

WORK IN PROGRESS

MAY 2025

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

From local pilots to global partnerships, our start-ups are steadily advancing across sectors and geographies. What connects them is not just technology, but a shared commitment to solving for people and the planet — with clarity, rigour, and purpose.

This edition brings together stories from Startup Mahakumbh, international deployments in Zambia, Kenya, and Iraq, new state-level collaborations in agriculture, and funding breakthroughs in sustainable farming. Across every update, the thread is clear: purpose-led innovation is not just taking root — it's gaining ground.

As always, thank you for walking with us. We hope this edition offers a glimpse into the ground already covered — and the ground still waiting to be broken.

CENTRE STAGE

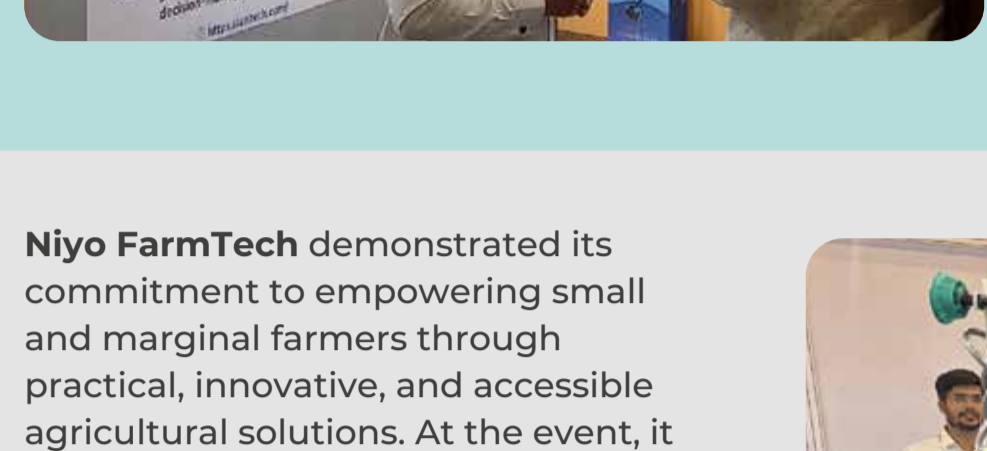
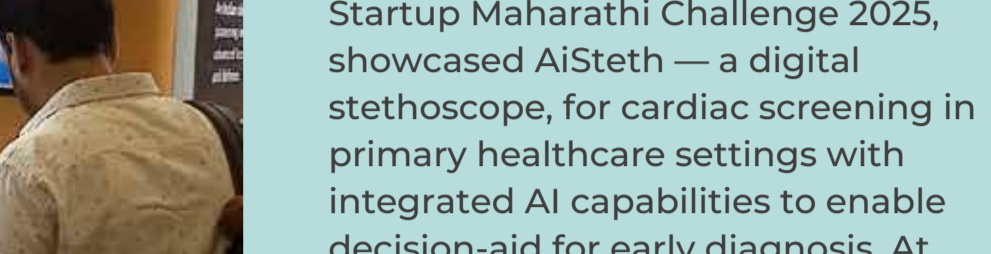
Social Alpha portfolio companies at the Startup Mahakumbh 2025

Last month, we reflected on why India needs to make significant investments in deep science to address its most complex challenges. At the heart of this discussion was a remark that sparked widespread conversation across the nation: Mr. Piyush Goyal's call at Startup Mahakumbh 2025 to move beyond short-term convenience models and invest in transformative technologies that will define India's global leadership by 2047. This vision was brought to life at the event, where five Social Alpha-backed start-ups took centre stage — proving that when science meets purpose, innovation scales impact.



NxtQube, named the winner of the Startup Maharathi Grand Challenge under the Defence & SpaceTech category, showcased its Autonomous Drone Docking Station and earned recognition for its role in enabling autonomous drone operations in remote locations and its mission to build intelligent, autonomous infrastructure for India and beyond.

BrainSightAI, at the event, engaged with Hon'ble Minister Piyush Goyal, spotlighting its AI-powered neurodiagnostic platform and the potential of deep tech to advance precision brain care. Their technology, built in India, with a bold mandate to go global, is shaping the future of brain mapping.



