



### From the Desk of the PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI

It gives me immense pleasure to note the significant growth and impactful initiatives undertaken during this period. On the recommendation of RIC, 30 startups are trained & incubated. SIC recommended 15 startups in XII cohort which are ready for onboarding. The orientation for students & other aspiring entrepreneurs about the opportunities available under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme has been continued. These efforts have strengthened the agri-startup ecosystem and promoted entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors.



I am delighted that KRISHIK-ABI received the prestigious "Best Incubator Award" at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, in recognition of its outstanding contribution in promoting agri-entrepreneurship and nurturing innovative startups. This achievement reflects the dedication and collective efforts of the KRISHIK-ABI team and incubated startups. The launch of the KRISHIK-ABI Promoted Startups portfolio further highlighted the achievements and growing impact of our startup community.

KRISHIK-ABI actively participated in major events such as Incomex 2026, Hubballi; Agri Startup Conclave 2.0, Bengaluru and the MSME & Startup Conclave 2026, Hubballi that enabled for networking and collaboration.

I appreciate the efforts of the KRISHIK-ABI team in conducting mentoring sessions, field visits, and due diligence visits for XII Cohort startups prior to the release of the first installment of grant-in-aid. I am pleased to note that all partner R-ABIs are contributing significantly to the success of the programme.

The successful onboarding of 18 startups under the second cohort of KAN is another significant milestone in our commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. This impactful programme continues to strengthen the startup ecosystem. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the partners & mentors whose invaluable support made this programme a success.

**Dr. S. S. Dolli**

PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad



XIII Cohort incubation training participants

KRISHIK-ABI



rabi@uasd.in



krishik-abiuasd.org

## Meet our startups

**Startup Name:** Artitech Innovations Private Limited (KOSHA.ai)

**Founder(s):** Mr. Vijaya Krishnappa, Mr. Ramki Kodipady

**Email Id:** vijaya.k@kosha.ai

**Contact No:** 7259133991

**Website:** <https://www.kosha.ai/>

**Location:** Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Product:** Portable Fabric Identification Device

Portable Cloth Fabric Identification Device (Identify the fabric content Portable device that quickly tells the fabric content in a cloth natural or synthetic)

### KRISHIK-ABI Support

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 10 Lakhs | **Cohort:** XI Seed stage, Technical guidance & mentorship
- Journey: 2020
- **Total Products Launched:** 3 (WeaveSENSE, FibreSENSE, KOSHATrac)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 20 districts across Karnataka including Bengaluru, Mysuru and Tumkur
- **Cumulative Revenue:** (Up to FY 2025–26): ₹1.2Crore | FY 2025–26: ₹60.00 Lakh
- **Employment:** 10 | **Customer Base:** 2000 | **Patent:** Filed 3; Published 3; Granted 2

### Funds Mobilized

- Villgro + Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India Pvt. Ltd. Grant: ₹15.00 Lakhs (FY 2025–26)
- Swiss Re Foundation Grant: ₹20.00 Lakhs (FY 2025–26)

### Awards and Recognition

- Finalist – World Economic Forum (WEF) – Traceability for Circularity Challenge
- Appreciated by the Hon. Prime Minister of India in Mann ki Baat (August 2024)
- Winner – Climate Tech Cohort 2025, Sustainability Garage (A Mercedes-Benz Initiative)
- Winner – Climate-KIC Circular Economy Challenge 2025, Bengaluru
- Winner – Shine Innovation Award 2025
- Winner – The Deep Tech Emerge 50 Awards 2025, NASSCOM
- Winner – Climate Startup Showcase 2025, Centre for Sustainable Development



## Monitoring and Evaluation of Startups

The KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad incubation team visited startups to monitor their progress and provide guidance under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri Entrepreneurship Programme.

