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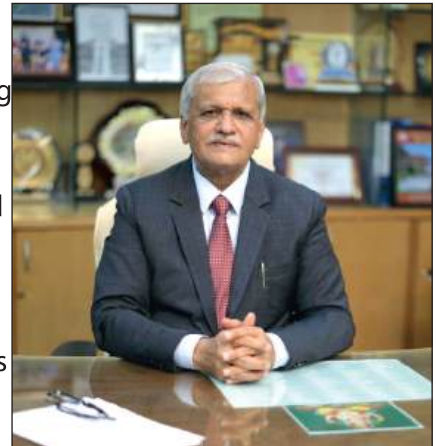
KRISHIK- Agri Business Incubator UAS Dharwad

A Quarterly Newsletter of KRISHIK-ABI-UASD

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From the Desk of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

The first quarter of the year was filled with many achievements and onboarding of the new startups in all centers. The recognition and awards received by the startups brings pride and instill spirit among the startups. KRISHIK-ABI participation in various events such as TiECON Hubli; SAMARTH ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Startup Dialogue, Hubli and North Karnataka Incubators Meet VTU, Belagavi provided opportunity to share KRISHIK-ABI achievements and also establish long-term collaboration. The routine field visits conducted are appreciable & they enrich the confidence of the startups. A key highlight of the quarter has been the continued support to startups through disbursement of first installment of grant-in-aid to XI cohort and subsequent installments to earlier cohorts (VI to X). The FPOs & Startup Connect witnessed participation from 23 FPOs (40 members) and 15 startups, resulting in 38 lead connections. Regular RIC and SIC meetings for partner R-ABIs were conducted. The preliminary scrutiny of XIII Cohort applications was conducted through online presentations and 75 applications were shortlisted for the RABI Incubation Committee (RIC) that includes 32 under the Seed stage, 30 under the Pre-seed and 13 under the student category.



I had the pleasure of visiting our partner RABIs for due diligence including Anand Agricultural University, Anand; NaaViC – ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Bengaluru; ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai; Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV), Akola, Maharashtra; I am proud to note that all partner RABIs are performing well. I sincerely thank all partner RABIs of KRISHIK-ABI for their cooperation in showcasing their activities.

I hope we move forward with same energy & sprit to reach higher heights. My best wishes to all

Dr. P. L. Patil

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor,
University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad



KRISHIK-ABI    

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Achievements of KRISHIK-ABI

Startup Name: AgCane Sciences & Services Pvt. Ltd.

Founder Name: Mr. Bharath Chikkanahalli

Email Id: bharath@agcane.com

Contact No: 96202 24891

Website: <https://agcane.com/>

Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Innovation

AgCane Sciences & Services Pvt. Ltd. is an agri-tech startup leveraging AI, IoT, satellite remote sensing and drone technologies to enhance agricultural productivity. Its flagship platform CropScan enables end-to-end crop monitoring from sowing to harvesting. The platform integrates GIS, GPS, cloud and mobile technologies for real-time insights.

Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 20 Lakhs | Cohort: XI Seed stage
- **Year of Establishment:** 2021
- **Total Products Launched:** 2 (AgCane, Cane Classification System (CCS) is deployed in 2 sugar factories)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 1 (Bagalkot)
- **Cumulative Revenue (Since Company Inception):** Rs. 5 Crore
- **Revenue (2025-26):** 40 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 10
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 2000

Achievements



- Mr. Bharath Chikkanahalli, Founder of AgCane Sciences & Services Pvt. Ltd., represented Indian AgriTech as a panelist at the US-India Space Business Forum on 10 February 2026, contributing to discussions on geo-spatial data applications.
- He emphasized the role of advanced technologies in empowering farmers and highlighted the importance of progressive policies to strengthen US-India collaboration in agriculture innovation.
- The startup was selected as one of the three grantees by ISRO (IN-SPACe) under the Seed Fund Scheme for Use Case Demonstration. Selected through a highly competitive process from 29 proposals, the startup will leverage AI/ML and space technology for pest and disease forewarning in major crops.



Startup Name: Oscillo Machines Pvt. Ltd.

Founder Name: Mr. Prajwal M

Email Id: oscillomachines@gmail.com

Contact No: 9901136899

Website: <https://oscillomachines.com/>

Location: Mysuru, Karnataka

Innovation

Semi-automatic, ride-on electric paddy transplanter integrated with an e-DSR attachment that combines root-washed seedling transplanting and direct seeding in a single machine. It features a battery-powered 3-wheel drive system, supports 4-row transplanting and 6-row precision seeding and works with traditional nurseries without the need for mat-type preparation, ensuring efficient and labor-saving paddy cultivation.



Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 25 Lakhs | Cohort: I Seed stage
- **Year of Establishment:** 2019
- **Total Products Launched:** 3 (Paddy Transplanter, Paddy Weeder, Raking Machine)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** Successfully operating in 20 districts across Karnataka, including Mysuru and Bengaluru etc
- **Cumulative Revenue(Since company inception):** Rs. 1 Crore +
- **Revenue(2025-2026):** 50 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 5
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 80
- **Patent:** 1 Granted

Awards and Recognition

- Winner – Villgro iPitch 2019 at Villgro's Unconventional 2019
- Awarded Agribusiness Grant in partnership with Hindustan Unilever Foundation (HUF)
- Winner – BIRAC-IKP AgriGrand Challenge (Stage I) under Elevate 2023, Government of Karnataka (GoK)
- Top 16 Finalist in the ongoing DCM AgWater Challenge for innovative agri-mechanization solutions



Startup Name: Bioman Technologies Pvt. Ltd

Founder Name: Mr. Subbaiah T. S

Email Id: subbaiah@bio-man.in

Contact No: 9845107901

Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka



Innovation

Microbial consortium that can convert green waste into manure in the fastest possible time and minimal effort. The process also ensures that consistent quality is maintained throughout the process.

Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 25 Lakhs | Cohort : II Seed stage
- **Year of Establishment:** 2015
- **Total Products Launched:** 3 (Microbial Powder for Food Waste Composting, Microbial Liquid for Green Waste Composting, Organic Manur)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 4 (Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumkur, Mandya)
- **Cumulative Revenue (Since company inception):** Rs. 1 Crore +
- **Revenue (2025-26):** Rs. 30 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 6
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 60

Awards and Recognition

- Recognized by Karnataka Startup Cell, AIM Accelerator (Microsoft), Marico Innovation Foundation, and IIT Kanpur Alumni Network.
- Appreciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji (2020) for innovation in green waste management.
- Elevate Award (2017) for the Prototype Development of Low-Cost Waste Processing Chamber.
- Top 8 Technologies (2019) for Low-Cost Waste Processing at GHTC (Global Housing Technology Challenge).
- IIT Kanpur Alumni Award (2018) for Innovative Business Plan.
- Winner – Social Alpha Urban Live ability Challenge (2020) for sustainable urban waste management solutions.





Startup Name: Sukhitvam Care Pvt. Ltd
Founder Name: Ms. Divya bharati Gokarna
Email Id: sukhitvamcarepvtltd@gmail.com
Contact No: 7829015437
Focus Area: Waste to Wealth & Green Energy
Location: Mysuru, Karnataka

Innovation

Reusable, leak proof, antimicrobial diapers and sanitary pads by using Banana Fiber.

Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 15 Lakhs | Cohort : IX Seed stage
- **Year of Establishment:** 2020
- **Total Products Launched:** 17 (Sterilizer Container, UV Sterilizer, Bamboo Toothbrush, Neem Comb, Eco Friendly Travel Kit and many more)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 25 districts across Karnataka (including Mysuru, Bengaluru and others)
- **Cumulative Revenue:** Rs 40 Lakhs
- **Revenue(2025-26):** Rs 25 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 8
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 100

Achievements:

- Ms. Divya Bharati Gokarna, Founder of Sukhitvam Care Pvt. Ltd., received the Women Achiever Award for her sustainable and women-centric innovation.



Startup Name: Kakud Post Harvest Pvt. Ltd
Founder Name: Mr. Patel Vinaykumar
Email Id: vinaykumarpatel41@gmail.com
Contact No: 8880027653
Website: <https://www.kakudagri.in/>
Location: Hubballi, Karnataka

Innovation :

ECO-FREEZE offers natural, zero-energy cold storage solutions for fruits and vegetables using eco-friendly crate bags. The innovation helps to extend shelf life and reduce post-harvest losses in perishable commodities.



