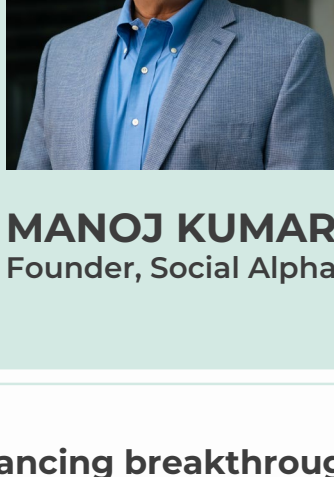


At Social Alpha, we are in the middle of a great experiment, and everything will remain a work-in-progress.

INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS



MANOJ KUMAR
Founder, Social Alpha

Historically, innovators in the climate, health and livelihoods space have been underfunded, discouraging entrepreneurial risk-taking in the development sector. Several reasons contribute to this market failure, including the absence of an empathetic impact-first investment playbook. There is a need to build an ecosystem that can address the challenges of market failure, mission drift, suboptimal scale and financial sustainability encountered by innovators throughout their entrepreneurial journey.

Advancing breakthrough innovations could solve some of humanity's most challenging problems; however, taking them from lab to market to communities requires a new approach.

Successful deep science ventures combine multiple talents (including scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs) to solve problems. Breakthrough innovations necessitate the fusion of cutting-edge scientific expertise, robust engineering capabilities, and creative design thinking. The synergy between these three pillars propels revolutionary ideas from conception to impactful reality, solving complex challenges and shaping the future of technology and society.

The emergence of frontier technologies and new materials can lead to innovations that can help address previously unsolvable problems at a large scale. We are already seeing a convergence between the physical, digital, and biological worlds with advances in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing, genetic engineering, quantum computing, and other technologies. The impact potential of these technologies is immense and open to human imagination.

Impact-focused deep tech start-ups addressing problems like climate change and healthcare, often work on breakthrough technologies such as energy storage, medical devices, advanced materials, etc. These solutions require extensive R&D before reaching a stage where they can be deployed, exposing the start-up to high technical risks and market uncertainties. The technology might not work as anticipated, or the product-market fit might take multiple iterations through pilots and validation studies for such advanced innovations. While venture capital funding has been pivotal in the start-up ecosystem, high R&D risk coupled with a long gestation period doesn't align well with the investor playbook, primarily oriented towards business model innovation, tech-enablement, or digitisation of services.

There is a need to build an ecosystem to address the tough challenges science and technology entrepreneurs face in their lab-to-market journey. Most need support in establishing product-market fit, access to deployment sandboxes, and entrepreneurial mentoring. Non-dilutive funding is also necessary to continue through the deployment and scale-up in the form of market access support and subsidies. This is an important nuance that most investors and their capital providers need to understand.



It requires building or developing a full stack approach from lab to market to communities. Aggregating capital from diverse resource pools across government, private sector and philanthropy and allocating it efficiently to the most promising and impactful innovations will ensure the highest return on the investment. Such blended capital models can bridge the funding deficit and promote breakthrough and disruptive innovations, contributing positively to mass prosperity, well-being, sustainability and equity.

Social Alpha has been designed as a multistage innovation curation and venture development platform for science and technology start-ups that aim to address the most critical social, economic and environmental challenges. The Social Alpha architecture enables us to **transition innovations from lab to market to communities** by aligning the incentives of **Society, Markets and State**. Since its inception in 2016, Social Alpha has nurtured over 300 start-ups, including 100+ catalytic grants and 80+ seed investments.

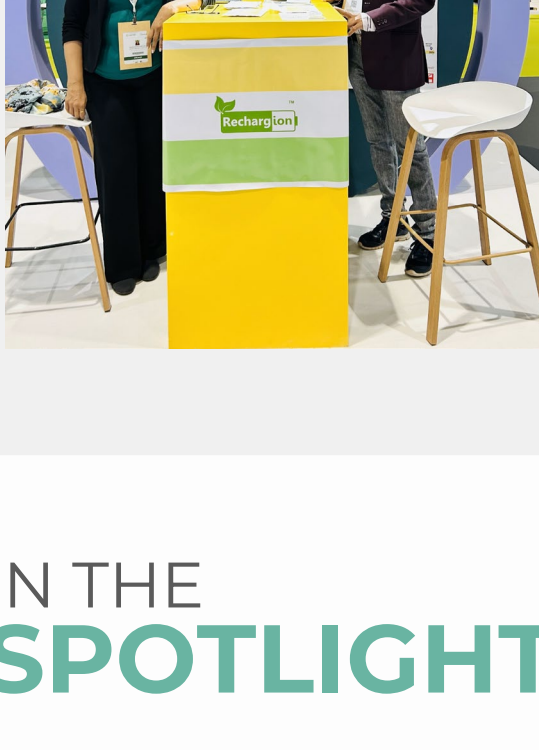
Read more about our work at www.socialalpha.org

Manoj Kumar
Founder, Social Alpha

TAKING THE LEAD 1/5

Rechargion Energy Advances Sustainable Energy Solutions at Abu Dhabi

Social Alpha portfolio company, Rechargion Energy, showcased its innovation in sodium-ion battery at the Climate Innovation Exchange (CLIX) during the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) in Abu Dhabi. Co-founders Dr Manjusha Shelke and Dr Vilas Shelke represented the company, with Dr Manjusha speaking at the Solar and Clean Energy session, sharing insights on sustainable energy solutions and exemplifying women-led deep tech start-ups.

