



Agri Innovation Centre, UASB

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore



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UAS-B/NL/2025/GKVK/USN-019-07

Newsletter of AIC, UASB

>>> Quarterly Newsletter <<< Volume - 7 (October to December 2025)



TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

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Techniques of Plant
Tissue Culture and
Entrepreneurship
Opportunities

The program aimed to build scientific and entrepreneurial competency in plant tissue culture. Participants gained practical exposure to lab setup, sterilization, media preparation, explant inoculation, subculturing, and callus regeneration techniques.

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KrishiVitta- Agri Startup
Investor Meet (Demo Day)

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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 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 of the AIC, 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 startups, innovations 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 Seventh edition of our newsletter from the AIC, UASB. We are delighted to share the latest updates from the Agri Innovation Centre (AIC), UASB, as we continue our mission to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector. Our Incubation Centre is dedicated to nurturing groundbreaking ideas and empowering entrepreneurs, farmers, students, and researchers.

At AIC, we provide the necessary infrastructure, mentorship, and funding support to help transform visionary concepts into impactful agri-based ventures. Our core vision is to create meaningful societal change by supporting grassroots innovations, advancing deep-tech solutions, and promoting women-led enterprises. To date, AIC, UASB has supported 79 startups, trained over 22,500 participants, and contributed to the creation of 1000+ employment opportunities through our incubated startups. As we continue to drive innovation in agriculture, we warmly invite all stakeholders to engage with us, collaborate, and contribute to building a sustainable, technology-driven future.

Message



Dr. Veena S. Anil
Professor & Coordinator
AIC, UASB

About Agri Innovation Centre



The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UASB), has established the Agri Innovation Centre (AIC) at the GKVK campus in Bengaluru 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 allied sectors.

The Agri Innovation Centre as an umbrella Centre has an Incubator that was supported by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) under the BioNEST scheme since 2021 referred to 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