ECO-FREEZE



Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 25 Lakhs | Cohort: I Seed stage
- **Year of Establishment:** 2019
- **Total Products Launched:** 3 (Eco- Freeze cold storage, Crop Micronutrients, AI-powered Soil Intelligence Platform)
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 25 districts across Karnataka
- **Cumulative Revenue:** Rs. 52.5 Lakhs
- **Revenue (2025-26):** 1.5 Crore
- **Employment:** 14
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 4000



Achievements:

- Kakud Post Harvest Pvt. Ltd launched AI-powered Soil Intelligence Platform, in the presence of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Shri. N. Cheluvayaswamy, Government of Karnataka on 18 February 2026

Startup Name: Nature Scan LLP

Founder: Mr. Vishwa Ranjana Surya

Email Id: vishwarsurya@gmail.com

Contact No: 9606420075

Website: www.naturescan.in

Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Innovation

NatureScan LLP is an environmental enterprise focused on climate-resilient ecosystems. It integrates education, ESG consulting and digital conservation solutions through a hybrid revenue and CSR model. Its asset-backed approach ensures long-term stability while driving environmental and rural transformation across India.

Status

- **Grant-in-Aid:** Rs. 5 Lakh | 11 Pre-seed
- **Year of Establishment:** 2021
- **Total Products Launched:** service-based company
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 20
- **Cumulative Revenue:** Rs. 40 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 30 – Need bases
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 300

Achievements

Mr. Vishwa Surya was recognized under the Emerging Entrepreneur category at the ConvergeX Awards hosted by CHRIST University (Deemed to be University) on 6 March 2026.



Monitoring and Evaluation of Startups

The KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad incubation team visited startups to monitor their progress and provide guidance.

Highlights of achievements from a few startups include:

Krishi Tharanga FarmTech LLP, Vijayapura

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Krishi Tharanga FarmTech LLP, Vijayapura on 5 January 2026 as part of the monitoring process after the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid, to assess progress, performance and fund utilization. Founded by Mr. Girish G. Badragond in 2020–21, the startup has developed a solar-powered portable multitool device for chickpea nipping, spraying and weed removal, including an advanced 3-line nipping machine with leaf collection. The lightweight, cost-effective solution enables coverage of up to 9 acres per day, significantly reducing manual effort. The unit was observed to be well-organized, with a properly maintained workshop and efficient operations.

- The startup has received ₹25 lakhs in grant support and has developed four innovative products such as Solar Operated Single-Line Nipping Machine, Advanced 3-Line Chickpea Nipping Machine, Solar Operated Multi-functional Machine (Nipping + Weeder + Solar Trap) and Automated Irrigation System (Fine-tuned for precision water management)
- Sold around 50 units and expanded operations across Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana, covering 8 districts.
- Generated approximately ₹50 lakhs in revenue, created employment for 6 individuals and benefited over 250 farmers.
- Received prestigious awards such as NIF Award, Innovation Excellence Award (Pune), and Raita Rathna Award 2023, while also providing student internships and executing government projects, indicating strong growth potential.



Advanced 3-line chickpea nipping machine



Founder Mr. Girish G Badragond with Dr. S. S. Dollu PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI at production unit on 5 January 2026

Chandrasiri Farm Agri Tech LLP, Mudhol

The KRISHIK-ABI team conducted a monitoring visit to Chandrasiri Farm Agri Tech LLP, Mudhol, Bagalkot District, Karnataka, on 4 January 2026 after the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid. The visit aimed to assess the startup's progress, performance and fund utilization. Founded in 2023 by Mr. Siddu Choudhari, the startup is



Founder Mr. Siddu Choudhari with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit on 4 January 2026

progressing well with strong technical capabilities. It has developed a sugarcane harvesting machine that cuts, bundles and loads canes efficiently with a capacity of 8–10 tonnes per hour and about one acre coverage in 4 hours. The machine is effectively used in sugar factories achieving 50–60 tonnes per day.

The startup operates from a well-maintained unit and has received ₹25 lakhs in grant support, launched one product and generated around ₹17 lakhs revenue in 2023–24. It has expanded across 3 districts benefited over 100 farmers and created employment for 3 individuals. The innovation addresses labour shortages, improves efficiency and shows strong market demand and growth potential.