### Szello Organics Soraba., Shivamogga

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Szello Organics, Soraba, Shivamogga of IX Cohort on 30 May 2026 and reviewed the progress of the startup with Founder Mr. Manasvi Hegde. Supported with a grant-in-aid of ₹10 lakhs, the startup has successfully developed and commercialized five mushroom byproducts, namely Mushroom Cookies, Mushroom Pickle, Dehydrated Mushrooms, Mushroom Powder and Mushroom Growing Substrate. The enterprise has sold over 1400 units, generated cumulative revenue of ₹8 lakh, created employment for 6 individuals and benefited 14 farmers through its operations

Beyond business growth, Szello Organics has actively contributed to capacity building and rural entrepreneurship promotion. During the year, the startup conducted mushroom cultivation and entrepreneurship training programs for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) farmers and students. A total of 13 SHG groups and 36 individual participants were trained in mushroom cultivation, substrate preparation, value addition and income-generation opportunities. These initiatives have strengthened awareness, enhanced skills and promoted sustainable livelihood opportunities through mushroom-based enterprises in the region



Founder Mr. Manasvi Hegde with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit



Founder Mr. Srinivas K. L with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

### Eternal Vanilla, Sagara, Shivamogga

KRISHIK-ABI team visited Eternal Vanilla, Sagara, Shivamogga of V Cohort on 30 May 2026 and reviewed the progress of the startup with Founder Mr. Srinivas K. L. Supported with a grant-in-aid of ₹5 lakhs, the startup has successfully established a vanilla plantation and laid the foundation for commercial production of high-value vanilla crops.

The review focused on strategies for market expansion and revenue generation through the sale and export of vanilla products.

With a strong cultivation base in place, Eternal Vanilla is well positioned to capitalize on the growing demand for natural vanilla and contribute to the promotion of high-value agricultural entrepreneurship.

### E-Actuel Labs Pvt. Ltd., Manipal

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited E-Actuel Labs Pvt. Ltd., Manipal, a startup from the XI Cohort, on 14 June 2026 and reviewed its progress with Founder Mr. Prashantha Raju. Supported with a grant-in-aid of ₹15 lakh, the startup has successfully developed OrbiDrive, a smart irrigation valve actuator; OrbiHub, a LoRa gateway; and OrbiPulse, a cloud-based monitoring and control platform. The startup is also developing a municipal valve automation variant for urban water distribution applications.

The startup has secured follow-on funding of ₹5 lakh under the AMRUT Grant and has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Chaitanya NGO, Shivamogga, creating potential outreach to nearly 1000 farmers. Additionally, the startup has entered into an MoU with Ranebennur Municipality for municipal water management applications. The startup was advised to initiate commercial sales of its actuator solutions targeting farmers and municipal corporations, thereby accelerating market adoption and revenue generation.



Founder Mr. Prashantha Raju with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit



Founder Dr. Seema Singh with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

## DOSTBin Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited DOSTBin Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru on 26 May 2026 as part of the XII Cohort monitoring process. The startup is designed to convert kitchen and garden waste into chemical-free compost and liquid fertilizer in a compact space. DOSTBin can process up to 3 kg of wet waste per day (25 kg per week) with a 10-day harvest cycle, producing up to 35 kg of compost per month and with minimal maintenance cost. The startup is also developing automated composting systems capable of processing up to 60 tons of wet waste per day, offering a sustainable and user-friendly solution for decentralized organic waste management.



Founder Mr. Santosh Kumar S V with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

## Puga Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Shivamogga

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Puga Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Shivamogga, on 30 May 2026 as part of the XII Cohort due diligence process to review the startup's progress. The startup has successfully developed a range of value-added products from arecanut waste, including husk, wood, and liquid extracts, converting agricultural residues into commercially viable and eco-friendly products. This innovative approach promotes waste utilization, supports sustainable resource management and creates additional income opportunities within the arecanut value chain. The team appreciated the progress achieved and provided guidance on scaling up production, market linkage development and the subsequent steps for grant support.

## Poornaprajna Institute of Scientific Research., Bengaluru

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Poornaprajna Institute of Scientific Research, Bengaluru, on 26 May 2026 as part of the XII Cohort monitoring process. The startup is developing redox-active polymers derived from coffee peel and pulp waste for organic memory applications in electronics, integrating principles of green chemistry with advanced electronic materials. The technology offers a sustainable approach to convert agro-industrial waste into high-value functional materials for next-generation memory devices.



