



GREEN NEST

KRISHIK- Agri Business Incubator UAS Dharwad



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A Quarterly NEWSLETTER of KRISHIK-ABI-UASD

From the desk of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

The quarter has been eventful with two mega events. National Agri Startup Expo NASE-2025 and Agri Startup Conclave not only boosted revenue through B2B and B2C connections but also set a model for growth of startups.

The Agri Startup Conclave held at Goa in collaboration with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), opened up new opportunities in building innovation and reaching wider society.

KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, achieved a major milestone with incubated startups recording a cumulative turnover of Rs.100 crore and reaching over ten lakh farmers.

A total of 229 applications were received for the XII Cohort, of which 28 startups were recommended for incubation and funding support. The Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Cohort-I Demo Day witnessed strong investor participation, with interest shown in 13 out of 15 pitching startups. It is a matter of pride that KRISHIK-ABI was recognized by KDEM, Government of Karnataka. Our ecosystem-building initiatives included participation in the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025 providing valuable market expansion opportunities to KRISHIK-ABI startups.

I look forward the New Year accelerate the performance of KRISHIK-ABI.

I extend my gratitude to all partners and acknowledge the continued support of the RKVY team. I wish all startups sustained success and a prosperous New Year 2026.



Dr. P. L. Patil

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad



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KRISHIK ABI Startups Status

Adindistech Pvt. Ltd. (Bengaluru)

Cohort: V | Seed Stage

Founder: Dr. Gurumurthy Hegde

Adindistech Pvt. Ltd. manufactures arecanut-based porous nanoparticles with uniform size and high surface area. These nanoparticles are used to develop antibacterial and antifungal floor cleaners that ensure effective and safe cleaning.

He has been selected for the prestigious Dr. Homi Bhabha National Award for his outstanding work in Analytical Sciences, conferred by the Indian Association for Analytical Sciences.



AquaBio Solutions LLP (Shivamogga)

Cohort: IV | Seed Stage

Founder: Mr. Aathreya H. J.

AquaBio Solutions LLP developed organic and inorganic-based adjuvant materials aimed at plant protection, improved crop productivity, and enhanced farmer income.

The startup achieved a major milestone during this period by securing a work order from HOPCOMS, Government of Karnataka, for its probiotic product, which was laboratory tested and approved for integration with organic manure, validating its commercial and technical readiness. Work order received from the RDPR Department for waste degradation and vector control.

The milestone highlights the startups impactful contributions to sustainable and efficient farm mechanisation under KRISHIK-ABI



Know our Startups Performance

Visionary entrepreneurs supported by KRISHIK-ABI RKVY-Innovation and Agri entrepreneurship programme

Startup Name : Capsber Global Agro Pvt. Ltd

Founder: Dr. Priti Khallkho

Focus Area: Crop Management

Year of Establishment : 2022

Total Products Launched: 45

Product : An innovative product based on bio-organic and plant extracts to manage bacterial blight in pomegranate.

Cohort: V Pre-seed

Patents: 3 Granted

Location : Bengaluru, Karnataka

Grant amount : Rs. 4 lakhs

Farmers Benefited: 10 lakhs

Website: www.capsber.com

Economic & Social Impact: Cumulative Revenue (since inception) : 21.46 Cr.

Districts covered: 300+ | Employment: 82



Key Highlights:

- Capsber Global Agro Pvt. Ltd based in Bangalore, provides Lab to Land innovative climate resilient biological solutions for sustainable & regenerative agriculture, bringing back nature to agriculture by reviving life in soil with bio-solutions. Hence, decreasing chemical usage, reducing cultivation cost, eliminating health hazards of conventional farming, increasing residue free productivity and increasing farmers' income sustainably.
- Developed a unique bio-organic product from plant extracts to manage bacterial blight in pomegranate.
- Backed by BIRAC (BIG & BIPP), Karnataka Elevate and IKP & BIRAC AGC programs.
- Winner of National Startup Awards 2022 (two categories) & Startup of the Year in Biotechnology 2022 – Govt. of Karnataka
- Honoured by World Food Prize Foundation, International Fertilizer Association, Asia New Zealand Foundation, and Excellence in Industry Award 2024 (World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan).
- Winner of National Bio-entrepreneur Competition, Biopesticide Grand Challenge, Agri Grand Challenge, Krishi Mangal 2.0 and FICCI Agri Startup Award.
- Market Channels – Products marketed through Bighaat and BharatAgri, reaching farmers across India.