Ai Health Highway, selected from over 2,400 applicants under the Startup Maharathi Challenge 2025, showcased AiSteth — a digital stethoscope, for cardiac screening in primary healthcare settings with integrated AI capabilities to enable decision-aid for early diagnosis. At the event, the team engaged with public health leaders and contributed to conversations on the future of AI in healthcare.

Niyo FarmTech demonstrated its commitment to empowering small and marginal farmers through practical, innovative, and accessible agricultural solutions. At the event, it presented a range of women-friendly, battery-operated equipment designed for efficiency, ease of use, and adaptability for diverse cropping patterns and land sizes. The display sparked discussions on the future of inclusive, decentralised mechanisation in Indian agriculture.



TraceX Technologies showcased their digital platforms energises climate-smart, traceable agri-supply chains — providing tools for EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) compliance, farm-to-fork transparency, and sustainable sourcing.

These ventures captured the essence of what Startup Mahakumbh continues to spotlight: real solutions, born in India, designed for the world. As the conversations continue, one thing is clear — our start-ups aren't just building for convenience; they're building for consequence.

MONTHLY SCOOP

EF Polymer Raises \$6.6M to Scale Sustainable Farming

EF Polymer has successfully closed its Series-B round, raising 1 billion JPY (~\$6.6 million USD) led by Universal Materials Incubator (UMI). The funding will support EF Polymer's global expansion, advanced R&D, and the production scaling of Fasal Amrit — its plant-based, biodegradable soil conditioner designed to improve water retention and crop yields in water-scarce regions.

With this milestone, EF Polymer is set to accelerate its mission of building a climate-resilient, regenerative agriculture ecosystem at scale.



EFFPOLYMER
To know more about EF Polymer
[Click here](#)