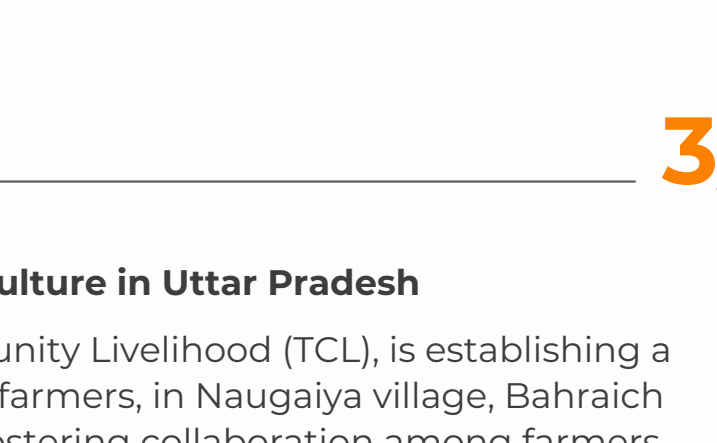


IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2/5

Access to Finance for Advancing Micro Irrigation and Climate Smart Agriculture

Social Alpha, in partnership with Sa-Dhan and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), organised a workshop in Lucknow addressing 'Access to Finance for Scaling Up of Micro Irrigation & Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies.'

Social Alpha portfolio companies Rivulis Irrigation, EF Polymer, Niyo Farmtech, and Mivipri showcased their products, accompanied by farmer-users sharing their experiences and insights. Key stakeholders included financial institutions, government officials, technology providers, and individuals and organisations working in the agri-livelihood sector.



THE MONTHLY SCOOP 3/5

Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh

Social Alpha, in partnership with Trust Community Livelihoods (TCL), is establishing a vegetable cluster - a close-knit Trust Community of farmers, in Naugaia village, Bahraich District, Uttar Pradesh. The initiative aims at fostering collaboration among farmers, who share technology, expertise, and agricultural resources, and leverage solar-based irrigation and a range of technologies from Social Alpha's portfolio companies. These include Kheyti's polyhouse greenhouse for protected farming, LCB Fertilizers' bio-fertilizers for soil enhancement, BioPrime AgriSolutions' pest and disease control products, Niyo FarmTech's efficient pesticide sprayers, and Sistema.bio's biodigester package for sustainable energy production, all start-ups supported by Social Alpha through the Communities programs.

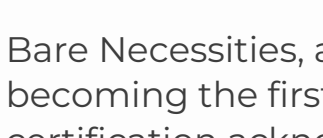
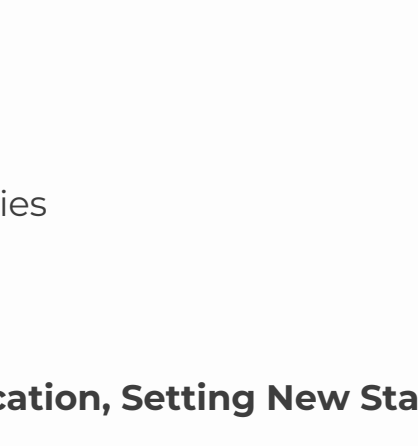
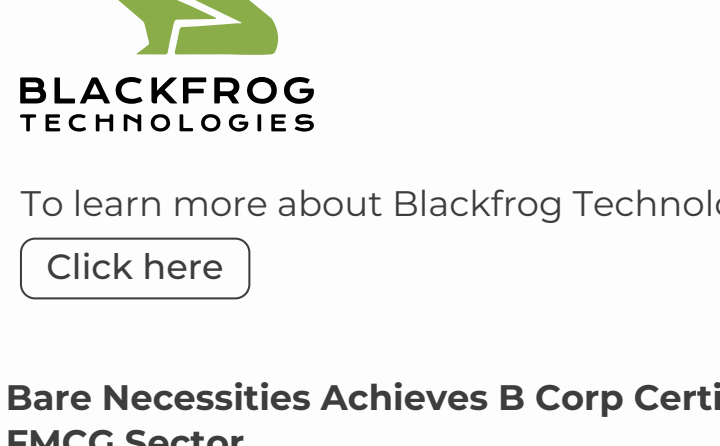
Manoj Kumar, founder of Social Alpha, recently visited the site to observe the impact of the start-up's technology on agriculture in Uttar Pradesh and how these advancements are benefiting women farmers by improving farming practices and productivity.



