भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
Department of Fisheries

AquaReach

Aquapreneurship Acceleration Program

Hands-on training to help households start aquaculture income models

Organized by

MANAGE - FISHub

In collaboration with

Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU)

College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur

09-07-2026

MANAGE

The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India is an apex body for Agricultural Extension Management in India. MANAGE offers services like Capacity building, Management Education, Piloting and Implementing Flagship National Schemes, Consultancy, Research, Knowledge Management and Policy Advocacy in Agricultural Extension Management (https://www.manage.gov.in).

MANAGE-FISHub

MANAGE-Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE-FISHub) is a national-level incubation and innovation platform established at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, in 2025 with the support of the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India. MANAGE-FISHub aims to transform India's fisheries and aquaculture sector through innovation, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem development by mentoring and promoting fisheries startups, creating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities aligned with national priorities, and enabling the rapid commercialization of technologies emerging from research, academia, and individual innovators.

Our Focus Areas

(https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/)

Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU)

The Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University was established through the notification dated November 17 , 2000 under the State Act No. 1998 (Mah. XVII of 1998) on 3rd December 2000 at Nagpur. The University was carved out of the four Agricultural Universities in the State by transferring five Veterinary Colleges, one Post Graduate Veterinary Institute and one Dairy Technology College. Subsequently, University established two Fishery Colleges, one Dairy Technology College, one Wild Life Research and Training Centre. Our mission is to ensure enlightenment and empowerment of students by imparting advanced knowledge in the fields of animal, dairy and fishery sciences by adopting innovative, efficient and effective strategies.

College of Fishery Science, Nagpur was established on 16th October, 2006 with an aim to create qualified and trained manpower in the field of Fisheries. Our department is providing efficient technical and professional man power for the field of Fishing Technology and Fisheries Engineering. More specifically the college will provide quality education in core and emerging disciplines of fisheries science and will conduct strategic, applied and operational research in fisheries, aquaculture and related science. (https://www.mafsu.ac.in)

Objectives

Objectives

To produce knowledge bearing man power in the field of Veterinary, Animal Science, Dairy Technology & Fishery Science

To develop extension methodologies modules & address policy issues in respect of animal health & productivity, service delivery in the state of Maharashtra.

To play a role of think tank for the department of animal husbandry, dairy development & fisheries to assist in policies monitoring and impact analysis.

About the Program

The AquaReach program is an initiative by MANAGE- FISHub for district-level aquapreneurship acceleration. The program to create practical, income-generating models that households can adopt immediately after training. Under this program, each month one district in one state will be selected for a focused hands-on training session.

Objectives of the program

- To create multiple income streams within limited house-hold resources
- To build community based micro enterprise units
- To build aquapreneurs in each district through hands on practical demonstration

1st Day: Offline Training
7th Day: First Follow Up (Online) on Pre incubation and Incubation Registration
15th Day: Second Follow Up (Online)
30th Day: Final Follow Up (Online)

Who Can Attend?

Farmers

FFPO and Cooperatives

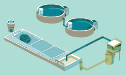
Students

Youth

SHGs

Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Focus Areas



Aquaculture Mechanisation & Innovation

AI & IOT in Fisheries

Waste to Wealth

Biotechnology & Genetics

Integrated & Secondary Aquaculture

Blockchain Technology

Fisheries Extension & Advisory

Post-Harvest & Cold chain innovations

Fisheries Inputs & Feed Technology

Other Innovations in Fisheries & Aquaculture

Key Takeaways

Hands-On Skills

Learn practical, low-cost aquaculture models that can be started immediately at the household level.

Multiple Income Streams

Understand income diversification strategies using fish, vegetables, poultry, floriculture, and waste-to-wealth techniques.

Build Network

Build connections with community networks, SHGs, youths, and local market linkages to support micro-enterprise growth.

Ongoing Mentorship & Support

Become part of a district-level aquapreneur community, supported by MANAGE–FISHub's month-long follow-up system.

Program Background

As part of its commitment to promoting fisheries entrepreneurship through experiential learning, MANAGE-FISHub, in collaboration with the College of Fishery Science, Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU), Nagpur, organized the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme on 09 July 2026 at the College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur. The programme was designed to provide participants with practical exposure to scientific aquaculture practices while fostering entrepreneurial skills and promoting sustainable fisheries-based enterprises.