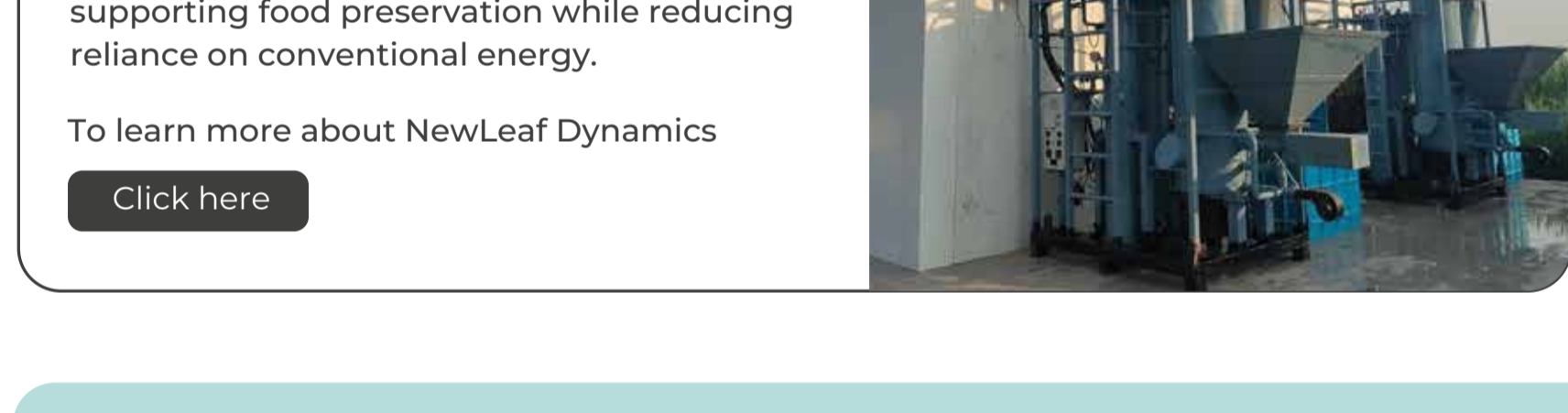
START-UP SHOUT-OUT

Local Roots, Global Reach: Social Alpha Start-ups Scale New Frontiers

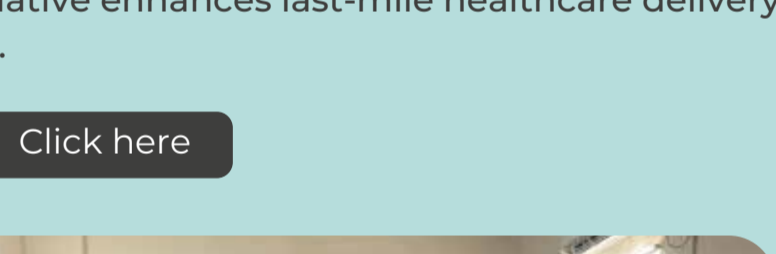
This month, our start-ups continued to demonstrate what it means to build with both community and scale in mind — expanding across geographies while deepening their local presence. From vaccine carriers in Karnataka to biochar reactors in Iraq, here's how innovations from the Social Alpha ecosystem are travelling far and wide:

Ai Health Highway participated in GITEX Africa 2025, engaging with global stakeholders and showcasing AiSteth — its AI-powered stethoscope — at one of Africa's largest tech gatherings. The team joined a curated Karnataka Startup Delegation led by the IT BT Department, strengthening India's position as a deep-tech innovation hub.

To read more about Ai Health Highway [Click here](#)



NewLeaf Dynamic Technologies achieved a significant milestone with the installation of a GreenCHILL™-powered cold room in Jessore, Bangladesh. Powered entirely by crushed agri-residue, the system provides sustainable cooling for local agri-value chains — supporting food preservation while reducing reliance on conventional energy.



To learn more about NewLeaf Dynamics [Click here](#)

Blackfrog Technologies has brought its innovation closer to home by deploying 21 Emvólio vaccine carriers in the Dakshina Kannada district, with support from Manipl Foundation and SELCO Foundation. Beyond technology, this initiative enhances last-mile healthcare delivery in the very communities the start-up calls home.

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



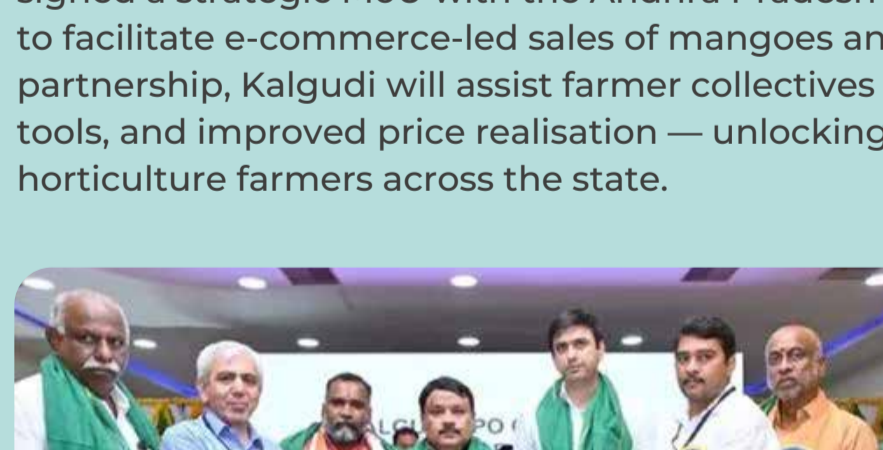
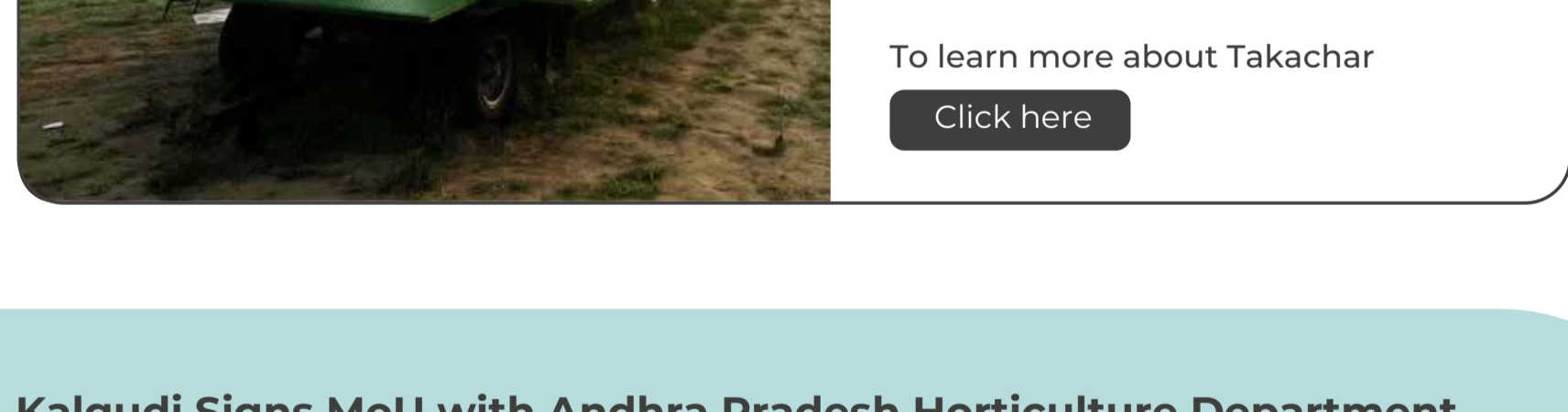
Niyo FarmTech showcased its suite of women-friendly agri-mechanisation tools at AgriTech Zambia 2025, offering a solution for small and marginal farmers in other low-resource settings facing similar challenges around mechanisation, labour efficiency, and gender-inclusive design. The display highlighted the potential for inclusive, scalable farm solutions that can be effective across borders.