START-UP SHOUT-OUT! 4/5

Social Alpha Supports Blackfrog Technologies to Deploy Their Product for a New Use Case

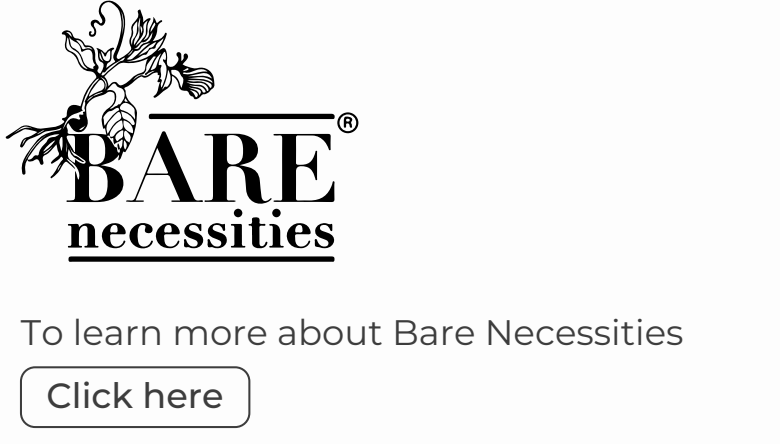
Social Alpha recently funded the deployment of 10 Emvólio devices by Blackfrog Technologies, a Social Alpha portfolio company, within the Basic Health Services (BHS) catchment area in Udaipur. Emvólio, a patented rapid cooling technology, ensures safe last-mile transport of vaccines, insulin, blood serums, and other biologicals. The initiative now explores a new use case for Emvólio by helping individuals with Type 1 diabetes to store insulin safely at home and work, thereby opening a new market for Blackfrog Technologies.



To learn more about Blackfrog Technologies [Click here](#)

Bare Necessities Achieves B Corp Certification, Setting New Standards in Indian FMCG Sector

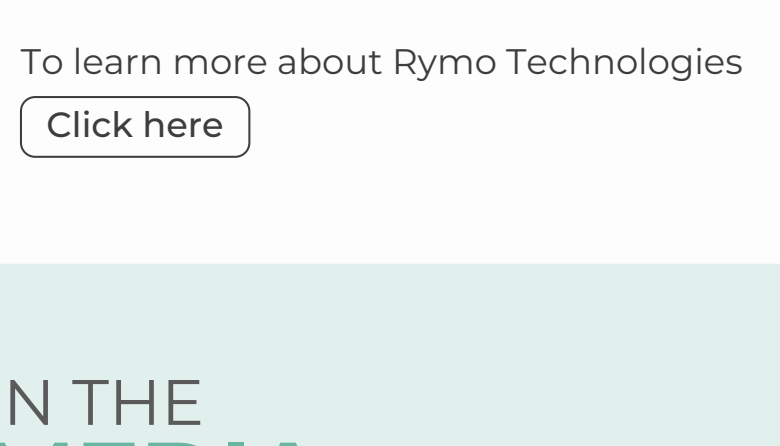
Bare Necessities, a Social Alpha portfolio company, has achieved B Corp certification, becoming the first Indian FMCG brand with this international recognition. This certification acknowledges Bare Necessities' dedication to sustainable practices and promoting ethical business standards, setting a new benchmark for the FMCG sector in India and beyond.



To learn more about Bare Necessities [Click here](#)

Rymo Technologies Takes Centre Stage at Qualcomm Design in India Challenge

Rymo Technologies, a Social Alpha portfolio company, clinched the first runner-up spot and received a grant award of INR 30 lakh at the Qualcomm Design in India Challenge 2023. This award acknowledges their innovative development of computer vision and AI/ML technology for integration with a physical rehabilitation solution.



To learn more about Rymo Technologies [Click here](#)

IN THE MEDIA 5/5

Portable MRI, Water from Air—Indian Deep Tech Start-ups Thriving with Incubators, Govt Funding

To read the article [Click here](#)

Proximal Soilsens' Affordable Tech Helps Farmers with Rapid and Easy Soil Testing

To read the article [Click here](#)

Urdhvam's 'BoreCharger' Recharges Borewells Through Innovation and Technology

To read the article [Click here](#)

At Social Alpha, we are on a mission to drive Economic Growth, Social Justice and Climate Action through the power of Entrepreneurship and Market-creating Innovations. We will always remain a Work in Progress as we strive to enable meaningful impact through the work we do.

If you are an entrepreneur or innovator, reach out to us through our new application link for efficient responses and relevant feedback.

[Connect with us](#)

