeholders Meet. She acknowledged the support and cooperation of Kamdhenu University, the College of Fisheries Science, Navsari, and all collaborating institutions in facilitating the successful conduct of the programme.



Dr. S. Raahalya
Program Coordinator
MANAGE-FISHub

She also appreciated the insights shared by experts from research institutions, industry, incubation centres, and the startup ecosystem, which enriched discussions on innovation and entrepreneurship in fisheries and aquaculture. She thanked the organising team and all stakeholders for their active participation and emphasised the importance of continued collaboration in strengthening MANAGE-FISHub's efforts to promote aquapreneurship, nurture innovative ideas, and support the development of sustainable fisheries-based enterprises.



Organising Team

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MANAGE Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE - FISHub)
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(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
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