Sugarcane harvesting machine at field

SN farms Pvt. Ltd., Belagavi

The team KRISHIK-ABI visited SN Farms Pvt. Ltd., Belagavi on 5 January 2026 as part of the XI Cohort monitoring process. The startup has developed an herbal and nutrient-rich feed supplement formulated to enhance animal health and productivity. The scientifically designed formulation, enriched with plant-based and nutrient-based components, has shown promising potential in increasing milk fat content, improving overall animal wellness and supporting timely fertility in cattle. The visit was conducted to review the startup’s progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid



Founder Shri.Sachin Subhas Raddi with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit



Yudha Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Vijayapura

The team KRISHIK-ABI visited Yudha Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Vijayapura on 4 January 2026 as part of the XI Cohort monitoring process. The startup has developed a smart Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), K-Bot, an unmanned electric robotic machine designed to revolutionize farming operations. The advanced system efficiently performs precision tasks such as sowing, harvesting, soil monitoring and input application. The visit was conducted to review the startup’s progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid

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

Areca AI LLP., Chitradurga

The team KRISHIK-ABI visited Areca AI LLP., Chitradurga on 19 January 2026 as a part of the XI Cohort monitoring process. The startup, led by Mr. Lokesh A., has developed “Arecaply”, a biodegradable packaging material produced from arecanut husk. The innovation focuses on converting agricultural waste into reliable and eco-friendly corner protectors for packaging applications, promoting



Founder Mr. Lokesh A with KRISHIK-ABI team at production unit

sustainable and plastic-free alternatives. The visit was conducted to review the startup's progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid

Aural Essence Pvt. Ltd., Tumkur

The KRISHIK-ABI team visited Aural Essence Pvt. Ltd., Tumkur on 20 January 2026 as part of the XI Cohort monitoring process. Established in 2024 and led by Mr. Omkar Rajesh, the startup has developed an indigenously designed Hyper Steam Cellulose Explosive Distillation (HSCED) system for cost-effective extraction of essential oils from floral waste, enhancing yield while reducing energy consumption by nearly one-third.

The company manufactures premium botanical extracts such as Rosemary Water and Rose Absolute, ensuring high standards of purity and authenticity. Through its low-cost, energy-efficient technology, Aural Essence promotes sustainable waste utilization, value addition and circular economy practices in the wellness and beauty sectors. The visit was conducted to review the startup's progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid



KRISHIK-ABI team visited the production unit of Aural Essence Pvt. Ltd., Tumkur

Outreach Programme, Workshops and Trainings

KRISHI Mela, Vijayapura (4–6 January 2026)

Team KRISHIK-ABI exhibited at KRISHI Mela, Vijayapura, held from 4-6 January 2026. The KRISHIK-ABI stall witnessed significant footfall from various farming communities, students, budding entrepreneurs, agri-tech professionals and individuals. The theme of the KRISHI Mela was "Agri-Startups for Sustainable Agriculture." A separate pavilion was arranged for KRISHIK-ABI.



Team KRISHIK-ABI exhibited at KRISHI Mela, Vijayapura, held from 4-6 January 2026

Startups incubated under KRISHIK-ABI namely Farmland Industries India Pvt. Ltd (Shivamogga), KrishitharangaFarmtech LLP (Vijayapura), KissanConnect LLP (Belagavi), Green Gold Harvester (Vijayapura), Agrider Biotech LLP (Bagalkot), Wormbotics Technologies Simplified LLP (Bagalkot), Sirdeshpande's Durga Nursery LLP (Vijayapura), AgCane Sciences & Services Pvt. Ltd (Bengaluru) and Kakud Post Harvest Pvt. Ltd (Hubballi)—displayed their products and technologies to the visitors. The mela served as a vibrant platform for startups to demonstrate products, engage with customers and build market visibility.

Orientation program to students

The KRISHIK-ABI team conducted a series orientation programs for students to promote awareness of Agri-Entrepreneurship programme. An orientation session was organised for second-year B.Sc. (Hon.) Agri students of UASD on 3 January 2026, another session for third-year B.Sc. (Hon.) ABM students of UASD on 5 February 2026 at the KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator. They were given details of the project and success stories from incubation center, showcasing innovations, achievements and support available through the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme initiative.

The KRISHIK-ABI team conducted an orientation session for second- and third-year B.Sc. (Hons.) students on the occasion of Business Innovation Day at the College of Horticultural Engineering and Food Technology, Devihosur, Haveri on 24 March 2026.



Orientation program for second-year B.Sc. (Hon.) Agri students of UASD at KRISHIK-ABI on 3 January 2026



Orientation program for students at CHEFT, Devihosur, Haveri on 24 March 2026

Training Programme for XII Cohort Startups

The XII Cohort Training Programme of KRISHIK-Agribusiness Incubator, under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, was conducted in hybrid mode, with offline sessions held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (UASD) from 6 to 9 January 2026 and online sessions conducted from 31 January to 12 February 2026.