Founder Dr. Shivakumar with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

## Agrivitals Innovation Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru

The KRISHIK-ABI team conducted a due diligence visit to Agrivitals Innovation Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru on 27 May 2026 as part of the XII Cohort monitoring process to assess the startup's progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid. During the visit, it was observed that the startup has developed an IoT and AI-integrated solar dryer designed for efficient, hygienic, and contamination-free drying of agricultural produce, thereby reducing post-harvest losses and improving product quality. The startup has developed three product variants to cater to different user segments: a basic model with a capacity of 2–3 kg priced at ₹7,500–8,000 for household use, a mid-version with a 10 kg capacity priced at ₹48,000 suitable for small-scale businesses and food processing enterprises, and a commercial model with a 50 kg capacity priced at ₹65,000 intended for large farmers and commercial users. The product prototype was demonstrated during the visit, and the startup has shown satisfactory progress in technology development. The KRISHIK-ABI team suggested that the startup undertake testing and validation of the product to establish its performance, reliability, and effectiveness before proceeding with large-scale commercialization.



Founder Mr. Vittal Rathod with  
KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

## Nirjara Sahavartigalu, Shivamogga

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited NirjaraSahavartigalu on 29 May 2026 as part of the XII Cohort due diligence process. During the visit, the team reviewed the startup's technological development and operational readiness. The startup has successfully developed the prototypes of controlled pre-tempering and swing mechanism machine for areca sheath plate manufacturing. The innovation is designed to improve product quality and uniformity while significantly reducing processing time, thereby enhancing efficiency and value addition in the areca sheath plate production process. The team appreciated the progress achieved and provided guidance on the subsequent steps for grant support and commercialization.



Founder Mr. Manoj G R with KRISHIK-ABI  
team at production unit

## Ruminant Higual Organic Fertilizer, Gokak

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Ruminant Higual Organic Fertilizer, Gokak, on 18 June 2026 as part of the XII Cohort due diligence process. During the visit, the team reviewed the startup's technological development, production process. The startup focuses on producing organic vermicompost from goat and sheep manure along with organic farm waste, offering a chemical-free and sustainable nutrient solution for certified organic farmers. The visit provided valuable insights into the startup's preparedness for scaling its operations and serving the organic farming sector.



Founder Mr. Vinayak Kattikar with  
KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

## Outreach Programme, Workshops and Trainings

### Orientation programme to the students

The KRISHIK-ABI team organized orientation programmes for students at various institutions to create awareness about agri-entrepreneurship and the opportunities available under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme. The details are as follows:

|              |                                                                                                      |                       |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 April 2026 | UAS Dharwad II Year B.Sc. (Hons.) ABM Students visited KRISHIK - Agri Business Incubator             | No. of students<br>40 |
| 7 April 2026 | KLS VEDIT, Haliyal BCA Students                                                                      | 120                   |
| 18 May 2026  | UAS Dharwad Final Year B.Sc. (Hons.) Students visited KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator                | 45                    |
| 29 May 2026  | Anveshana, PESITM & JNNCE, Shivamogga                                                                | 110                   |
| 30 May 2026  | KSNUAHS, Shivamogga (Cohort-XIV Call for Applications Outreach)                                      | 100                   |
| 8 June 2026  | UAS Dharwad II Year B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science Students visited KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator | 35                    |

During these sessions, students were introduced to the objectives and activities of KRISHIK-ABI. They were provided with insights into the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, including details of the incubation process, support mechanisms available to aspiring entrepreneurs and inspiring success stories of startups. The sessions highlighted various innovations, achievements and opportunities that encourage students to pursue entrepreneurship in the agriculture and allied sector.

Dr. S. S. Dolli, Principal Investigator (PI) and CEO of KRISHIK-ABI, conducted an orientation session at Jain College of Engineering (JCE), Belagavi, on 5 June 2026, on the occasion of World Environment Day. The session focused on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students and creating awareness about sustainable innovations and emerging opportunities in the agri-startup ecosystem.



Dr. S. S. Dolli, Principal Investigator (PI) and CEO of KRISHIK-ABI, conducted an orientation session at Jain College of Engineering (JCE), Belagavi, on 5 June 2026



KRISHIK-ABI team conducted an orientation session for BCA students at KLS VEDIT, Haliyal on 8 April 2026



KRISHIK-ABI team conducted an orientation session for second-year B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science students of UASD at KRISHIK-ABI on 8 June 2026

## Incubation training for XIII cohort startups

The XIII cohort incubation training of KRISHIK–Agri Business Incubator was conducted in offline mode at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (UASD) from 12 to 15 May 2026. It was followed by online sessions organised from 8 to 17 June 2026.