The organising team for the programme comprised members from both institutions. From MANAGE, the team included Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE & CEO, MANAGE-FISHub, Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub. From the College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, the organising team included Dr. Prashant Telvekar and Dr. Sandip Gore, who coordinated the programme and facilitated its successful execution.

Prior to the programme, the registration link was widely circulated through MANAGE-FISHub and MAFSU social media platforms and institutional networks to reach fish farmers, aspiring entrepreneurs, fisheries students, and other stakeholders. The programme schedule was carefully designed to include an inaugural session, a guided farm visit, practical demonstrations, technical sessions by domain experts, interactive discussions, and a valedictory session.

The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen participants' practical knowledge of aquaculture technologies, promote scientific fish farming practices, and encourage entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector through hands-on learning and expert interaction. The programme also aimed to connect participants with successful professionals, government officials, and technical experts, enabling them to explore emerging business opportunities and government support mechanisms available in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

A total of 60 participants registered for the programme, and all 60 participants attended the event. The participants comprised 35 fish farmers, 10 aspiring entrepreneurs, 10 students, and 5 government officials, representing diverse stakeholders from the fisheries ecosystem. Their active participation and enthusiastic engagement throughout the programme reflected the growing interest in aquapreneurship, innovation, and scientific aquaculture practices, contributing to the overall success of the AquaReach programme.

Inaugural session

The AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow, MANAGE-FISHub, who welcomed the dignitaries, resource persons, fish farmers, aspiring entrepreneurs, students, faculty members, and participants to the programme jointly organized by MANAGE-FISHub in collaboration with the College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur. She highlighted the objectives of AquaReach, emphasizing its focus on providing practical exposure, strengthening entrepreneurial competencies, and promoting sustainable fisheries-based enterprises through experiential learning. She encouraged participants to actively engage in the sessions and make the best use of the practical demonstrations and expert interactions offered during the programme.

Dr. Prashant Telvekar, Associate Dean, College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, delivered the inaugural remarks and extended a warm welcome to all participants. He appreciated MANAGE-FISHub for collaborating with MAFSU to organize the AquaReach programme and emphasized the importance of bridging scientific knowledge with practical field applications. He encouraged participants to utilize the programme as an opportunity to enhance their technical knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and understanding of emerging opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Dr. Sandip Gore and Dr. Shailendra Relekar, Professor, College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, whose presence added value to the programme and reflected the institution's commitment to promoting fisheries entrepreneurship and practical skill development among students, fish farmers, and aspiring aquapreneurs.

Farm Visit

Following the inaugural session, participants were taken on a guided farm visit at the College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, where they were introduced to the institution's aquaculture facilities and practical fish farming operations. The visit provided participants with first-hand exposure to scientific aquaculture practices and the infrastructure used for fish seed production and pond-based culture.

During the visit, the faculty and technical experts demonstrated various aquaculture systems, pond management practices, and hatchery operations while explaining the importance of scientific management in achieving higher productivity and profitability. Participants actively interacted with the experts, clarified their field-level queries, and observed practical techniques relevant to commercial aquaculture.

The farm visit served as an experiential learning component of the AquaReach programme, enabling participants to bridge theoretical concepts with practical applications while motivating them to adopt scientific and entrepreneurial approaches in fisheries and aquaculture.

Training Session

Fish Seed Handling & Acclimatization Demonstration

Following the farm visit, a practical demonstration on Fish Seed Handling and Acclimatization was conducted by Shri A. K. Kulkarni. The session emphasized the importance of proper seed handling techniques in ensuring better survival, growth, and productivity in aquaculture.

He demonstrated the correct procedures for transporting, handling, and acclimatizing fish seed before stocking into culture ponds. Participants learned about gradual temperature adjustment, water quality matching, stocking precautions, and stress reduction techniques that help minimize seed mortality.

The demonstration also highlighted common mistakes during seed transportation and stocking, along with practical recommendations for maintaining healthy fish seed. The hands-on session enabled participants to understand the significance of scientific seed management practices in achieving successful fish farming.

Training Session

Pond Preparation for Scientific Aquaculture

Shri Yoghan Waghmare a progressive farmer delivered an informative technical session on Pond Preparation for Scientific Aquaculture, emphasizing that proper pond preparation forms the foundation of successful fish farming.