Incubation facility



Seed funding



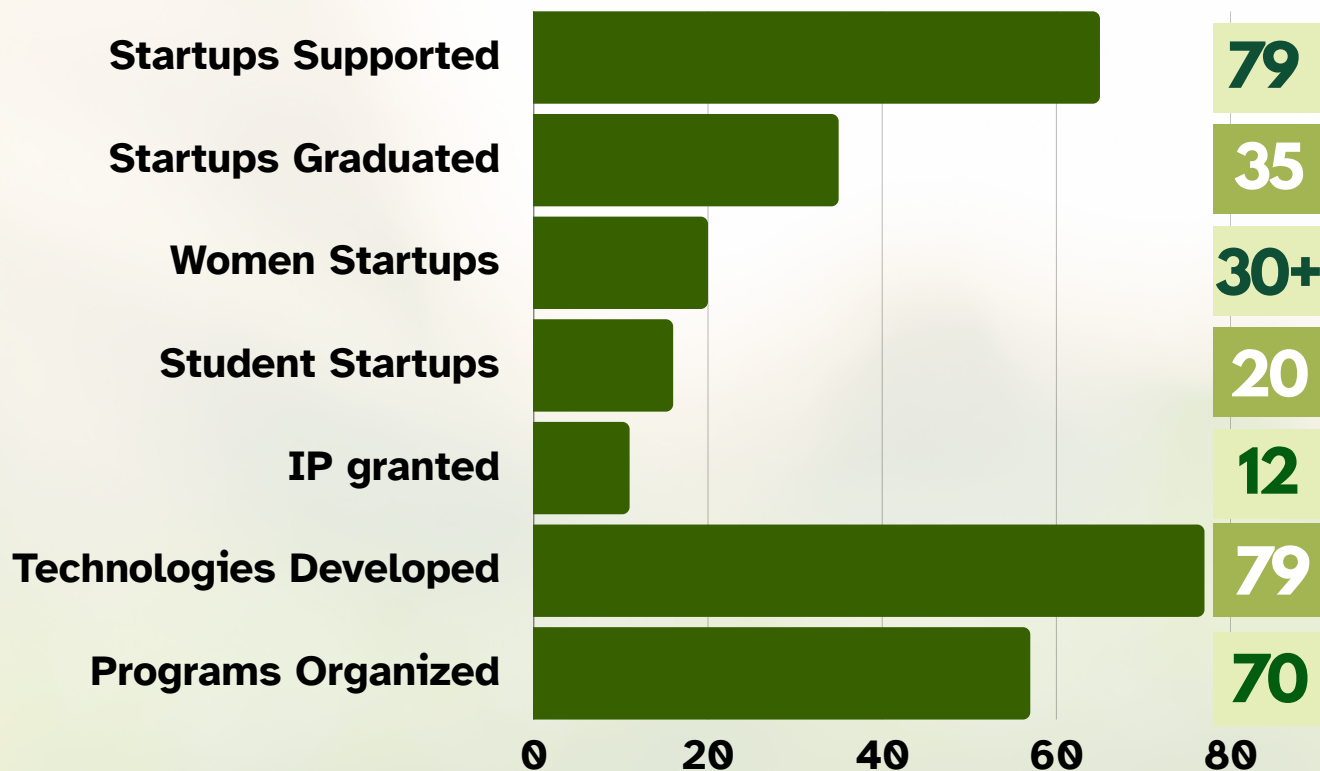
Mentorship



Networking

IMPACT OF AIC, UASB

● Impact of AIC



1,000+

Employment
generated



**Farmland Reached
5 lakh + Hectares**



22,500+ Participants
Trained



**Farmers Reached
9.23 lakh +**



150+
FPO's trained

3520 Lakhs
Fund raised



Training Program on Techniques of Plant Tissue Culture and Potential Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Agri Innovation Centre, UASB conducted a three-day Hands-on Training Program on **“Techniques of Plant Tissue Culture and Potential Entrepreneurship Opportunities”** from 28th to 30th October 2025.

The program aimed to build scientific and entrepreneurial competency in plant tissue culture. Participants gained practical exposure **to lab setup, sterilization, media preparation, explant inoculation, subculturing, and callus regeneration techniques.**

The program equipped participants with practical skills and scientific understanding of plant tissue culture, covering lab setup, sterilization, media preparation, and culture techniques. Participants gained hands-on experience in preparing stock solutions, MS media, explant inoculation, subculturing, and callus regeneration. The training also featured tissue culture applications in horticultural crops, exposure visits to Tissue Culture laboratory at Dept of Horticulture, UASB and Potato Tissue Culture Lab at Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Centre at UHSB sub campus GKVK and an interactive session with a startup showcasing entrepreneurial opportunities in the field.



Participants include startups and entrepreneurs from Karnataka and Maharashtra actively engaged in practical sessions, gaining hands-on expertise in media preparation, sterilization techniques, explant inoculation for callus and internode cultures and subculturing. The program fostered an interactive learning environment that combined scientific understanding with entrepreneurial insight.

The program concluded with insightful reflections by Dr. Veena S. Anil, Coordinator, AIC-UASB, and Dr. P. Venkatesha Murthy, Professor & University Head, Department of Horticulture, who encouraged participants to pursue entrepreneurship in plant tissue culture and contribute to the growth of the agri-biotech ecosystem.

Agri Innovation Centre, UASB at KrishiMela 2025

AIC, UASB actively participated in **KrishiMela 2025** from 13th to 16th November, 2025 showcasing a wide spectrum of innovations and entrepreneurial solutions emerging from incubation ecosystem. The participation highlighted AIC-UASB's continued commitment to promoting agri-innovation, technology adoption, and startup-driven solutions for the agriculture and allied sectors.

AIC, UASB stall featured several promising incubated agri-startups, each presenting impactful and market-relevant technologies. The participating startups included **Agri Botics System Pvt. Ltd., Maine Wellness LLP, Premium Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hydropour Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Susthira Organic LLP, QBIT Nutra Care Pvt. Ltd., Crop Solutions LLP, and NutriCrop Pvt. Ltd.** These startups demonstrated solutions spanning precision agriculture, farm automation, sustainable agricultural inputs, plant nutrition, and advanced seed technologies.

The stall served as an interactive knowledge hub where visitors were introduced to innovative agri-startup solutions, flagship incubation and acceleration programmes of AIC-UASB and inspiring success stories of incubated startups. Interactive discussions enabled meaningful



engagement with farmers, students, entrepreneurs, researchers, and other stakeholders, fostering awareness of entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture.

In addition, visitors were provided with exclusive information about *KrishiVitta* 2025 – Agri Startup Investor Meet program. The announcement generated significant interest and enthusiasm among startups and attendees seeking investment and networking opportunities.



Pitch Perfect- Investor Readiness Workshop



The Agri Innovation Centre, UASB in collaboration with Global Incubation Services (GINSERV) and the Atal Incubation Centre – Coffee Board of India (AIC-CCRI-CED), organised “KrishiVitta 2025” – an exclusive Agri Startup Investor Meet as part of the 60th Foundation Day celebrations of UASB. The initiative aims to strengthen investor-startup linkages and accelerate the growth of promising agri-entrepreneurs.