Winner of National Startup Awards-2022 in two categories of Rural Impact & Agriculture Productivity by Startup India Government of India



Startup of the Year Award in Biotechnology 2022 by Government of Karnataka

Startup Name : Rashvee-International Phytosanitary Research and Services Pvt. Ltd

Founder: Dr. M. A. Rashmi

Focus Area: Crop Management

Year of Establishment :2022

Total Products Launched: 4

Product : Rashvee-IPRS develops eco-friendly, non-insecticidal products including herbal termite bioprotectants, Climate resilient multi-fruit fly liquid lures, herbal liquid soap adjuvant, and Herbal fortified storage pest repellents.

Cohort: X (Pre-seed)

Patents: 3 product patents granted, 1 Design Patent and 1 Trademark registered

Location : Bengaluru, Karnataka

Grant amount : Rs. 5 lakhs

Farmers Benefited: 10,000

Website: <https://insectenvironment.com/rashvee-iprs>

Economic & Social Impact:

Cumulative Revenue (since inception) : Rs. 35 lakhs

Districts covered: Fifteen

Employment: 6 employees and 12 Farm labours



Founder Dr. M. A. Rashmi



Climate resilient



Bioprotectant for termites

Key Highlights:

- Rashvee–International Phytosanitary Research & Services Pvt. Ltd. (R-IPRS) was founded by Dr. Rashmi M.A., an accomplished woman entrepreneur and entomologist from UAS, Bengaluru.
- R-IPRS develops climate-resilient, eco-friendly, and cost-effective plant protection solutions tailored for marginal farmers in multi-crop systems.
- The company has successfully validated solutions across 10,000+ acres, trained 20,000+ farmers, and supported 4,000–5,000+ residue-free export consignments.
- The startup was awarded an appreciation certificate by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in the ‘Best Biologicals’ category, recognizing the company’s significant contributions to the agri-biologicals sector.
- Dr. Rashmi M.A. has been honored with 20+ national and international awards (2009–2025), including:
 - Best Women-led Innovation – Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
 - BIG–BIRAC Award – Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India
 - Agri-tech Ignite – DST-NSTEDB
 - Outstanding Extension Scientist Award; Women Excellence Award; Biocontrol Excellence Award
- Outreach is further strengthened through the quarterly semi-technical journal Insect Environment (IE), which reaches 5,000+ farmers with ecosystem-safe innovations, bridging science and practice for sustainable agriculture.



Rashvee IPRS team was honored with the prestigious SBA Extension Team Award for Biocontrol Advancement (ICAR-NBAIR).

Monitoring and Evaluation of Startups

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

Highlights from the site visits :

Startup Name: Dharani Biotech

Founder(s): Mrs. Pooja Rajendra Deshpande, Dheeraj Dinesh Hulekal

Focus Area: Waste to Wealth

Location: Sirsi, Uttara Kannada

Overview (Product / Service / Process)

Dharani Biotech transforms locally available agricultural waste into natural, toxin-free cleaning products. The startup adds value to waste by developing eco-friendly alternatives to chemical cleaners.

Key Highlights:

- **Grant-in-Aid / Investment Raised:** Rs. 5,00,000
- **Year of Establishment:** 2023
- **Total Products Launched:** 4 lakhs
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 4



Founder Mrs. Pooja Deshpande



Oct. to Dec. 2025



KRISHIK- Agri Business Incubator UAS Dharwad

Outcome / Impact (Since Inception)

- **Cumulative Revenue:** Rs. 8 lakhs
- **Employment Generated:** 5
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 10

Awards & Recognition:

- Received the Best Innovative Research Paper Award at the G20 Summit on Environment Sustainability and Bioenzyme.
- Best Innovative Startup award at the GSB Entrepreneurship Conclave 2023.
- Invited as a Resource Person by the National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad at Art of Living (AOL), Gujarat, delivering a session on “Application of Bioenzyme in Natural Farming, Land Remediation and Sustainable Agriculture.”



