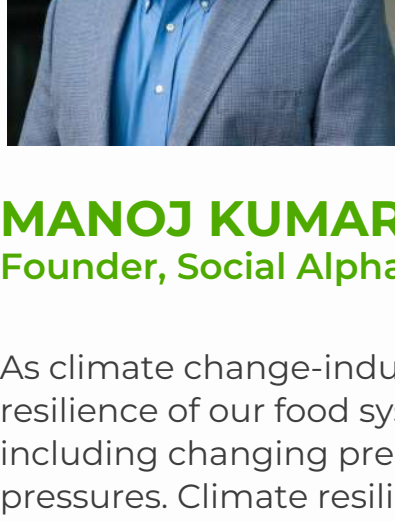


Our Land. Our Future

INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS



MANOJ KUMAR
Founder, Social Alpha

Nurturing innovations with a focus on climate adaptation and restoration is critical for building resilience and food security.

Soil is a non-renewable resource; its preservation is essential for food security and our sustainable future. An estimated 147 million hectares of land in India is already enduring degradation. 2/3rd of the soil carbon is permanently lost due to the vagaries of unsustainable farming practices and climate. About 58% of the population that relies on farming cannot afford this loss.

Soil health, water resources and energy inputs collectively influence food production, agricultural sustainability, and overall food security. When managed sustainably, the soil-water-energy nexus contributes to developing a resilient and sustainable food system which is environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially equitable.

As climate change-induced extreme weather events become more frequent and unpredictable, the resilience of our food system is tested. Climate change poses significant challenges to agriculture, including changing precipitation patterns, rising temperatures, and increased pest and disease pressures. Climate resilient agriculture aims to address these challenges and build agricultural systems that can withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Smallholder farmers, who constitute a significant portion of the global agricultural workforce, are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Innovation is an indispensable tool in building climate resilience. From developing new technologies and sustainable practices to fostering collaboration and adapting to changing conditions, innovation enables us to confront climate change proactively. However, for actual adoption, innovations must be affordable, accessible and deployment-ready without compromising user experience. This also requires public policy to align innovators' incentives with those of farmers and the state.

At Social Alpha Communities, we focus on deployment pilots and help innovators validate the technology, gather user feedback, mitigate risks, and assess market viability, ultimately increasing the likelihood of a successful and sustainable implementation. Our innovation deployment and market access programs for start-ups are designed to drive faster community adoption and long-term demand generation with the potential to unlock Public Policy incentives where available.

We need more innovations to focus on ecosystem restoration and adaptation. The time is now.

Read more about our work at www.socialalpha.org

Manoj Kumar
Founder, Social Alpha

#GenerationRestoration

LEADING THE #RestorationRevolution 1/5

Restoring Our Environment by Rejuvenating Soils – Wishful Thinking to Action

Soil conservation plays a pivotal role in maintaining ecological balance and promoting sustainable development. 857 million farmers farm on roughly 38% of the available land surface for a population of 8 billion people. Soil conservation practices—such as cover cropping, reforestation, conservation tillage and contour ploughing help to preserve soil health, enhance agricultural productivity, and prevent land degradation. By prioritising soil conservation, we not only safeguard our food security but also contribute to the broader fight against environmental degradation, embodying the spirit of World Environment Day in nurturing a healthier planet for future generations. In this article, we illustrate innovative approaches in transformative soil remediation, fertility management, water resource management among others for redefining sustainable farming practices.

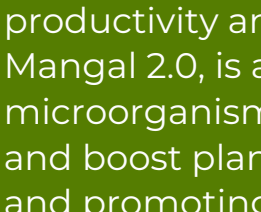
An Article By **PRASANT MOHANTY**
Livelihoods and Prosperity, Social Alpha

To read the article

[Click here](#)

EF Polymer Uses the Power of Science to Increase Soil Moisture Retention and Increase Crop Yield

Farmers often struggle with water scarcity, inefficient water usage, and poor soil health, which significantly impact agricultural productivity. EF Polymer, a part of the India Agritech Incubation Network, a Social Alpha Communities program, addresses these challenges by developing innovative, biodegradable super-absorbent polymers. These polymers are designed to enhance soil moisture retention, reduce water consumption, and improve crop yield. EF Polymer's solution retains up to 400 times its weight in water, gradually releasing it to plants as needed, thus ensuring optimal hydration and nutrient availability. This technology helps farmers increase productivity, reduce irrigation costs, and promote sustainable agriculture practices, leading to healthier crops and better soil management. EF Polymer has impacted more than 12,000 farmers and saved over 60 metric tonnes of water.



