



Vice-Chancellors Message



Dr. S V Suresha
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
UASB

The Agri Innovation Centre (AIC) at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore established in 2017, supported by DBT, GoI and DPIIT, GoI, plays a crucial role in nurturing agricultural startups. It provides a comprehensive range of support and resources to help entrepreneurs transform their ideas into market-ready products. As the Vice Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Chairman of the Management Committee at the Agri Innovation Centre, it is my privilege to witness the significant initiatives and progress achieved by this innovative hub. The quarterly newsletter published by the AIC, UAS, Bangalore showcases the dynamic activities of the centre with a wide variety of topics, including the infrastructure support provided to startups, technical mentoring and assistance with funding opportunities. It also covers the capacity-building training sessions and networking events organized by the centre.

Hope this newsletter provides you with plenty of valuable information and encourages you to explore stories of startup resilience, transformative projects and collaborative endeavors that embody the spirit of innovation and progress in agriculture.

Best wishes to all the readers and happy reading!

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter from the AIC, UASB. We are happy to share our progress and initiatives designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector. At our Incubation Centre, we are committed to nurturing innovative ideas and supporting entrepreneurs, farmers, students, and researchers. Our goal is to provide the necessary resources, mentorship, and financial backing to help turn visionary concepts into successful agricultural ventures. One of our key achievements is the establishment of the BioNEST Agri Innovation Centre in 2021 with funding support from BIRAC, DBT, GoI and also by the DPIIT, GoI through the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, which allows us to offer financial aid to startups at various stages, from ideation to market entry.

As we continue to drive agricultural innovation, we invite all stakeholders to actively participate in our initiatives. Your engagement and support are vital as we work together to transform the agricultural landscape and create a sustainable future.

Coordinator Message



Dr. Veena S Anil
Professor & Coordinator
AIC UASB

ABOUT AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UASB), has established an Agri Innovation Centre (AIC) at the GKVK campus in Bangalore in 2017. This center is designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector and is a hub of creative ideas and initiatives. It caters to a wide range of individuals, including agriculture graduates, farmers, and anyone with innovative ideas related to agriculture and its allied fields.

The Agri Innovation Centre as an umbrella Centre has an Incubator supported by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under the BioNEST scheme since 2021 referred as "BioNEST Agri Innovation Centre". In a significant development, a section 8 company (a nonprofit entity) was established under the Companies Act of 2013 in 2021, as a component of the AIC and operating under the guidance of the esteemed Vice Chancellor of UASB. The Agri Innovation Center UASB, has received funding from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) through the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, enabling it to provide financial support to startups nationwide. This support spans various stages of their journey, including proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.

The primary focus of the Agri Innovation Centre at UASB is to empower entrepreneurs, rural youth, farmers, academics, and agricultural scientists with innovative ideas in the Agri and allied sectors. By embracing emerging technologies and initiating translational programs, the centre aims to develop tangible products that enhance the economic returns of the agriculture sector.

Services offered by the Agri Innovation Centre



Training



Seed funding



Mentorship



Incubation facility



Networking

NOVELTY OF THE CENTER

Knowledge Centre

Disseminates information on commercializable technologies from UASB, other SAUs, and ICAR Institutes through a comprehensive database accessible to the public via the BioNEST AIC, UASB website.

Biological Material Repository

Preserves & Stores genetic resources for research and breeding, ensures easy access, maintains diversity, supports commercial use, and fosters collaboration among departments, SAUs, ICAR institutes, Universities and start-ups.

IMPACT OF AIC, UASB

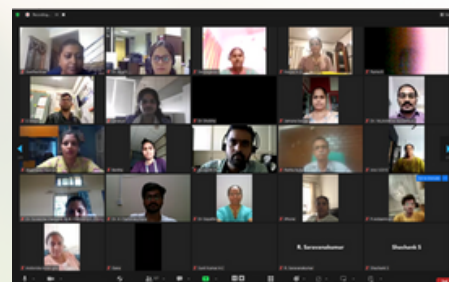
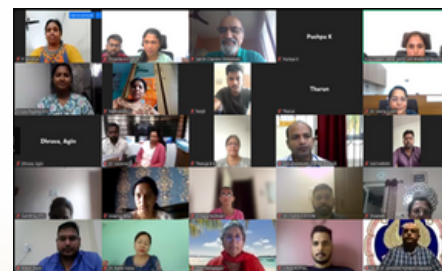


EVENTS ORGANIZED BY AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE

ENSURING COMPLIANCE: ROLE OF FSSAI IN SMALL FOOD ENTERPRISES

Agri Innovation Centre at UASB in association with Food Safety Works, Bengaluru, conducted a one-day online workshop titled “Ensuring Compliance: Role of FSSAI in Small Food Enterprises” on July 30, 2024. The event was inaugurated by Mr. K S Narayana Swamy, MD of Bangalore Management Association along with Dr. Veena S Anil, Coordinator of AIC UASB.