Dr. P. L. Patil Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad  
inaugurating XIII cohort training programme



Dr. P. L. Patil Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad  
Interacting with XIII cohort training participants

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. L. Patil Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad. He expressed that KRISHIK-ABI supports agri and allied sector startups address the problems & needs of the farmers. The training programme has brought together that includes 30 incubates from agriculture and allied sectors across different regions, including six student startups, 21 pre-seed stage startups and three seed-stage startups.

Dr. S. S. Dolli, Principal Investigator and CEO of KRISHIK-ABI, presented an overview of the activities and achievements of KRISHIK-ABI. He informed that KRISHIK-ABI has trained more than 300 startups across XII batches and supported 149 startups, which have collectively generated over ₹100 crore in revenue and benefited more than 10 lakh farmers.

The training programme featured sessions by experts, industry professionals and domain specialists on key entrepreneurial and business development topics, including Design Thinking, Technology Readiness Level (TRL), Branding & Marketing, Incorporation to IPO, The role of Chartered Accountants in Startups (Accounts, Taxation & Compliance), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Minimum Viable Product (MVP), Product-Market Fit (PMF), Go-To-Market (GTM) during the offline sessions.

The online sessions focussed on Financial Management and Pricing Strategies for Startup Success, Market Survey, Research etc. The training aimed to equip agri-startups with the knowledge, skills, mentorship, and support needed to transform innovative ideas into scalable and sustainable businesses.

## Team KRISHIK-ABI at Exhibition & Workshops

### Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026

Team KRISHIK-ABI participated in the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, organized by FKCCI in association with UAS Bengaluru and KAPPEC, held from 24–26 April 2026 at Tripuravasini, Palace Ground, Bengaluru. A separate pavilion was arranged for KRISHIK-ABI.

KRISHIK-ABI showcased its incubation initiatives and facilitated the participation of its startups namely Betel Botanica (Akvora Services LLP), Bengaluru; Manjunatheshwara PSIT Labs Pvt. Ltd.,

Belagavi; Susthira Bio Organics LLP, Bengaluru; and DOSTBin Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru. The startups exhibited their innovative products and technologies to farmers, entrepreneurs, industry representatives and other visitors. The summit provided a platform for the startups to enhance market visibility, interact directly with potential customers and stakeholders, receive valuable feedback and establish meaningful business connections.



KRISHIK-ABI startups exhibiting innovations at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, Bengaluru on 24–26 April 2026.

KRISHIK-ABI team briefed visitors on the objectives, benefits, eligibility criteria and support under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, including incubation support and financial assistance available to aspiring agri and allied sector startups. The interaction generated significant interest among innovators, students, entrepreneurs, and farmers, creating awareness about the programme and encouraging potential applicants to participate in the upcoming cohort. Through this initiative, KRISHIK-ABI strengthened its efforts to identify and nurture innovative agri-enterprises capable of addressing emerging challenges in the agricultural sector.

## INCOMEX 2026

The INCOMEX 2026, a mega industrial exhibition organized by the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at APMC, Hubballi, brought together entrepreneurs, innovators, industry experts and ecosystem leaders for panel discussions and networking opportunities.

Dr. S. S. Dolli served as a panel speaker, presented the KRISHIK-ABI success stories and highlighted the impact of the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme. He elaborated on the incubation support extended by KRISHIK-ABI, key initiatives undertaken by the incubator, and the achievements of its incubated startups, showcasing the innovations and emerging opportunities within the agri-startup ecosystem. The event provided a valuable platform to foster collaborations, exchange ideas and promote agri-innovation among diverse ecosystem stakeholders.



Dr. S. S. Dolli speaking during a panel discussion at INCOMEX 2026, Hubballi held on 27 April 2026

## Agri Startup Conclave 2.0, Bengaluru

KRISHIK-ABI team participated in the Agri Startup Conclave 2.0, themed "Innovate, Sustain & Scale," organized by the Agri Innovation Centre, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, at GKV, Bengaluru, on 26 May 2026. The conclave brought together startups, innovators, researchers and ecosystem stakeholders to foster collaboration showcase innovations and discuss strategies for the

sustainable growth and scaling of agri-enterprises.