Products of Dharani Biotech

Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Vignyan Krishi LLP

Startup Name: Vignyan Krishi LLP

Founder: Mr. Ashok Kadarmandalgi

Focus Area: Farm Machineries and Tools

Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Overview (Product / Service / Process)

Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Vignyan Krishi LLP, established on May 29, 2025, in Bangalore North, focuses on designing and developing innovative farm equipment. The firm has completed prototype development for multiple tools and is currently building a multi-utility tractor with high ground clearance, adjustable track width, and ODWA-LO, compatible with various attachments. Led by partners Ashok Kadarmandalgi and Amit Tadake, the LLP aims to advance India's farm mechanization with sustainable and efficient technologies.

Key Highlights

- **Grant-in-Aid / Investment Raised:** Rs.5 lakh
- **Year of Establishment:** 29.05.2025
- **Total Products Launched:** 1
- **Districts Covered:** 2

Outcome / Impact (Since Inception)

- **Employment:** 4 **Farmers Benefitted:** 5
- **Patent:** 1 filed
- Vignyan Krishi LLP has progressed swiftly from concept to prototype development, demonstrating strong innovation in farm mechanization.
- The startup's multi-utility tractor design has been recognized for its potential to address smallholder farming challenges.
- The team continues to receive recognition for developing sustainable and efficient farm machinery solutions.



Founder Shri. Ashok Kadarmandalgi with KRISHIK-ABI PI & CEO Dr.S.S.Dolli at production unit



Multi-utility tractor



Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd.

Startup Name: Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd.

Founder: Kamireddy Kiran

Focus Area: Waste to Wealth

Location : Bengaluru, Karnataka

Overview (Product / Service / Process)

Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd., a startup that converts underutilized agri by-products—especially cashew fruits—into high-value food and feed products using zero-waste technologies. Their innovations help reduce emissions and enhance farmers' income by 30–40%. The startup also developed indigenous products like Nata and vinegar, reducing import dependency and promoting a circular agri-economy. The visit was conducted to review the startup's progress prior to the release of the first installment of the grant-in-aid on 12 October 2025

Key Highlights

- **Grant-in-Aid / Investment Raised:** Rs.40 Lakhs
- **Year of Establishment:** 2024
- **Total Products Launched:** 3
- **Districts Covered:** 2

Outcome / Impact (Since Company Inception)

- **Cumulative Revenue:** Early stage
- **Employment:** 2
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 50

Success Achieved :

For decades, millions of tonnes of cashew fruit have gone to waste despite their nutritional value. Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt Ltd turned this challenge into a breakthrough opportunity through innovative, zero-waste processing solutions. A key highlight in their journey is the recognition received through the Rs.25 lakh ELEVATE Grant awarded by the Government of Karnataka to Dr. Kiran Kamireddy, the founder of Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt Ltd.

Kamireddy Agro Foods
"Revive & Refresh"



Founder Kamireddy Kiran with Dr. S. S. Dolli PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI at production unit



Products of Kamireddy Agro Foods Pvt. Ltd.



Founder Kamireddy Kiran received a Rs.25 lakh Elevate Grant from the GoK.

Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Susthira Bio Organics LLP

Startup Name: Susthira Bio Organics LLP

Founder: Dr. M. S. Rao

Focus Area: Bio-organic Products

Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Overview (Product / Service / Process) :

Team KRISHIK-ABI visited Susthira Bio Organics, a startup offering 33 FCO-approved bio-organic products, including bio-fertilizers, bio-stimulants, micronutrients, and organic inputs. The firm has developed innovative combi bio-organic formulations that support sustainable soil health and help manage sucking pests and viral diseases. Its flagship products—Pest Shield, Wilt Shield, and Virus



Docto—are widely adopted by farmers, reflecting strong satisfaction and increasing demand. The visit was conducted to review the startup's progress prior to releasing the first installment of the grant-in-aid on 12 October 2025.

Key Highlights

- **Year of Establishment:** 2024
- **Total Products Launched:** 40
- **Number of Districts Covered:** 6

Outcome / Impact (Since Company Inception)

- **Cumulative Revenue:** Rs.9 Lakhs
- **Employment:** 5
- **Farmers Benefitted:** 12,000



Founder Dr. M. S. Rao with Dr. S. S. Dolli
PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI at production unit



Product of Susthira Bio Organics LLP

Outreach Programme, Workshops and Trainings

Orientation program to students

KRISHIK-ABI team conducted an orientation program for second-year B.Sc. (Agri) students of UASD on October 15, 2025 and final-year B.Sc. (Agri) students of Gujarat on November 22, 2025 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.