The workshop equipped small food enterprises with essential knowledge and tools for complying with FSSAI regulations, thereby ensuring food safety, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing business reputation. Key topics included FSSAI registration, licensing regulations, packaging and labelling requirements, and penalties for non-compliance. The event attracted about 150 registered participants, providing them with valuable insights into FSSAI regulations.



THE INNOVATIVE STARTUPS IN AGRICULTURE



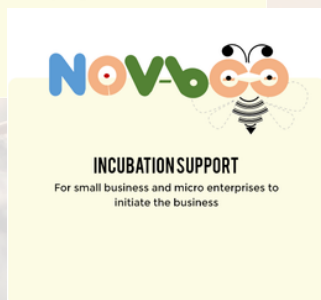
As part of UASB Science Week, the Directorate of Post Graduate Studies and Agri Innovation Centre have jointly organized the '**Innovative Startups in Agriculture**' competition. The event features expert talks, interactions with agri-startups, and a platform for undergraduate and postgraduate students from all UASB campuses to showcase their innovative ideas and solutions in agriculture. The aim of this competition is to inspire and to encourage innovative thinking & Entrepreneurship among students. As a follow-up, BioNEST, Agri Innovation Centre, awards an incentive to the top four winning teams annually for prototype development and validation of their ideas. This incentive has supported students in transforming their ideas into Prototypes & Products.

BEST STUDENT INNOVATIVE IDEA 2024



Ms. GSNVL Alekya, and her team members, Rohini N, Ruchitha M, Gayathri G P, students of M.Sc.(Agri.) from the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, V. C Farm, Mandya, presented a concept titled “Banana Scutcher Nutri Mats: A Natural Bio-Mulch for Urban Horticulture” under the guidance of Dr. Suma R. and secured First Place in the Innovative Startups in Agriculture competition 2024, jointly organized by Directorate of Post graduate studies and Agri innovation Center during PG Science Week 2024. This innovative concept of waste to wealth impressed the external jury members and is considered as the **Best Student Innovative Idea 2024 & honored during UASB 60th Foundation day.**

OUTREACH PROGRAM ON NUZEN AND NOVABEE SCHEME FOR STUDENT INNOVATORS



An outreach program on the NU-ZEN and NOVABEE GoI schemes was conducted in collaboration with NaaViC, NIVEDI's Agri-Business Incubation Center & Agri Innovation Centre, UASB to raise awareness among undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students of UASB about the initiatives of RAFTAR schemes for Student Innovations. The schemes offer a grant-in-aid of ₹4 lakhs, providing entrepreneurial and incubation support to aspiring student innovators aiming to start their own businesses, 150 students from UASB & Sub campuses attended the programme and explored the student innovation funding opportunities.

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURE SUMMIT 2024

Participated in the Karnataka State Agriculture Summit 2024 on 25th September 2024 at Taj West End, Bengaluru organised by Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture. The program was inaugurated by the Honorable Agriculture Minister of Karnataka, Shri N. Chaluvaryaswami. A key highlight of the event was the panel discussion on Agribusiness and Investment Opportunities in Karnataka.



INNOVATE X, EMPOWERING INCUBATORS- GATEWAY TO GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES CONCLAVE



INNOVATE X, organized by GINSERV, provided a comprehensive exploration of the innovation and incubation ecosystem, emphasizing collaboration, sustainability, and equity. The event featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, fostering dialogue on the future of incubation and global opportunities for startups. Discussions throughout the event focused on collaboration between incubators, investors, and policymakers, equity-driven sustainability models, and the integration of global resources to support startups. Insights on digital transformation and remote incubation were also shared.

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE

GLOBAL BIO INDIA ROADSHOW-2024 “DECODING INVESTMENT SUCCESS; CRITICAL FACTORS, VCS & ANGEL INVESTORS CONSIDER IN FUNDING AGRI STARTUPS”



The Global Bio India Road Show, organized by BioNEST Agri Innovation Center at UASB, was inaugurated by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice Chancellor of UASB. In his opening address, Dr. Suresha emphasized the importance of funding in agriculture, urging startups to focus on societal impact alongside business expansion, which would ultimately drive returns on investment.

Dr. Arshi Mehaboob, Senior Manager at BIRAC, provided an overview of BIRAC's initiatives and funding schemes available for startups and students. She also highlighted the significance of Global Bio India 2024 and its theme. K.S. Narayana Swamy, President of the Bangalore Management Association, stressed the importance of securing funding for biotechnology startups. Dr. Veena S Anil, Coordinator of the Agri Innovation Center at UASB, discussed the center's incubation activities, revealing that it has supported over 60 Agri-startups, created more than 500 jobs, and contributed to 7 patents. She showcased the center's dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture.