Introductory Session & Overview of the Program by Dr. S. S. Dolli



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

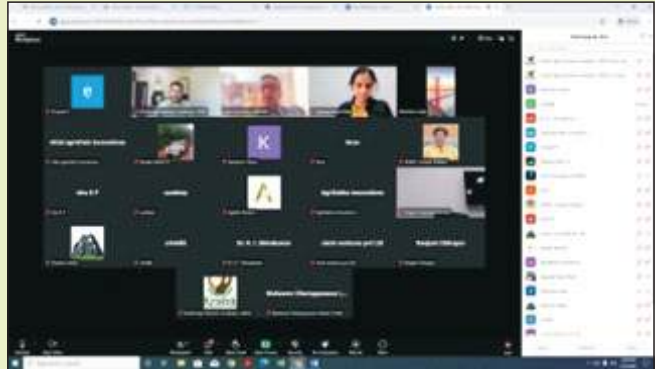
The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. L. Patil Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad & he said Agri-startups address farmer's problems. A total of 28 incubated startups such as converting waste to wealth, IoT-based applications for agricultural advisory services and farm mechanization had participated. In spite of technological advancements, farmers continue to face various challenges and startups are providing innovative solutions to address them.

Dr. S. S. Dolli, Principal Investigator and CEO, KRISHIK-ABI, welcomed the participants and briefed the overview of the programme.

A total of 28 incubates from various agriculture and allied sector startups participated in the training programme. The training programme featured expert-led sessions by professionals and domain specialists on various topics such as Design Thinking, Technology Readiness Level (TRL), Business Story Telling, Minimum Viable Product (MVP), Product Market Fit (PMF) and Go-To-Market Strategy (GTM) during the offline sessions.



XII cohort offline training participants



XII cohort online training session participants

The online sessions focused on Financial Management and Pricing Strategies for Startup Success, Market Survey and Research, Fundraise 101 Master classes and Preparing Startups for Sustainable Growth and more. The training aimed to empower agri-startups with the skills, mentorship and support needed to turn innovative ideas into viable and scalable businesses.

XI cohort startups Grant Award Programme and MoA Signing

The XI cohort startups Grant Award Programme and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing under the KRISHIK–Agri Business Incubator, RKVY–Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India was held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad on 23 January 2026.

A total grant of Rs. 126.5 lakhs was given to 25 startups, which includes fifteen pre-seed (Rs. 48.5 lakhs) and ten seed-stage (Rs. 78 lakhs) startups. Dr S.S. Dollu, PI & CEO KRISHIK-ABI, briefed about the startups and institution's commitment.



XI cohort startups Grant Award Programme and MoA Signing was held on 23 January 2026

Speaking after MoA, Dr. B. D. Biradar, Director of Education, UAS Dharwad, opined that modernisation in all fields is taking place at a faster rate. The agriculture sector has tremendous scope. The startups of KRISHIK-ABI, with 136 startups, each one of them has developed low-cost, adoptable innovations contributing immensely to the growth and transformation of the agricultural sector.



Document Verification of XI Cohort Startups was conducted at KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad

Under the XI cohort, startups were supported across various sectors, including Farm Mechanization (5 startups); Food processing and value addition (5 startups); AI, IoT, ICT and App (8 startups); Waste to wealth (5 startups), Animal husbandry and dairy (1 startup) and Agri-inputs (1 startup).

KRISHIK-ABI Team conducted session on Startup Ecosystem for Winter School Participants

The KRISHIK–Agri Business Incubator, UAS Dharwad team conducted interactive sessions for Winter School participants, comprising faculty members from various State Agricultural Universities. The sessions covered key topics including “Startup Lifecycle, Indian Startup Ecosystem, and Emerging Opportunities” on 7 February 2026, and “Design Thinking” on 16 February 2026. The sessions provided participants with insights into the stages of startup development, innovation-driven entrepreneurship in agriculture and the importance of user-centric problem solving and design-based innovation.

On 20 February 2026, the participants visited the KRISHIK-ABI Incubation Centre, where they were shown products developed by incubated startups and briefed on their innovations and success stories. They were also briefed about the RKVY–Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, incubation support provided by KRISHIK-ABI, project initiatives, and the success stories of incubated startups, highlighting the innovations and opportunities emerging in the agri-startup ecosystem.