Orientation program for final-year B.Sc. (Agri)
students of Gujarat at KRISHIK-ABI on
November 22, 2025.

National Agri Startup Expo (NASE-2025)

The National Agri Startup Expo(NASE-2025), the annual flagship event of KRISHIK–Agri Business Incubator was organised by in association with partner RABIs namely ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai; ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru; AAU, Anand; PDKV, Akola under the RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India at the Farmers Knowledge Center, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad on 5 and 6 December 2025.

NASE-2025 was supported by key sponsors including the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Bengaluru; Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi and Innovative India Agrify Pvt. Ltd, Hubballi.

The two-day expo provided a vibrant platform for agri and allied sector startups and attracted over 13,500 visitors including Farmers, FPOs, SHGs, KVKs, DAESI participants, startup founders, entrepreneurs, domain experts, investors, scientists, representatives from leading organizations and institutions, faculty members and students. The event witnessed participation from 145 agri and allied tech startups represented by 250 co-founders from seven states across seven focus areas including Crop Management (16 startups); Food Processing and Value Addition (29 startups); AI, ML, IoT and APP (21 startups); Waste to Wealth (25 startups); Farm Machineries and Tools (16 startups); Livestock Medicines and Nutrients (7 startups) and Value-Added Products (5 startups); Incubators and Organizations (12 stalls) and University Projects (5 stalls); Innovative Agri India (2 stalls), Visvesvaraya Technological University – VTU (1 stall) and Registration/ B2B/ Help Desk NRLM/KRISHIK-ABI /ASTRA-KAN (6 stalls). 16 Incubators; 70+ B2B Connections; 1076 B2C connections.



Farmers visited to the NASE 2025 Expo



NASE 2025 was inaugurated by Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, MoA & FW, GoI, New Delhi with dignitaries.



Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, MoA & FW, GoI, New Delhi; Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor UAS, Dharwad interacting with the startup during NASE 2025

Participation included 1,664 representatives from FPOs, DAESI, KVKs, SHGs and NGOs; (229) from RKVY, Sustainable Livelihood, and Women & Child Development Department; (250) Student Hackathon participants; (1,096) students from HDB colleges; (312) students from UAS Dharwad; (50) representatives from incubators, federations, faculty, mentors, investors, and agri-industries; (126) volunteers and (9,523) general visitors.

The National Agri Start-up Expo was inaugurated by Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. In his inaugural address, he emphasized that the present era is about celebrating ideas and innovation and transforming them into economic value. He highlighted India's rapid progress driven by cutting-edge



Students Hackathon team received cash prize during NASE 2025

technologies that create social impact and enhance livelihoods and said that such platforms empower students and start-ups to explore, experiment and innovate with confidence. Guest speaker, Dr. G. S. Dasog, Former Dean (Agri.) & Chairman, SIC-RKVY, UAS Dharwad, speaking on World Soil Day, highlighted soil's vital role in water filtration, carbon storage and biodiversity, stressed its importance for sustainable cities and underlined the link between start-ups and soil health.

The Students' Hackathon was organized as a part of NASE 2025 in collaboration with Visvesvaraya Research and Innovation Foundation, VTU, Belagavi, emerged as one of the key highlights of the expo. The Hackathon received 143 team applications of which 70 teams were shortlisted through a rigorous multi-stage expert evaluation process. Fourteen jury members evaluated the final presentations with over 280 students presented their ideas over two days. The final round held at the Farmers Knowledge Center, UAS, Dharwad, concluded with ten winning teams where the top three teams received cash prizes of Rs.15,000, Rs.10,000, and Rs.5,000, and seven teams were awarded consolation prizes of Rs.2,000 each. The initiative effectively fostered innovation, strengthened technical and entrepreneurial skills, and inspired students to pursue agri-tech entrepreneurship.