To learn more about EF Polymer

[Click here](#)

Capsber Agriscience Enhances Soil Health Through Their Innovative Sustainable Agricultural Inputs

Over time, intensive agriculture has degraded soil health, diminished the natural microbiome, and increased the reliance on harmful chemicals, threatening crop productivity and food security. Capsber Agriscience, one of the 7 winners of Krishi Mangal 2.0, is an agritech start-up addressing these challenges by utilising beneficial microorganisms. These microbes improve soil health, enhance nutrient availability, and boost plant immunity, thereby reducing the reliance on chemical interventions and promoting higher crop yields with a smaller carbon footprint.

Capsber offers a range of products, including biocontrol agents, bionutrition solutions, biostimulants, biopesticides, and botanicals. Their approach supports sustainable agriculture by developing climate-resilient, innovative agricultural inputs tailored to the specific needs of various crops throughout their growth stages, thereby bridging the gaps in agricultural ecology through sustainable interventions.

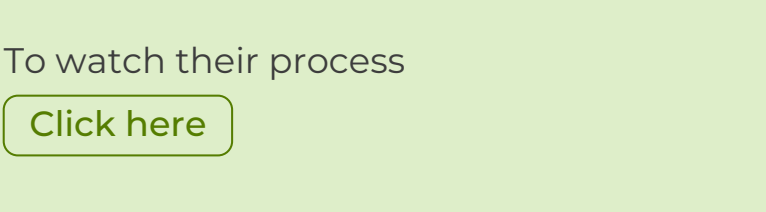


To learn more about Capsber Agriscience

[Click here](#)

Krishitantra Offers Precise Recommendations to Farmers Through Science Backed Soil Testing

Despite government promotion of soil testing and the issuance of Soil Health Cards, farmers face challenges such as limited awareness, restricted access to testing facilities, financial constraints, and difficulty in interpreting test results. Krishitantra, a part of the India Agritech Incubation Network, a Social Alpha Communities program, is an Agri-Tech start-up specialising in soil technology and employs IoT technology to provide rapid soil testing and agronomy advisory, analysing 12 key soil parameters in just 30 minutes. Their innovation, Krishi-RASTAA@ aids farmers in improving productivity and profitability by offering precise fertiliser recommendations, enhancing soil health, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.



To learn more about Krishitantra

[Click here](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2/5

Saaf Energy Deploys Plug and Play Modular Anaerobic Digestors in France, Advancing Global Climate Solutions

Social Alpha's portfolio company, Saaf Energy, recently partnered with BioEasy France to deploy their innovative plug and play modular anaerobic digester technology at a BioEasy location in Paris. The deployed set up will enable BioEasy to convert biowaste into biomethane, potting compost and algal biostimulant fully compliant with standard NFU 44-551.

This deployment marks a significant milestone in Saaf's journey in taking an indigenous solution to developed international markets, marking a true global response to climate issues.



To watch their process

[Click here](#)

THE MONTHLY SCOOP 3/5

Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture Solutions and Fostering Financial Inclusion

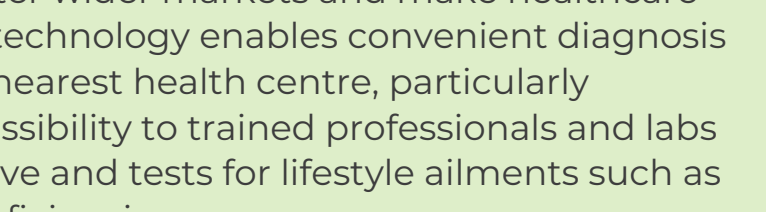
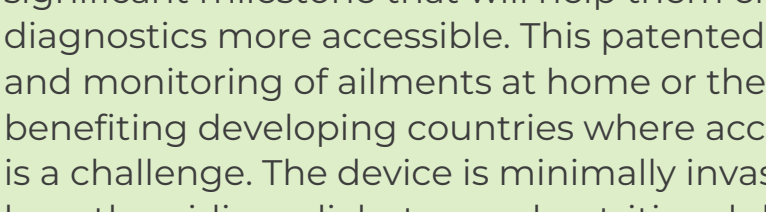
Accessing credit is challenging for marginalised communities due to factors affecting their creditworthiness with mainstream banks. In Uttar Pradesh (UP), Social Alpha addressed this issue, and the technology needs of the farming community by leveraging the corpus of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to provide loans to their farmer members for purchasing, deploying, and installing bio-digesters. Additionally, Social Alpha raised awareness among financial institutions like UP Baroda Gramteen Bank about the benefits and savings of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies. This led to the bank sanctioning several loans for bio-digesters in Bhitargaon and Raebareilly, thereby extending banking services to this underserved community.