To read more about Niyo FarmTech [Click here](#)



Doto Health launched CareMother in Manipur, in partnership with the National Health Mission Manipur, SELCO Foundation, and PATH. The deployment of Anandimaa Kits will improve antenatal care coverage and enable timely referrals for high-risk pregnancies, bringing decentralised maternal health to the last mile.

To learn more about Doto Health [Click here](#)

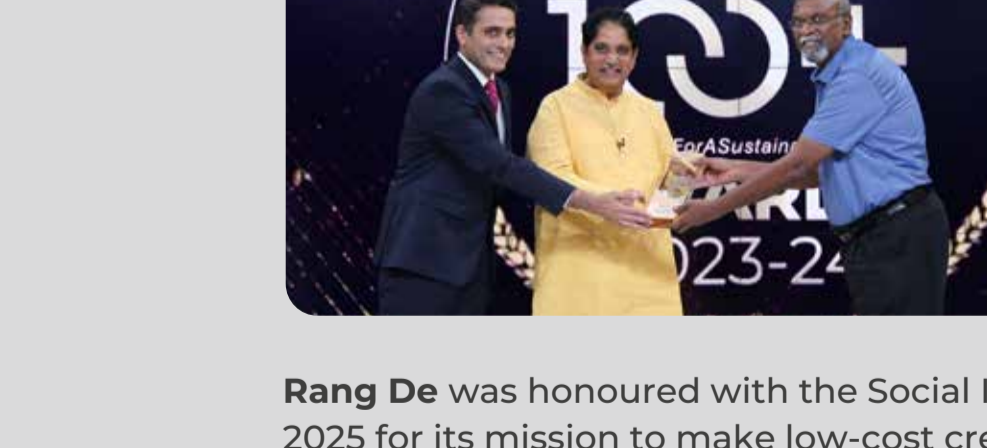


Takachar delivered its solar-powered T-100 reactor to the World Food Programme in Iraq to process locally available biomass, such as olive pits, into biochar. The biochar blends produced will be used by farmers in water-stressed areas while operating entirely off-grid — demonstrating circular economy principles, which are crucial for building climate resilience.

To learn more about Takachar [Click here](#)

Kalgudi Signs MoU with Andhra Pradesh Horticulture Department

Kalgudi, an agri-tech company supported by Social Alpha's Communities program, has signed a strategic MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Department of Horticulture and Sericulture to facilitate e-commerce-led sales of mangoes and other horticultural produce. Through this partnership, Kalgudi will assist farmer collectives and FPOs with market linkages, digital tools, and improved price realisation — unlocking new opportunities for smallholder horticulture farmers across the state.