He explained the essential steps involved in preparing culture ponds, including pond cleaning, removal of unwanted aquatic weeds and predatory organisms, liming, fertilization, water quality management, and maintaining optimum pond conditions before stocking fish seed. He also discussed the importance of maintaining appropriate water depth, pond hygiene, and biosecurity measures to reduce disease incidence and improve production efficiency.

The session provided participants with practical knowledge on scientific pond management practices, enabling them to establish healthy culture environments that support better fish growth, survival, and profitability.

Training Session

Mr. Vikram Deshmukh, Founder of Aus Tech Industries, delivered an insightful session on "Fish Processing: Opportunities, Technologies and Value Addition." He highlighted the growing importance of post-harvest management and value addition in enhancing the profitability and sustainability of fisheries enterprises. He explained that fish processing not only helps reduce post-harvest losses but also enables entrepreneurs to access premium markets through the production of hygienic, high-quality, and value-added fish products.

During the session, he discussed various fish processing techniques, including cleaning, grading, preservation, packaging, and cold chain management, emphasizing the importance of maintaining quality standards and food safety throughout the processing chain. He also introduced participants to modern processing equipment and technologies that improve efficiency and product shelf life.

Mr. Deshmukh shared practical examples of successful fish processing enterprises and highlighted the increasing consumer demand for ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat seafood products. He encouraged participants to explore opportunities in fish processing, branding, and marketing as profitable business ventures. The session provided valuable insights into establishing small-scale processing units and inspired participants to consider value addition as a means of enhancing income and creating sustainable fisheries enterprises.

"Value addition transforms fish from a commodity into a premium product, creating greater opportunities for entrepreneurs."
– Mr. Vikram Deshmukh

Training Session

Integrated Fish Farming Models

Shri S. Shelke delivered an informative session on "Integrated Fish Farming Models," highlighting the advantages of integrating aquaculture with agriculture and allied farming activities to maximize resource utilization and farm income. He explained that integrated farming systems promote sustainability by efficiently utilizing available land, water, nutrients, and agricultural by-products.

The session showcased different integrated farming models involving fish culture combined with poultry, duck rearing, livestock, horticulture, and crop cultivation. He explained how waste generated from one farming component can be effectively utilized as an input for another, thereby reducing production costs and improving overall resource efficiency.

Shri Shelke also discussed the economic and environmental benefits of integrated farming, including diversified income sources, reduced production risks, improved soil fertility, and year-round employment opportunities. By sharing successful field examples and practical experiences, he encouraged participants to adopt integrated farming systems suited to their local conditions and available resources. The session broadened participants' understanding of sustainable aquaculture and demonstrated how integrated approaches can contribute to resilient and profitable fisheries enterprises.

"Integrated farming is the key to maximizing resources, reducing risks, and ensuring sustainable farm income."
– Shri S. Shelke

Training Session

Building an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Aquapreneurial Success

Mr. Sameer Parvez delivered an inspiring motivational session on "Building an Entrepreneurial Mindset for Aquapreneurial Success." Drawing upon his extensive experience in the fisheries sector, he emphasized that entrepreneurial success depends not only on technical knowledge but also on vision, perseverance, innovation, and continuous learning.

He encouraged participants to identify opportunities across the fisheries value chain, develop confidence in decision-making, embrace calculated risks, and cultivate leadership qualities essential for business growth. He also discussed the importance of understanding market demand, customer preferences, financial planning, and networking in building successful fisheries enterprises.

Through practical examples and real-life experiences, Mr. Parvez motivated participants to transform challenges into opportunities and view fisheries as a dynamic business sector with immense potential for innovation and employment generation. The interactive session inspired fish farmers, students, and aspiring entrepreneurs to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and confidently pursue sustainable aquaculture ventures.

"Entrepreneurship begins with a mindset that turns challenges into opportunities and ideas into successful enterprises."
– Mr. Sameer Parvez

Training Session

Fisheries Entrepreneurship Opportunities, PMMSY Schemes and Startup Support Mechanisms

Mr. Ankit Vaidhya delivered an informative session on "Fisheries Entrepreneurship Opportunities, PMMSY Schemes and Startup Support Mechanisms." He highlighted the vast entrepreneurial opportunities available in aquaculture, ornamental fisheries, fish processing, seed production, feed manufacturing, and allied fisheries enterprises.