Mr. Sachin Nandwana, Co-Founder and Director of BigHaat, shared insights into the challenges agricultural startups face and the funding opportunities available to them. He also discussed BigHaat's own journey. Mr. Abhilash Sethi from Omnivore, a venture capital firm, elaborated on the critical criteria investors use when evaluating agri-startups. The event also included an interactive session with Mr. Nagaraja Prakasham, an angel investor, who discussed the factors influencing investment decisions in the agricultural sector.

The program witnessed active participation from approximately 150 attendees, fostering a robust discussion on funding, innovation, and investment opportunities in the agricultural startup ecosystem.

VISITS

VISIT OF AFRICAN DELEGATES



The African delegates, accompanied by officials of BIRAC, GoI had an enriching interaction with startups at the Agri Innovation Centre, UASB, where we showcased groundbreaking products and cutting-edge innovations developed by our entrepreneurial community. We also highlighted UASB's advancements in seed-based technologies, focusing on innovations that enhance yield potential, disease resistance, and climate resilience, demonstrating our dedication to advancing seed science for sustainable agriculture. The delegates interacted with startups and gained valuable insights. Dr. Veena S. Anil and the AIC team, Dr. H. S. Shivaramu Directorate of Research, UASB, Dr. Vishwanatha Kote, and Dr. Timmegowda also interacted with the delegates.

VISIT OF SIDDAGANGA INNOVATION FOUNDATION TRAINEES

A group of enthusiastic trainees from Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumkur visited the Agri Innovation Centre (AIC) for an insightful session. They engaged in an engaging and productive discussion with Dr. Veena S. Anil and the AIC team about the center's diverse activities and its pivotal role in fostering agricultural innovation. The conversation highlighted the various funding opportunities available for agricultural start-ups through government initiatives, providing the trainees with a clearer understanding of how to access and leverage these resources. Additionally, the team explored on the state-of-the-art facilities available at the center, emphasizing how these resources could be utilized to support and accelerate the growth of start-ups.



STARTUPS SPOTLIGHT- INCUBATION PROGRAMME



PANTERAA AGRISCIENCE

Screening for potential bacterial siderophores and their role in fungicidal activity

MYCOCARP BIOLOGICAL PVT. LTD.

Development of an improved Solid-State Fermentation Technology for large-scale augmentation of Bio-pesticides and Bio-fertilizers and Bio-Pesticides Formulations technology for higher shelf life



STARTUP SUCCESS STORIES



ENLIGHT AGRO TECH PVT LTD

Founders: Hardick G Raja and Nikunj G Raja.



Enlight Agrotech India Pvt. Ltd. is a Bangalore-based company at the forefront of innovation in the agri-input sector. Established in 2023, our journey began with the successful validation of our products, Agrolizer™ and Agrosmile™, through extensive research conducted at IISR-ICAR, Kozhikode, and the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKV, Bangalore, between 2016 and 2024.

In 2024, we proudly joined the Agri-Innovation Centre, UASB, to further refine our technology and prepare for its national and global commercialization. Our solutions are designed to revolutionize agriculture by enhancing the photosynthetic activity of plants, leading to increased production of vital hormones such as auxin and cytokinin. This results in improved physiological traits, including robust root biomass, enhanced leaf area, higher chlorophyll content, and enriched nutrient and phenol profiles. These improvements translate into superior yield quality and quantity.

Products are 100% eco-friendly, leaving no toxic residues and having no adverse impact soil microbial activity. Backed by comprehensive research from premier agricultural institutions and testimonials by over 1,000 farmers across South India, our solutions have proven effective in a variety of crops, including cardamom, black pepper, arecanut, banana, tomato, and other vegetables.

At Enlight Agrotech, we believe in empowering farmers by simplifying agriculture and increasing their incomes through higher yields and better quality at an affordable investment. Together, we are paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous future in agriculture.



FACILITIES OFFERED BY BIONEST AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE



Common Instrumentation Labs (1, 2 & 3)



Coworking Space



Individual office cabins



Tissue Culture Lab



Cold Room Facility



Food Packaging Facility



Green house Facility



Mist Chamber

FOCUS AREA OF AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE



Farm Mechanization



Biofuel



**Biofertilizers and
Biopesticides**



Seed production



Tissue culture



Secondary agriculture



**Biotechnology for crop
improvement**



Hydroponics



Value addition



Digital Agriculture



Nanotechnology



supply chain management

INCUBATEES OF AGRI INNOVATION CENTER ,UASB



COLLABORATORS



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