Session on Startup Ecosystem during the Winter School programme for faculty members

RIC, SIC Meetings

Screening of the XIII Cohort Applications

The preliminary scrutiny of XIII Cohort applications was conducted under the RKVY–Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme through online presentations. A total of 299 applications were received across the Seed-stage, Pre-seed stage and Student categories.

The first round of internal scrutiny was conducted by the KRISHIK-ABI team in January 2026 of which 143 applications were shortlisted. The second round of scrutiny was conducted from February 4 to 19, 2026,

through online presentations before the scientists and domain experts. Based on this evaluation, 75 applications were shortlisted for the RABI Incubation Committee (RIC) that includes 32 under the seed stage, 30 under the pre-seed stage and 13 under the student category.

SIC Meeting of R-ABI AAU, Anand, Gujarat

The SIC Meeting of R-ABI, AAU, Anand was held on February 26–27, 2026 in hybrid mode to evaluate X Cohort incubate startups. A total of nineteen (19) startups presented their innovations, of which eight were recommended for seed-stage funding, six for pre-seed stage and one under the student category. Eight seed-stage startups were recommended for a total grant-in-aid of Rs.110 lakhs, six pre-seed startups for Rs.26 lakhs and one student startup for Rs.2.5 lakhs.



X Cohort SIC Meeting of R-ABI AAU, Anand was held on February 26-27, 2026

SIC Meeting of R-ABI, ICAR-NaaViC, Nivedi, Bengaluru

The SIC Meeting of R-ABI, ICAR-NaaViC, NIVEDI, Bengaluru was held on February 20, 2026, in physical mode to evaluate X Cohort incubate startups. A total of twenty (20) startups presented their innovations, of which five were recommended for seed-stage funding, four for pre-seed stage and three under the student category. Five seed-stage startups were recommended for a total grant-in-aid of Rs.76 lakhs, four pre-seed startups for Rs.18 lakhs and three student startups for Rs. 8 lakhs.



X Cohort SIC Meeting of R-ABI ICAR-NaaViC, Bengaluru was held on February 20, 2026

Release of Subsequent Installments for Earlier Cohorts of KRISHIK-ABI

The R-ABI Incubation Committee (RIC) meeting for the release of subsequent grant-in-aid installments to startups from the VI to X cohorts of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad was held in online mode on 30 December 2026 to assess their progress. Based on the evaluation, funds were disbursed on 24 March 2026 as follows: Seed Stage – 1 startup (₹4.8 lakhs); Pre-Seed Stage – 5 startups (₹6.25 lakhs); and two Student Startups (₹3 lakhs).

SIC Meeting of R-ABI, ICAR–CIRCOT, Mumbai

The SIC Meeting of R-ABI at ICAR–CIRCOT, Mumbai, was held on 24 March 2026 in physical mode to evaluate startups from the VIII, IX, and X cohorts. A total of thirteen (13) startups presented their innovations. Following the evaluation,



VIII,IX,X Cohort SIC Meeting of R-ABI ICAR-CIRCOT,Mumbai was held on 24 March, 2026

eight startups were recommended for seed-stage funding, four startups were recommended for pre-seed. The committee recommended a total grant-in-aid of Rs. 150 lakhs for seed-stage startups and Rs. 20 lakhs for pre-seed startups.

SIC Meeting of NG-AiF Agri Business Incubation Centre (R-ABI), PDKV, Akola

The SIC Meeting of the R-ABI at NG-AiF Agri Business Incubation Centre, PDKV, Akola, was held on 25 March 2026 at Vanamati, Nagpur, Maharashtra, in physical mode to evaluate startups from the VII Cohort. A total of seven startups presented their innovations before the SIC, including three seed-stage and four pre-seed-stage startups.

- Three (3) seed-stage startups were recommended, with a total funding grant of Rs.42 lakhs.
- Three (3) pre-seed startups were recommended, with a total funding grant of Rs.15 lakhs.



VII Cohort SIC meeting of NG-AiF Agri Business Incubation Centre (R-ABI), PDKV, Akola

Meetings and Other Events

Startup Dialogue at Deshpande Foundation, Hubballi

KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad team attended the Startup Dialogue session hosted by Deshpande Foundation on February 7, 2025 at Hubballi. The event provided valuable insights into fostering a founder-first ecosystem for Bharat, bringing together entrepreneurs, investors and ecosystem enablers to discuss the future of startups and innovation.