Dr. Vidyashankar S., Vice-Chancellor, VTU, Belagavi.
Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session – NASE 2025

The Chief Guest Dr. Vidyashankar S., Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Belagavi in a valedictory programme emphasized the need for a strong multidisciplinary approach and highlighted initiatives that encourage students & startups to solve real-world problems through community engagement. He said Artificial Intelligence will not replace engineers but will automate only a limited portion of tasks, leaving wide scope for human creativity and innovation.

Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UAS Dharwad, expressed satisfaction over the overwhelming success of NASE-2025, stating that the response exceeded expectations. He congratulated the student hackathon participants for their enthusiasm and innovative ideas and urged organizers to seriously consider promising concepts for further support. He stated that NASE-2025 is the first such expo hosted among State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). He said that KRISHIK-ABI has supported 136 startups with financial assistance of Rs.14 crore. On the occasion, a souvenir was released and the KAN Cohort-II was formally launched. The expo was attended by Members of the Board of Management, UAS Dharwad.



Panel Session on Harnessing Government and Accelerator Support for Startup Growth



NASE 2025 organising team with dignitaries

Agri Startup Conclave 2025 at Goa in collaboration with Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI)

The KRISHIK-Agri Business Incubator, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad in collaboration with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) successfully organized an Agri Startup Conclave on 24 November 2025 at Gymkhana, Panaji, Goa. The conclave was held to explore startup opportunities in Goa.

The conclave was inaugurated by Shri Subhash Shirodkar, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Cooperation and Institute of Public Assistance, Government of Goa; Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UAS Dharwad and Dr. B. D. Biradar, Director of Education, UAS Dharwad participated as guests.

In his address, Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor highlighted the achievements of agri-startups promoted by KRISHIK-ABI and emphasized the opportunity for affiliation of Government Agricultural College, Goa under UAS Dharwad.

Dr. S. S. Dolli, PI and CEO, KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad outlined the opportunities available for startups. He emphasized KRISHIK-ABI support the startup taken up at Goa and appealed to create awareness and promoting startup initiatives in Goa.

The programme witnessed participation from 20 startups from KRISHIK-ABI and other incubators along with faculty, students and representatives from various institutions. Mrs. Pratima Dhond, President, GCCCI and Mr. Mahesh Patil, Chairman, GCCCI – Agriculture and Food Processing Committee along with other dignitaries were present at the event.

Seven KRISHIK-ABI startups participated in the conclave, creating a market expansion platform in Goa and showcased their innovations through dedicated stalls at GCCCI.



Dr. S. S. Dolli, PI & CEO, KRISHIK-ABI, briefing on the milestones of K-ABI during the GCCCI Agri Startup Conclave on 24 November 2025.



Inaugural address by Shri Subhash Shirodkar, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Cooperation and Institute of Public Assistance, Government of Goa



Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) hosted Agri Startup Conclave on 24 November 2025



Startup stalls showcasing innovations during GCCCI Agri Startup Conclave 2025.

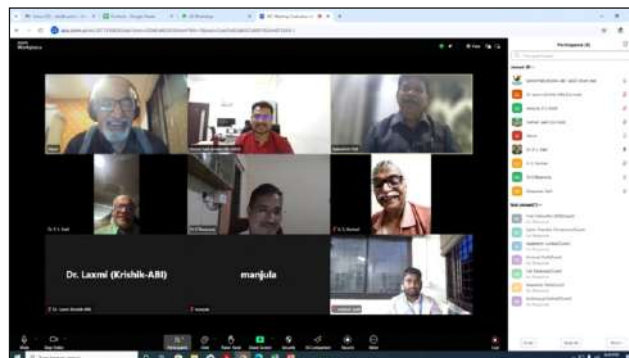
RIC, SIC Meetings

XII Cohort RIC Meeting of KRISHIK-ABI UAS, Dharwad

KRISHIK-ABI, UAS Dharwad received 229 applications for the XII Cohort. After multi-level screening, 61 startups shortlisted to the RIC.

A total of 88 applications were rejected at Level 1, 61 at Level 2 and 19 applicants were absent during Level 2 evaluation. The RIC meetings were held online on 9, 14 and 15 October 2025 under the RKVY-Innovation & Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, chaired by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UAS Dharwad.