As a prelude to this flagship event, a **three-day Pre-Pitch Workshop** was conducted from 2nd to 4th December 2025, which concluded successfully with active participation of startups. The programme was supported by the Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, GoK.

The workshop brought together **30 agri-startups, who underwent intensive capacity-building masterclasses designed to enhance investor readiness, sharpen business narratives, and improve pitch effectiveness.** The sessions focused on aligning startup strategies with investor expectations and building confidence for high-stakes pitching platform.



Expert-led sessions covered key dimensions of startup preparedness, including financial readiness for investors by **Mr. Azhar Yakkundi, Arali Ventures**, structuring an effective 10-slide pitch deck by **Mr. Sanket Panda, BlueHill VC**, crafting compelling business stories by Dr. Jamuna Kenchegowda, go-to-market strategies by **Mr. Vikas Sunkad**, valuation, funding ask, and equity dilution by **ZEUS Consulting Pvt. Ltd**, and understanding the investor mindset by **Mr. Aditya Pandey, NextBharat VC**. These sessions provided practical insights and real-world perspectives which are crucial for early- and growth-stage agri-startups.



In addition to classroom learning, participants engaged in mock pitch sessions, question-and-answer practice, pitch deck reviews, and one-on-one mentoring. Startups received personalized feedback from mentors and experts associated with AIC-UASB, GINSERV, and AIC-CCRI-CED, enabling them to refine their pitches and strengthen their investment propositions.



The programme concluded with a valedictory session and certificate distribution, marking the successful completion of the Pre-Pitch Workshop. Overall, the initiative effectively laid a strong foundation for *Krishivitta 2025* – Agri Startup Investor Meet, held on 12th December 2025, where well-prepared and high-potential agri-startups have been selected to present their innovations to leading investors and ecosystem stakeholders.

KrishiVitta- Agri Startup Investor Meet (Demo Day)



Date: 12th December 2025

Venue: Seminar Hall-1, Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, UASB

As part of the 60th Foundation Day celebrations of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, the Agri Innovation Centre, UASB (AIC-UASB) organized **KrishiVitta 2025 – Agri Startup Investor Meet**, a dedicated Demo Day aimed at accelerating private investment into high-potential agri and allied sector startups. The event was conducted by AIC, UASB in collaboration with **Global Incubation Services (GINSERV)** and the **Atal Incubation Centre – Coffee Board of India**. The programme was supported by **Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, GoK** and **Sponsored by IDFC First Bank**.

KrishiVitta 2025 was conceived to address one of the most critical challenges faced by agri-startups—access to private capital. By creating a direct interface between startups and investors, the platform sought to bridge the investment gap and enable scalable, market-driven agricultural innovations.

The event was inaugurated by **Dr. S. V. Suresha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UASB**, who highlighted the importance of agri-innovation and private investment in driving rural prosperity. **Mr. C. B. Bala Reddy, Additional Director, Karnataka State Department of Agriculture**, emphasized government support for agri-startups through Department schemes and also need for the University to establish a vibrant startup-investor platform.

Dr. K. C. Narayanswamy, Registrar, UASB, underlined the role of private capital in scaling startups and retaining youth in agriculture. An overview of AIC-UASB's impact and objectives of *KrishiVitta* was presented by **Dr. Veena S. Anil, Professor & Head and Coordinator, AIC-UASB**. **Mr. Girish Hiremath, COO, GINSERV, Dr. Ramanjini Gowda, Former member of Board Management, UASB & Member, Executive Committee of AIC, UASB and Mr. K S Narayanaswamy, UASB, AIC Board Member** also graced the occasion.

The programme was conducted in three key phases.

Demo Day:

- The Investor Pitching Session featured **11 shortlisted agri-startups** presenting innovative solutions across crop nutrition, farm mechanization, SaaS platforms, climate-tech, renewable energy, vertical farming, e-commerce, and value-added food products to a panel of Seven investors Such as **Omnivore, Social Alpha, One Dev Mantra, Zeus Consulting and Angel Investor** like **Ms. Jamuna Kenche Gowda, Mr. Ajay Rungta and Mr. Gana Shyam**.



Technical Sessions:**a) Key Success Factors for Agri Founders- Scaling to Farmer Adoption**

Mr. Manoj Kumar, Founder, Capsber Global Agro Pvt. Ltd., shared practical insights from his entrepreneurial journey, emphasizing that successful agri startups are built on strong product validation, farmers trust, and scalable execution.