FPOs & Startup Connect at KRISHIK-ABI

The KRISHIK-ABI at the University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad, under the RKVY – Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Government of India organised an “FPOs & Startup Connect” programme at UAS Dharwad on 10 March 2026.

The programme brought together Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and KRISHIK-ABI supported startup founders on a common platform to facilitate interaction and collaboration. During the programme, startup founders presented their innovative products, technologies and services.



Dr. S. S. Dolli PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI interacting with FPOs and Startup founder



Startup founder demonstrating her product to FPOs

The interactions enabled FPOs to share their requirements and field-level challenges, while the startups showcased solutions that could support agricultural development and market linkages. Dr. S. S. Dolli PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI briefed the participants about the key initiatives and achievements of KRISHIK-ABI and highlighted opportunities for collaboration between FPOs and Startups. The event served as an immersion and networking platform, enabling startups and FPOs to exchange ideas, experiences and collaboration opportunities. The programme witnessed active participation and productive discussions among the participants. The main objective of the programme was to establish connections between startups and FPOs to create opportunities for collaboration. A total of 23 FPOs (40 members) and 15 startups participated in the programme, generating 38 lead connections between FPOs and Startups.

Participation in North Karnataka Incubators & COE's Meet

The North Karnataka Incubators & CoE's Meet was held on 11 March 2026 at the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Campus, Belagavi. The event brought together incubators, startup support organizations, research centres and COE's from across North Karnataka to discuss startup ecosystem development, partnerships and innovation initiatives. Organized with the support of the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission(KDEM), Visvesvaraya Research and Innovation Foundation(VRIF), and KLE CET, the meet aimed to strengthen the regional startup ecosystem by promoting collaboration, mentorship and startup support programmes. KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator, UAS Dharwad participated in the knowledge-sharing and networking meet along with more than ten incubators, providing a valuable platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences and enhancing collaboration to foster innovation and entrepreneurial growth in the region.



KRISHIK-ABI team participated in North Karnataka Incubators & COE's Meet on 11 March 2026

Participation at TiECON Hubli 2026

The KRISHIK-ABI team participated in TiECON Hubli 2026, one of North Karnataka's largest entrepreneurship summits, held on 14-15 March 2026. The event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, innovators and ecosystem leaders for engaging discussions on startups, innovation and private markets along with panel sessions, networking opportunities and the launch of new innovations.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri. Pralhad Joshi, who highlighted the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in driving sustainable national growth. The KRISHIK-ABI team actively engaged with founders, investors and ecosystem partners, contributing to conversations on strengthening the startup ecosystem and promoting agri-innovation.



Participation at SAMARTH 2026

The SAMARTH 2026 – Empowering the Incubators Workshop organized by ICAR-IARI (Pusa Krishi) was held on March 19–20, 2026 at NASC Complex, New Delhi. The two-day workshop brought together 31 incubators and 7 knowledge partners from across the country creating a dynamic platform for interaction, experience sharing and the knowledge exchange and strengthening the agri-startup ecosystem.

The inaugural session was followed by experience-sharing and best practice presentations by Knowledge Partners (KPs) under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri Entrepreneurship Programme.

Dr. S. S. Dolli, PI & CEO, KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator, participated in the workshop. He presented an overview of KRISHIK-ABI, highlighting incubation achievements, startup support initiatives, success stories and key challenges. The session emphasized the incubator's role in advancing agri-innovation and outlined a strategic roadmap for future growth.



Dr.S.S.Dolli PI & CEO presenting overview of KRISHIK-ABI during SAMARTH 2026

Due diligence visits by KRISHIK –ABI, UAS, Dharwad

The Due diligence visits by KRISHIK–ABI, UAS, Dharwad was conducted for partner RABI's as part of the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme. The visit to the partner RABIs made on the following dates:

- **R-ABI AAU, Anand, Gujarat** (26 & 27 February 2026)
- **R-ABI ICAR-NaaViC, Nivedi, Bengaluru** (11 March 2026)
- **R-ABI, ICAR - CIRCOT, Mumbai** (24 March 2026)
- **R-ABI PDKV, Akola** (25 March 2026)



Visit to R-ABI AAU, Anand, Gujarat on February 26 & 27, 2026



Visit to R-ABI ICAR-NaaViC, Nivedi, Bengaluru on 11 March 2026



Visit to R-ABI, ICAR - CIRCOT, Mumbai
on 24 March 2026



Due diligence of NG-AiF Agri Business
Incubation Center on 25 March 2026 at Nagpur

The visits were conducted by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad, Dr. S. S. Dolli, Principal Investigator & CEO of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad along with KRISHIK-ABI project staff. During the visit the documents were verified and an interaction meeting with project staff was conducted.