Out of 61 shortlisted proposals (32 seed, 16 pre-seed, 13 student), 55 startups presented before the committee. Based on the deliberations, 28 startups were shortlisted for further training under incubation programme and to present before SIC Committee for final recommendations.



XII Cohort RIC meeting of KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, Dharwad held on 9, 14 and 15 October 2025

Meetings and Other Events

National Agri Startup Expo (NASE-2025) – Second Edition Planning Meeting

The NASE 2025 review meeting was conducted on 27 November 2025 by the Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P. U. Krishnaraj, Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad, to assess the overall preparedness, with the participation of the Chairman, Co-Chairman of the respective committees.



NASE 2025 planning meeting was held on 27 November 2025

Review Meeting with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor UASD

The review meeting of the KRISHIK-ABI, KAN, ASTRA was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad on 15 November 2025 and the thanks giving meeting after post event of NASE 2025 was held on 8 December 2025 with the participation of the Advisory Committee, Chairman, Co-Chairman of the respective committees. The key highlights and improvement from NASE 2025 were reviewed to inform and strengthen the planning for the third edition in the coming year.



Review Meeting with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. P. L. Patil on 15 November 2025



Review Meeting with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. P. L. Patil on 8 December 2025

**Activities of ASTRA (A Section 8 Company)
(Association for Startups and Technology Refinement in Agriculture)**

Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN)

Demo Day and Graduation Ceremony of KAN Cohort-I

ASTRA, UAS Dharwad and GINSERV, Bengaluru successfully organized the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Demo Day on 17 October 2025 at Denissons, Hubli.

The event was presided over by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and featured keynote addresses by Shri Shashi Kumar, Founder, Akshayakalpa, and Shri Vivek Nayak, MD, Ken AgriTech, who graced the occasion as Guests of Honor.



ASTRA, UAS Dharwad and GINSERV, Bengaluru organized the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Demo Day on 17 October 2025 at Hubli

A total of 15 startups pitched, and investors showed interest in 13 of them, reflecting strong validation for the cohort. The event witnessed active participation from startup founders, investors, mentors, KDEM representatives, UASD officials, media, and the teams from ASTRA, Krishik-ABI and GINSERV.

For the Graduation Ceremony, Incubator Heads and Managers, Entrepreneurs, Ecosystem Enablers, Startup Founders, Bankers, Federations, and several key leaders from the HDB cluster were present. A total of 15 investors attended, and all 19 startups of the cohort successfully graduated.

The Demo Day underscored the growing impact of the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) in accelerating agri-tech innovation and strengthening the startup ecosystem in North Karnataka.

Participation in Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025

ASTRA, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad actively participated in the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) held from 18–20 November 2025. A key highlight of the event was the official launch of KAN Cohort-II by the Hon'ble Minister for IT, Bt & S&T, Government of Karnataka, in the presence of prominent leaders and enablers from the startup ecosystem.

As part of the LEAP Pavilion, five startups from the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN) Program showcased their innovative solutions, reflecting the growing strength and impact of the agri-startup ecosystem nurtured under KAN. ASTRA, UAS Dharwad also set up an exhibition stall featuring KRISHIK Agri-Business Incubator, ongoing ASTRA initiatives, and various outreach activities. The stall served as a platform to actively promote KAN, RKVY-Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme, and NASE 2025.

The exhibition stall witnessed an overwhelming response from delegates, students, investors, mentors, startup founders, entrepreneurs, and visitors from diverse sectors. Several distinguished dignitaries—including the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Managing Director, KITS, Hon'ble MP of Mysuru, Chairman, KEONICS, and the Vice-Chancellors of Gulbarga University, Mahatma Gandhi RDPRU, Gadag, among others—visited the ASTRA stall and appreciated the sustained efforts toward strengthening the agri-innovation and startup ecosystem.



Oct. to Dec. 2025



KRISHIK- Agri Business Incubator UAS Dharwad



Launch of KAN Cohort-II by the Hon'ble Minister IT, BT & S&T, GoK at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025



Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Managing Director, KITS visited ASTRA & Krishik-ABI, UASD stall at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025

ASTRA's presence at BTS 2025 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering innovation, empowering startups, and contributing to Karnataka's vibrant agri-tech landscape and growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Launch and Roadshow of KAN Cohort-II

The KAN Cohort-II call was officially launched during the inaugural function of the National Agri Startup Expo (NASE) 2025, held at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad. The launch marked a significant milestone for the Karnataka Acceleration Network (KAN), reinforcing its mission to drive innovation, technology adoption, and entrepreneurship within Karnataka's agri-tech ecosystem.