During the event, the KRISHIK-ABI team visited various stalls and conducted outreach activities. The team briefed on the objectives, benefits, eligibility criteria and support available under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, including incubation services and financial assistance offered to aspiring startups in the agriculture and allied sectors



Agri Startup Conclave 2.0 at GKVK, Bengaluru on 26 May 2026

## MSME & Startup Conclave 2026, Hubballi

Dr. S. S. Dolli, PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad, participated as a panelist in the MSME & StartupConclave 2026 – Hubballi, organized by the Global Chamber of Saraswat Entrepreneurs inassociation with GSB Samaj, Hubballi on 6 June 2026.. The panel session was featured by Mr. Manish Jaiswal, CEO, Deshpande Startups; Mr. Rakshit Kalyani, Chief Operating Officer, dhaRti Foundation, IIT Dharwad.

During the session, Dr. S.S. Dolli presented an overview of KRISHIK-ABI, highlighted its incubation achievements, startup support initiatives and success stories, while addressing key challenges in the agri-startup ecosystem. The discussion underscored the incubator's role in promoting agri-innovation and outlined a strategic roadmap for future growth.

A dedicated Startup Conclave was established at the event, where startups incubated under KRISHIK-ABI through the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme showcased their innovations and entrepreneurial ventures.



Dr. S. S. Dolli as a panelist at the MSME & Startup Conclave 2026, Hubballi, on 6 June 2026.

## RIC, SIC Meetings

### XIII Cohort RIC Meeting of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad

A total of 299 applications were received for the Seed-stage, Pre-seed stage and Student categories for XIII cohort of KRISHIK-ABI. The scrutiny was conducted by the KRISHIK-ABI team in January 2026 where 143 applications were shortlisted. The presentation before domain expert was conducted from February 4 to 19, 2026 through online presentations.

Based on this evaluation, 75 applications were shortlisted for the RAB Incubation Committee



XIII Cohort RIC Meeting of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad held on 10-13 April 2026

(RIC) and screening was conducted online from 10-13 April 2026. Based on the evaluation and recommendations of the RIC, 30 startups were shortlisted for the incubation training including 3 Seed-stage, 21 Pre-seed-stage and 6 Student-category startups. The applications represented diverse regions including Bengaluru, Yadgiri, Hassan, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Davangere, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra., showcasing innovative solutions in agriculture and allied sectors.

## SIC Meeting of XII Cohort - KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad

The SIC Meeting of XII Cohort of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad was held on 15 and 16 April, 2026 in hybrid mode. A total of twenty-three (23) startups presented their proposals of which six startups were recommended for seed-stage funding, seven startups for pre-seed stage and two startups under the student category. Six seed-stage startups were recommended for a total grant-in-aid of Rs.78 lakhs, seven pre-seed startups for Rs.35 lakhs and two student startup for Rs.6 lakhs.



SIC Meeting of XII Cohort KRISHIK-ABI held on 15 and 16 April 2026

## Meetings and Other Events

### Launch of KRISHIK-ABI Startups portfolio (Up to March 2026) and Release of Quarterly Newsletter (January–March 2026)

KRISHIK-ABI since its inception in 2018–19, has successfully completed 12 cohorts and supported 149 startups that includes 66 Seed-stage, 77 Pre-seed-stage and 6 Student-category startups. Among these, 31 are women-led startups. The incubator has recommended grants worth ₹15.45 crore, facilitated the generation of over ₹100 crore in revenue, benefited more than 10 lakh farmers, created over 1,000 employment opportunities and supported the granting of 40 patents. More than 300 incubatees have been trained through capacity-building programmes, with access to co-working facilities, mentorship, technical expertise investor networks and advanced infrastructure.



To commemorate these achievements, the KRISHIK-ABI startups portfolio display (up to March 2026) was officially launched by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad on 15 April 2026. The logo compilation showcased the growing portfolio of startups nurtured and supported by KRISHIK-ABI under the RKVY–Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme.

On the same occasion, the Quarterly Newsletter of KRISHIK-ABI for the period January–March 2026 was released by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad. The newsletter highlighted the KRISHIK-ABI activities during the quarter.