Some of the suggestions made to partner R-ABIs during the visits.

1. Conduct two cohorts per year to achieve the target of 20–25 startups annually
2. Conduct regular awareness and outreach activities in constituent colleges to encourage student-led startups.
3. Establish a robust system to track the revenue and performance of startups that have received funding.
4. Foster collaborations with FPOs and other institutions to promote grassroots innovations and wider startup participation.
5. Document startup success stories and closely monitor struggling startups for timely support.

Activities of ASTRA (A Section 8 Company) (Association for Startups and Technology Refinement in Agriculture) Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN)

Program Overview:

The Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) is a groundbreaking initiative launched by the Government of Karnataka to empower growth-stage startups and strengthen the state's thriving startup ecosystem. This six-month program is designed to help startups scale by connecting them with a network of accelerators, Incubators, and industry leaders across Karnataka, including Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi. KAN provides startups with resources such as expert mentorship, Infrastructure, market linkages, and access to venture capitalists. By focusing on knowledge exchange, International expansion, commercialization of R&D, and intellectual property support, the program is set to Impact 360 startups over the next three years, fostering innovation and economic development across the state.

KAN Cohort-II Startups screening

GISNERV-ASTRA has successfully concluded the selection process for its Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort 2, receiving 114 applications from startups across diverse sectors including Agri and Allied, AI/ML, EdTech, Automotive Tech & Allied, Sustainability, FinTech, HealthTech, IoT, HRTech,



ConsumerTech and EVTech. Following a initial screening, 40 high-potential startups were shortlisted for the second round of evaluation based on key criteria such as Novelty/Innovation and Use of Technology, Potential Socio-Economic Impact, Strength of Business Model, Team Strength & Traction, and Market Potential/Competitive Advantage. and overall business potential.

After a comprehensive assessment, 22 startups have been selected to be part of Cohort II. After taking the approval from KDEM, these startups will be on boarded into the program and receive targeted mentorship, accelerator support, and access to industry networks and investors, enabling them to scale their operations and drive meaningful impact. KAN continues to strengthen Karnataka’s startup ecosystem by nurturing promising ventures and fostering innovation-driven growth.

Our Programs



SOP (Student Orientation Programme)

Grant-in-aid of up to Rs. 4 Lakhs for student startups



AOP (Agri-preneurship Orientation Programme)

Grant-in-aid of up to Rs. 5 Lakhs (Pre-Seed /Idea Stage Startups)



SAIP (Startup Agribusiness Incubation Programme)

Grant-in-aid of up to Rs. 25 Lakhs (Seed Stage Startups)

Incubation Services



Grant Support



Expert Mentorship



Market Linkage



Investor Network



Co-Working Space



Meeting Rooms



Agricultural Scientists



Research Institute Network



Agricultural Lab



Agricultural Test Beds



KRISHIK-ABI Achievements

Completed 11 Cohorts	Supported 134 startups - 40 Patents Granted (30 women-led startups, 4 student startups)
60 Seed stage startups	70 Pre-seed startups

Impact and Reach

Funding Milestones

₹14.26cr
Total Grant Recommended upto XI Cohort

₹100cr
Revenue Generated

1000+
Jobs Created

10L+
Farmers Benefited

Our Portfolio



Visitors to KRISHIK-ABI



MBA (ABM) students and faculty from Kerala Agricultural University visited KRISHIK-ABI on 6 March 2026



BCA students from KLE Society, Dharwad visited KRISHIK-ABI on 20 February 2026



Winter School participants visited KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator on 20 February 2026



Third-year B.Sc. (Hon.) ABM students of UASD visited K-ABI on 5 February 2026

Upcoming events for the next quarter (April to June 2026)

Sl.No.	Activity	Dates
1	XII Cohort SIC Meeting	April
2	XIII Cohort RIC Meetings & Trainings	April
3	Monitoring visit to startups	April-June
4	RIC Meeting for Subsequent Installment Release	June

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