He provided a detailed overview of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and explained the various financial assistance schemes, subsidies, and institutional support mechanisms available to fish farmers, entrepreneurs, and startups. The session covered eligibility criteria, project preparation, application procedures, credit linkage, and the role of the Department of Fisheries in promoting entrepreneurship.

Mr. Vaidhya also emphasized the importance of utilizing government initiatives to establish sustainable fisheries enterprises and encouraged participants to take advantage of incubation support, technical guidance, and financial assistance available through various agencies. The session enabled participants to gain a clear understanding of government support systems and motivated them to convert innovative ideas into successful fisheries-based enterprises.

"Government support becomes truly valuable when entrepreneurs are prepared to turn opportunities into action."
– Mr. Ankit Vaidhya

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session marked the successful conclusion of the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme. The session was graced by Dr. Prashant Telvekar, Associate Dean, College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, along with Dr. Sandip Gore and Dr. Shailendra Relekar, Professor, College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur. The dignitaries appreciated the collaborative efforts of MANAGE-FISHub and MAFSU in organizing a practical, entrepreneurship-oriented programme for fish farmers, students, and aspiring aquapreneurs.

As part of the valedictory programme, Dr. Nivedha C. K., Innovation Research Fellow and Programme Coordinator, MANAGE-FISHub, presented the programme report, highlighting the objectives of AquaReach, participant profile, key technical sessions, practical demonstrations, and the overall outcomes of the programme. She also summarized the enthusiastic participation and engagement of fish farmers, students, entrepreneurs, and government officials throughout the day's activities.

"The true impact of training lies in applying knowledge to build sustainable fisheries enterprises."
– Dr. Prashant Telvekar

Valedictory Session

The dignitaries commended the active involvement of the participants and emphasized the importance of translating the knowledge and practical skills gained during the programme into successful fisheries enterprises. They encouraged the participants to adopt scientific aquaculture practices, explore entrepreneurial opportunities, and effectively utilize the institutional and government support available for the fisheries sector.

Dr. Nivedha C. K. also proposed the vote of thanks, expressing her sincere gratitude to the dignitaries, resource persons, participants, faculty members, and the organizing team for their invaluable support in making the programme a success. She extended special appreciation to the faculty and staff of the College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, for their excellent coordination and hospitality, and thanked all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and active participation throughout the programme.

The Certificate Distribution Ceremony followed the valedictory session, during which certificates were presented to all participants in recognition of their active participation and successful completion of the AquaReach – Aquapreneurship Acceleration Programme. The certificates were distributed by Dr. Prashant Telvekar, Associate Dean, College of Fishery Science, MAFSU, Nagpur, in the presence of Dr. Sandip Gore, Dr. Shailendra Relekar, and the organizing team from MANAGE-FISHub. The ceremony marked the formal conclusion of the programme and encouraged participants to apply the knowledge and skills acquired towards building sustainable and innovative fisheries enterprises.

Organising Team

Dr. Saravanan Raj
Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE &
CEO, MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
ceomfishub@gmail.com

Dr. Niteen Patil
Hon. Vice Chancellor
Maharashtra Animal and Fishery
Sciences University (MAFSU), Nagpur

Dr. Raahalya S.
Innovation Scaling Specialist
MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
sandipamuraahalya@gmail.com

Dr. Sachin W. Bonde
Dean
College of Fishery Science
MAFSU, Nagpur

Dr. Nivedha C K
Innovation Research Fellow
MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
nivedhanive05407@gmail.com

Dr. P. A. Telvekar
Associate Dean
College of Fishery Science
MAFSU, Nagpur
adcofsngp@mafsu.ac.in

Mr. R. Kishore Kumar
MANAGE Intern & Ph.D. Scholar
MANAGE-FISHub
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
mfishubstakeholdersmeet@gmail.com
9182560207

Dr. Sandip B. Gore
Professor
College of Fishery Science
MAFSU, Nagpur
sandipgore@mafsu.ac.in

Dr. Sachin W. Belsare
Associate Professor
College of Fishery Science
MAFSU, Nagpur
sachinbelsare@mafsu.ac.in

Dr. Satyajit S. Belsare
Professor
College of Fishery Science
MAFSU, Nagpur
satyajitbelsare@mafsu.ac.in

MANAGE Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE - FISHub)
(A National Fisheries Incubation Centre Supported by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030, Telangana, India
https://www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/

MANAGE FISHub | MANAGE FISHub | managefishub | MANAGE-FISHub | MANAGE-FISHub