He highlighted the importance of a science-driven R&D foundation, support from incubation centres and State Agricultural Universities, and the role of government grants in de-risking innovation and enabling commercialization. He also spoke about building compliant systems, rural distribution networks, and resilient teams, inspiring founders to remain farmer-centric, adaptive, and persistent through challenges.

b) IDFC FIRST Bank – Startup Banking Solutions

Mr. Syed Khazi, Branch Manager, IDFC FIRST Bank, presented the Bank's FIRST Wings Startup Banking Solutions, a comprehensive and founder-friendly offering designed to support startups from early stage to growth. He outlined key features such as zero-balance

startup current accounts, free digital transactions, collateral-free working capital upto ₹5 crore, business credit cards, and cash management tools, along with ecosystem support through startup lounges, mentorship, and investor connect, enabling startups to focus on scaling sustainably.

**c) Branding & Packaging Solutions for Startups – HP India**

Ms. Sivaranjani from Spectacle (HP India) delivered an insightful session on how effective branding and scalable packaging can enhance market visibility and customer trust, especially for early-stage and agri-based startups. She emphasized packaging as a critical brand touchpoint and showcased HP India's digital printing solutions that enable high-quality, customizable, and cost-efficient packaging, helping startups seamlessly scale from pilot batches to bulk production while maintaining flexibility and consistent quality.

d) Safeguarding Product Authenticity and Preventing Counterfeits

Mr. Pradeep R, Founder, Saptamana Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., addressed the growing challenge of counterfeiting and brand misuse, highlighting the need to embed authenticity into products from the design stage.

He explained how technology-driven solutions such as secure QR codes, serialization, and traceability systems help startups protect products, engage consumers, and monitor supply chains.



The **Startup Expo** showcased 16 startups, including student-led ventures, offering a dynamic platform for product demonstration, networking, and market feedback. Exhibition stalls by AIC, UASB, GINSERV and AIC–Coffee Board of India further highlighted incubation and ecosystem support services.



KrishiVitta 2025 witnessed participation from over 500 stakeholders, including investors, startups, policymakers, academia and students.



Events attended by AIC & UASB Student teams

Deeksharambha – UG Student orientation programme

Dr. Veena S Anil provided an overview of the Centres mandate, key activities, success stories of incubated startups, the student incubation model, Mr. Sandeep D, Incubation Assistant highlighted on various grant schemes which support student-led innovations.

Adding practical insights, startup founders **Mr. Pranav (AgriBotics Systems Pvt. Ltd.)** and **Mr. Mallikarjun (Encure Farms LLP)** shared their entrepreneurial journeys, innovations, and highlighted the critical role of incubation centres in nurturing and scaling agri-startups.

National Agriculture Startup Expo, UAS, Dharwad

AIC, UASB actively participated in the **NASE Expo** held from 5th to 6th December 2025, organized by the **Krishik Agri Business Incubation Centre, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad**, held from 5th to 6th December 2025. The event served as a platform to showcase innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship in agriculture & allied sectors.

Startups incubated at AIC-UASB exhibited their products and technologies, demonstrating innovative solutions. **Dr. Veena S Anil, Prof & Head and Coordinator, AIC, UASB** and **Mr. Sandeep D**, Incubation Assistant participated in the event. In addition, students from UASB actively took part in the Student Hackathon organized during the Expo, where they showcased problem-solving and innovative Skills in



developing solutions for real-world agricultural issues. The two-day event brought together innovators, students, investors, academicians, and farmers, fostering knowledge exchange, networking and collaboration.

UASB students participated at AIU ANVESHAN 2025

A students from UASB participated in ANVESHAN 2025, a Zonal-level Student Research and Innovation Competition organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by VIT-AP University, Andhra Pradesh, held from 17th to 18th December, 2025. The participants were accompanied by **Dr. Darshan M. B.**, Associate Professor (Agricultural Engineering – Post-Harvest Technology), ICAR-AICRP on PHET, UASB.

In total, six student teams from UASB took part in the competition, showcasing their research and innovation across various disciplines. The students delivered an outstanding performance, wherein **Mr. Pavan Krishna secured First Prize** in the **Agricultural Sciences category**



and **Ms.Ponnamma D.T. & team** secured **Second Prize** in the **Social Sciences** category. The achievements reflect the strong research culture and innovation ecosystem that is fostered at UASB.

Visits to AIC, UASB:

FTI trainees Visited AIC, UASB

The Farmers Training Institute (FTI), UASB organized a three-day advanced training programme on **“Millets Processing and ValueAddition”** for 27 participants, including farmers, FPO representative, and entrepreneurs.

As part of the programme, the participants visited the AIC, UASB on 15th October, 2025. During the visit, **Ms. Priyanka S., Operational Manager, AIC-UASB**, briefed the participants on the activities of the incubation centre and highlighted the support extended to millet-based entrepreneurs, including packaging facilities, mentorship, and incubation support.