As part of the Expo, the KAN Roadshow was successfully organized on 5 December 2025, drawing participation from students, startup founders, agri-innovators, incubation managers, and ecosystem enablers from across the state. The roadshow showcased the objectives, support structure, funding avenues, and mentoring pathways available under Cohort-II, along with insights into the achievements of Cohort-I. The initiative enabled wider visibility and outreach for the KAN Cohort-II call.

Shri Venkatesh Deshpande, HDB Cluster Head, represented the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) and addressed the gathering, highlighting Karnataka's commitment to fostering rural and agri-tech entrepreneurship through strategic initiatives such as KAN. He encouraged eligible startups to apply and requested the participants to give wide publicity regarding the KAN cohort-II call.

Senior leaders including Dr. S. S. Dolli, Director, ASTRA; Dr. G. Basavaraj, Director, ASTRA; and Shri Girish Hiremath, COO, GINSERV Bengaluru, interacted with the participating startups. They emphasized the importance of a structured acceleration program in enabling scalable growth and strengthening the agri-startup ecosystem.



Launch and Roadshow of KAN Cohort-II at National Agri Startup Expo on 5 December 2025

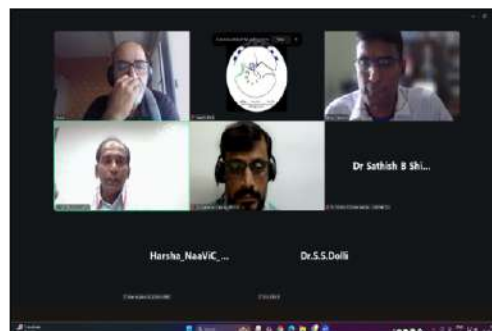
Activities of Partner RABIs

NaaViC, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru

X Cohort RIC Online Meeting – NaaViC, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru

The first RIC online meetings for the X Cohort were successfully conducted under the NEST, NUZEN and NEO on 13, 14 and 17 October 2025. A total of 421 applications were received of which 69 startups were shortlisted to present their ideas before the committee.

The meetings aimed to evaluate and shortlist promising startups assess their business models and provide expert guidance to support their progression through the incubation process.



X Cohort RIC Online Meeting – NaaViC, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru

Team NaaViC visited TechXEarth Space Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru

Team NaaViC visited TechXEarth Space Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru on October 16 2025, a startup developing innovative technologies for carbon dioxide capture and hydrogen generation and storage. The visit aimed to review the startup's ongoing progress, assess the technical feasibility and scalability of its solutions and provide expert guidance to support further development and incubation under the NaaViC program.



Team NaaViC interacting with TechXEarth Space Pvt. Ltd. Founder

Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Hon'ble Secretary, DAHD, GoI Visited NaaViC on 6 November 2025

Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Hon'ble Secretary, DAHD, Government of India, visited NaaViC on 6 November 2025. During his visit, he showed keen interest in understanding the veterinary startups and technologies incubated at NaaViC.

He reviewed the entire operational process of NaaViC, including the call for applications, pre-screening, RIC/SIC pitches, training programs and grant disbursements for startups. The Secretary reviewed the overall progress of NaaViC since its inception, including the number of applications received and technologies incubated.



Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Hon'ble Secretary, DAHD, GoI Visited NaaViC on 6 November 2025

He emphasized the need to develop an exclusive program under the DAHD to further support startups aligned with the Department's objectives. The visit was attended by Dr. Mahesh P S, Director CPDO, NIVEDI, Principal Scientists and representatives from the State Animal Husbandry Department.

PDKV-Akola Maharashtra

First-Level Screening of Startup Applications for Cohort VII

The RABI NG-AiF, Dr. PDKV, Akola, successfully conducted the first level scrutiny of applications for its upcoming Cohort VII. During the evaluation process, the screening committee assessed startup proposals based on key parameters including innovation potential, technical feasibility, market scope and alignment with the Centre's agribusiness objectives. This initial scrutiny marks a significant milestone in the cohort selection process, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to nurturing agripreneurship and fostering innovation in the agricultural sector.