The event was graced by Dr. G.S. Dasog, Former Dean (ACD), UAS Dharwad and SIC Chairman and members of SIC Mr. P.V.G.K. Murthy, Consultant, Hyderabad; Dr. Ravi Shankar, Director, Grampathashala, Chennai; Mr. Mahesh Patil, CEO, NV-Eco-Farm, Goa; Mr. Ashok Nyamagoudar, Director, CEDOK, Dharwad and Dr. S.S. Dolli, PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI.

## Review Meeting

The review meeting of KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. P. L. Patil Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on 28 April 2026 & 20 May 2026. The progress made by KRISHIK-ABI was presented. Action plan for next three months and various issues were discussed in the meeting.



KRISHIK-ABI Review Meeting held on 28 April 2026



KRISHIK-ABI Review Meeting held on 20 May 2026

During the meetings, the progress and key achievements of KRISHIK-ABI and the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) for the period January–March 2026 were reviewed and the action plan for the upcoming quarter was discussed.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the progress made by KRISHIK-ABI and ASTRA-KAN Programme. He also advised the team to document and publish the innovative technologies developed by incubated startups through a KRISHIK-ABI. The Vice Chancellor congratulated the KRISHIK-ABI team for receiving the Best Incubator Award at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, organized by FKCCI in association with UAS Bengaluru and KAPPEC. He noted that this recognition reflects the collective efforts of the university, startups, mentors and partner R-ABIs in promoting agri-entrepreneurship and innovation. He expressed confidence that KRISHIK-ABI will continue to create meaningful impact for farmers, students and agripreneurs through technology-driven and sustainable agricultural development.

## "Best Incubator Award" at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026 to KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad

Team KRISHIK-ABI participated and exhibited at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, organized by FKCCI in association with UAS Bengaluru and KAPPEC, held from 24–26 April 2026 at Palace Ground, Bengaluru. In recognition of its outstanding contribution to promoting agri-entrepreneurship and nurturing innovative startups, KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, received the prestigious "Best Incubator Award." The award was conferred by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) in collaboration with the Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Limited (KAPPEC) during the gala ceremony held on 25 April 2026. The recognition reflects KRISHIK-ABI's continued commitment to strengthening the agri-startup ecosystem through incubation, mentorship, and innovation-driven support.



"Best Incubator Award" at the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026 to KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad

## SELCO Foundation team visited KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad

SELCO Foundation team visited KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad on 11 May 2026, to understand its role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the agriculture and allied sector. The discussions focused on KRISHIK-ABI's incubation journey since inception and the support extended to agri-startups through student category, pre-seed stage and seed stage funding, technical mentoring.



SELCO Foundation team visited KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad

The interaction further explored the key challenges faced by agri-startups, including achieving product-market fit, strengthening marketing capabilities and overcoming scalability barriers. KRISHIK-ABI highlighted several successful grassroots innovations and emphasized the importance of field validation through collaborations with KVKs and FPOs to facilitate farmer feedback and early adoption. SELCO Foundation expressed keen interest in exploring future collaborations with KRISHIK-ABI. As a follow-up, KRISHIK-ABI agreed to share a list of promising startups working in the food technology and farm mechanization sectors for further review and potential engagement by SELCO Foundation.

## Activities of ASTRA (A Section 8 Company)

### Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort-2 Induction Day:

Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort-2 Induction Day was successfully conducted by GINSERV and ASTRA, UAS Dharwad at Chancery Pavilion, Bengaluru on 16 May 2026. The event marked the formal commencement of the acceleration journey for the selected startups under the KAN Cohort-2 program.

The induction session provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the program structure, objectives, key milestones, and expected outcomes. Startups also had the opportunity to interact with experienced mentors, industry experts, and ecosystem enablers, gaining valuable insights into the acceleration process. An orientation session was conducted for both mentors and startups, followed by their formal introduction to the participants.

Mr. Bharath Chandra B K, Vice President, Startups & Innovation at Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, addressed the gathering and highlighted the various initiatives, opportunities, and support mechanisms available for startups through the department. 18 startups were on boarded. Representatives from GINSERV and ASTRA, UAS Dharwad were also present during the program.