Through Social Alpha's Climate Smart Agriculture Sustainable and Innovative Finance (C-SATSIF) program, our portfolio company, Sistema Bio's bio-digester solution was adopted by 50 farmer households in Raebareilly and Mirzapur, enabled by these credit facilities. This successful installation sets a compelling model for future investments in similar ventures, promising lasting benefits including enhanced livelihoods, reduced environmental impact, and increased community resilience.



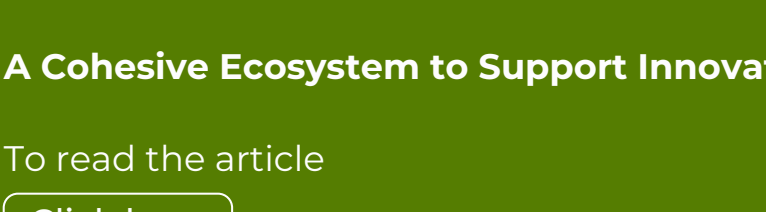
'AI Day for Startups' at IIT Delhi

Social Alpha and I-Hub Foundation for Robotics (IHFC), the Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi, in collaboration with Google for Startups, hosted the 'AI Day for Startups' event, part of a multi-format event series designed by Google and hosted with ecosystem partners to help early-stage Indian start-ups integrate Generative AI solutions. Over 50 start-ups attended a series of expert talks, a hands-on workshop to master the latest Generative AI tools, and a panel discussion on the 'Trends of AI' moderated by Social Alpha.



BioNEST's 'Kickstart 3.0 Startup Conclave' at IIT Guwahati

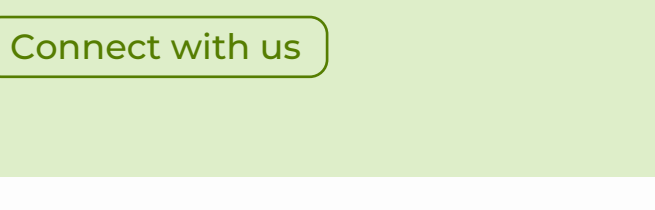
Mrigank Warrior, from the Health & Wellness team at Social Alpha, spoke on 'Business Planning & GTM (Go-To-Market) Strategy' at IIT Guwahati BioNEST's 'Kickstart 3.0 Startup Conclave 2024'. Mrigank shared insights from Social Alpha's experience in supporting health and wellness start-ups, highlighting strategies for business planning and market entry.



START-UP SHOUT-OUT! 4/5

Vidcare Innovations' 'Mu-sure' Granted US Patent

Social Alpha's portfolio company, Vidcare Innovations, has been granted a US Patent for 'Mu-sure,' a stand-alone, credit card-sized, easy-to-use, disposable test for immunoassays. Currently in the pre-commercialisation stage, this patent is a significant milestone that will help them enter wider markets and make healthcare diagnostics more accessible. This patented technology enables convenient diagnosis and monitoring of ailments at home or the nearest health centre, particularly benefiting developing countries where accessibility to trained personnel and labs is a challenge. The device is minimally invasive and tests for lifestyle ailments such as hypothyroidism, diabetes, and nutritional deficiencies.



To learn more about Vidcare Innovations

[Click here](#)

IN THE MEDIA 5/5

A Cohesive Ecosystem to Support Innovations for Small and Marginal Landholding

To read the article

[Click here](#)

Need of the Hour: Impactful Innovations That Can Aid Small and Marginal Farmers

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](#)