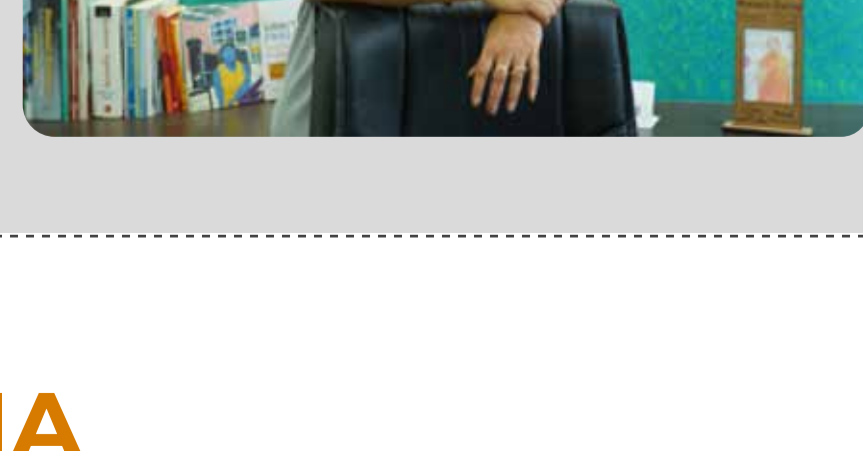


Kalgudi
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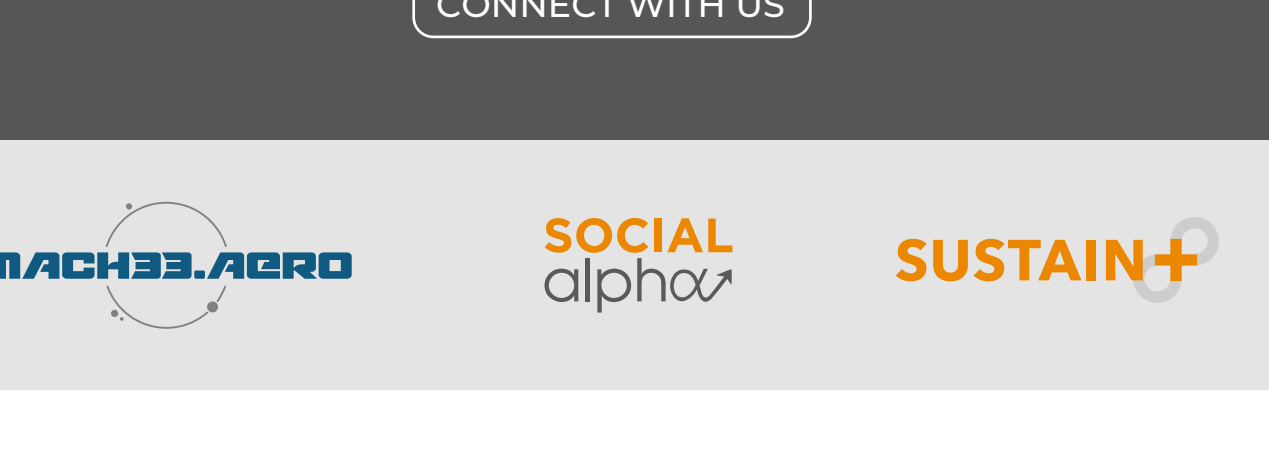
And the Winners Are...

From inclusive finance to climate-tech, Social Alpha-backed innovators continue to earn global recognition for advancing scalable, systems-led solutions. Here are a few recent milestones making waves across sectors:

Hasiru Dala won the Sustainability Social Entrepreneurship Award at the Sustainability 100+ Leadership Awards, hosted by AB InBev and Network18, recognising their inclusive model that integrates waste pickers into sustainable waste management systems and supports them with access to identity, education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship.



Rang De was honoured with the Social Impact Award at the India HR Conclave 2025 for its mission to make low-cost credit accessible to underserved communities. The team also met with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu to explore collaborations under the state's Zero Poverty P4 Program.



Revy Environmental Solutions founder Dr. Vanita Prasad was shortlisted for the AD & Biogas Industry Awards 2025 by the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) and World Biogas Association — recognising her work in sustainable biogas innovation.

IN THE MEDIA

The Circular Revolution: Making Waste a Valuable Resource

To read the article [Click here](#)

Watt & Worth – Podcast with Smita Ram, Co-Founder, Rang De

To listen to the podcast [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.

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