She also shared success stories of millet-based startups nurtured by the centre. The visit concluded with an interactive session, followed by a guided facility tour of AIC-UASB, providing participants with firsthand exposure to the startup ecosystem and innovation infrastructure.



Students from East Point Engineering College Visit AIC, UASB

AIC, UASB host a vibrant group of **110 students** from East Point of Engineering College, Bangalore on **14th October 2025**. The visit began with an introduction by Ms. Priyanka, Operational Manager, who familiarized the students with the vision and activities of the Centre, emphasizing its role in driving agricultural innovations and showcasing the incubation facilities available for startups. This was followed by an engaging session with **Ms. Nandini C. L., CEO, AIC, UASB** highlighted the mandates, activities, flagship programmes, Incubation models and student-focused funding schemes offered by the government.



The interactive session encouraged students to explore their entrepreneurial potential, with many showing keen interest in understanding how technology can be aligned with agriculture, biotechnology, and innovation-driven entrepreneurship. It was truly inspiring to engage with such an enthusiastic group of future innovators who are eager to contribute to shaping the future of agriculture through science and entrepreneurship.

IBT & VA participants visit to AIC, UASB

As part of the **Fourteen-Week Certificate Course on Bakery Technology**, a group of **24 trainees from the Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition**, Directorate of Extension, UASB, visited AIC, UASB on 27th November, 2025 to gain exposure to the innovation ecosystem in agriculture, food science, and nutrition.

The session was led by Mr. Sandeep D., Incubation Assistant, AIC, UASB, who provided an insightful overview of the centre's activities. He explained the different models of incubation, the range of training programmes, student incubation initiatives, and the comprehensive support extended to startups, including access to funding schemes, infrastructure, and mentoring. He also highlighted inspiring success stories of startups nurtured at the centre.



Following the orientation session, the participants were taken on a guided facility tour to the incubation centre, where they had the opportunity to observe the infrastructure, laboratories, and support systems made available to startups.

Meeting organised by AIC, UASB

Executive Committee meeting- Incubation programme

The Executive Committee Meeting was held on 26th November, 2025 to evaluate and select new startups for incubation programme.

The meeting began with a welcome address by **Dr. Veena S. Anil**, Co-ordinator, AIC UASB, who also provided an overview of the proceedings from the previous committee meeting. The meeting was chaired by **Dr. K. Madhusudan, Dean (PGS)** and attended by **Dr. P. H. Ramanjini Gowda**, Retired Professor & former member of Board of Management UASB, and **Dr. Chikkalingaiah, ADR, UASB**, along with other faculty members who also serve as mentors to the incubated startups.



The committee formally confirmed the minutes of the earlier meeting before proceeding to review the new applications. Three startups presented their innovative ideas across various domains, including Biofertilizers & Sericulture based innovations.

Startups Onboarding for the Incubation Programme



Nutricorp Agri. Pvt. Ltd

Biochar-Enhanced Biofertilizers
for Sustainable Agriculture"



MiANE Wellness LLP

Herbal Innovations for Sustainable
Beauty and Wellness

STARTUP SPOTLIGHT

OxonEx Biological Pvt Ltd

From Nature to Next-Gen Biotechnology: The OxonEx Story

Founded in 2022 in Bengaluru, **OxonEx (Oxonex Biological Private Limited)** is redefining biotechnology through a sustainability-first approach, bridging nature's biological resources with modern scientific innovation to meet the growing demand for plant-based solutions.

Beyond the laboratory, OxonEx has expanded into sustainability-driven applications with SipPro, a plant-based hydration beverage, and **IRRI-SAVER®**, a **patented microbial biofertilizer** developed to address water scarcity in agriculture. Designed for rainfed and drought-prone regions, IRRI-SAVER® enhances drought resilience, improves water-use efficiency, and supports healthier crop growth.

Validated through field trials with academic and government partners and tested in accredited government laboratories, **IRRI-SAVER®** has proven its safety, efficacy, and adaptability across diverse soils and climates. Supported by the **Agri Innovation Centre, UASB**, and protected by patent, it has attracted strong interest from leading sustainable agriculture companies.

For farmers, IRRI-SAVER® delivers tangible benefits, including stronger roots, improved biomass, efficient nutrient and water uptake, and more stable yields under erratic rainfall.

Today, OxonEx continues to grow with a diverse user base spanning researchers, universities, pharmaceutical companies, farmers and biotech industries.



Our Products



Facilities at Agri Innovation Centre (AIC, UASB)



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



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