Shivar Feri 2025 Showcased Agri-Innovations at RABI NG-AiF, Dr. PDKV Akola

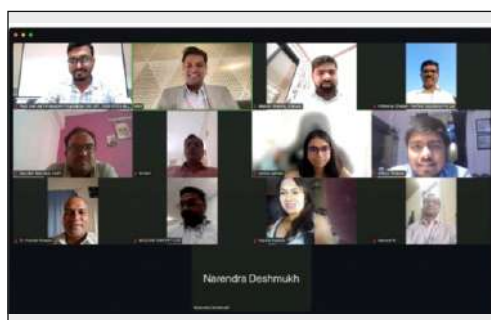
Shivar Feri 2025, organized at the RABI NG-AiF, Dr. PDKV, Akola, witnessed an overwhelming response from the farming community, with thousands of farmers visiting the event to explore the latest agricultural technologies and innovations developed at the university. The incubatees and startups supported by RABI NG-AiF actively participated by showcasing their products, prototypes, and farm machinery. Startup founders engaged directly with farmers, experts and visitors, enabling live demonstrations, valuable feedback and interactions. The event served as a dynamic platform for promoting agri-innovation, strengthening the linkage between researchers, entrepreneurs, and farmers.



Shivar Feri 2025 at Dr. PDKV Akola.

VII Cohort Training Program

The VII cohort training program conducted on 10 November to 2 December 2025. A 60-hour training module was designed for applicants who were shortlisted through the scrutiny and evaluation process. The training was conducted (online and offline) to ensure wider accessibility and effective participation. The curriculum encompasses entrepreneurial development, technical inputs, and agribusiness management aimed at enhancing the overall capacity and preparedness of the incubatees.



VII cohort training session.

AAU-Anand, Gujarat

Showcasing R-ABI, AAU, Anand and Incubated Startups at State level Krishi Mela 2025

AIC Anand Foundation, Anand Agricultural University (AAU), actively participated in State level Krishi Mela 2025 held at Godhara, Gujarat, presenting innovative solutions and startup success stories that empower farmers and promote sustainable agriculture. R-ABI, AAU, Anand highlighted its efforts in nurturing agri-entrepreneurship, fostering rural innovation, and supporting technology-driven ventures across Gujarat.

Three startups incubated under R-ABI, AAU — Freni Natural Pvt. Ltd. (farmer-led startup), Revolt Crops Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Scientist-led startup), and MooRopan India Pvt. Ltd. (women-led startup), — displayed their unique innovations focused on sustainable farming and value addition. Their products included biochar and bamboo vinegar derived from agri-waste, quinoa-based value chain products, and early detection of mastitis for profitable dairy farming.

Startup Visit for Due Diligence by Team AAU.

The AIC Anand Foundation team conducted due-diligence visits to Naturex Technologies LLP. During the interactions, the team reviewed the company's current status, documentation, and milestone planning. Constructive guidance was provided to help the startups prepare for their next steps and strengthen their entrepreneurial journey.



Hon. Minister of Agriculture, GoG and Hon. Vice Chancellor, AAU interacting with Startups incubated at R-ABI, AIC, AAU



Naturex Technologies LLP

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad

KRISHIK–Agri Business Incubator

RKVY–Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Government of India



Startup Support

136

Startups Incubated

30

Women-led Startups

40

Patents Filed

Funding Milestones

₹14.5cr

Total Grant Recommended



Economic and Social Impact

₹100cr

Revenue Generated

1000

Jobs Created

10 Lakh

Farmers Benefited

Happy New Year to All

From
Team KRISHIK-ABI, UAS, DHARWAD



Upcoming events for the next quarter (January to March 2026)

Sl.No.	Activity	Dates
1	Cohort I - X: Progress Review Visit	January - March
2	Cohort XI: Due Diligence Visit, Startup Onboarding and Release of the First Tranche Grant	January
3	Cohort XII: Incubation Training and SIC Meeting	January - February
4	Cohorts XIII: Screening & Evaluation of Applications (Level 1 & 2, RIC and Incubation Training)	January - March
5	Partner RABIs Due Diligence Visit	January - March

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