The KAN Cohort-2 program promises an enriching learning experience through structured mentorship, networking opportunities, expert guidance, and capacity-building activities designed to help startups accelerate their growth and scale successfully.



KAN Cohort-2 program Participants

## Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort-2 Bootcamp :

The Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort 2.0 Bootcamp was successfully conducted by GINSERV–ASTRA, supported by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) and Startup Karnataka, IT & BT Department, Government of Karnataka, at UAS Dharwad on 4 and 5 June 2026.

The two-day Bootcamp commenced with an inaugural session graced by distinguished dignitaries including Dr. P. L. Patil, Director – ASTRA and Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad, Dr. M. V. Manjunath, Director of Extension, UAS Dharwad, Dr. S. S. Dolli, Director – ASTRA, Girish Hiremath, COO – GINSERV, Dr. Gali Basavaraj, and Suvin Narayan, Program Manager – KDEM.

The Bootcamp focused on building a strong foundation for the cohort's six-month acceleration journey through intensive mentoring, strategic planning, and milestone mapping sessions aligned with startup growth objectives. A key highlight was the Fundability Mapping exercise, enabling startups to assess investment readiness and identify critical gaps.

Day 2 featured insightful sessions on Go-to-Market strategies by Deepaq V Vartak and an Investor Readiness workshop by Sanjay Shukla, along with an interaction session with Venkatesh Deshpande, Cluster Head – KDEM, highlighting government support initiatives. The Bootcamp also included an inspiring founder talk by Bharath Chikkanahalli, Founder of AgCane and alumnus of KAN Cohort 1, who shared valuable entrepreneurial insights. Over the course of the Bootcamp, startups actively engaged in milestone planning, fundability assessment, and ecosystem interactions, laying a strong foundation for their acceleration journey. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the growing strength and potential of Karnataka's startup ecosystem.



Inauguration of KAN Cohort-II Bootcamp  
at VC Conference hall, UAS, Dharwad



Mentor-Startup Interactions: Milestone Setting  
at UAS, Dharwad



KAN Cohort-II Delegates, Mentors, Startups  
and Organizers at Bootcamp day -1



KAN Cohort-II Delegates, Mentors, Startups and Organizers at Bootcamp day – 2



Conducting sessions on Go-to-Market strategies by Mr. Deepaq V Vartak

## Visitors to KRISHIK-ABI



Dr. S. R. Biradar, Head of the Department (I/c) AI & ML Dept. of SDM CET, Dharwad visited KRISHIK-ABI on 7 April 2026



Prof. Mallikarjun Alagawadi, Dr. A.P. Achar, CEO, AIC – NITTE, Karkala and Mr. Jagadish Shekhar Naik, CEO of Gram Vikas Society, visited KRISHIK-ABI on 16 May 2026



Dr. T. M. Pramod Kumar from JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysore, visited KRISHIK-ABI on 22 May 2026



SIC members along with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. P. L. Patil visited KRISHIK-ABI on 15 April 2026

## Impact of KRISHIK-ABI

### Startup Support (Till Dec 2025)

**11** Cohorts Completed  
**134** Startups Incubated  
**30** Women-led Startups  
**4** Student Startups  
**40** Patents Granted

### Funding Milestones

**₹14.26cr** Total Grant recommended up to XI Cohort.  
**70** Pre-seed Startups  
**60** Seed Stage Startups

### Economic & Social Impact

**₹158 Cr** Cumulative Revenue Generated (Up to March 2026)  
**1500+** Employment Generated  
**11L** Farmers Benefited

### Upcoming events for the next quarter (Jul. to Sept. 2026)

| Sl.No. | Activity                                                                                                                       | Dates          |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1      | I–XI Cohort progress review visits and conduct RIC meeting for subsequent grant release                                        | July–September |
| 2      | XII Cohort MoA signing and onboarding and release of the first tranche of Grant-in-Aid                                         | July–September |
| 3      | XIII Cohort SIC meeting and Due diligence visits for shortlisted startups                                                      | July–September |
| 4      | XIV Cohort Level 1 and Level 2 screening and evaluation of startup applications and conduct RIC meeting and training programme | July–September |
| 5      | Conduct Partner R-ABIs SIC Meeting                                                                                             | July–September |
| 6      | Startup Pavilion during Krishi Mela 2026                                                                                       | July–September |

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