This edition of Work in Progress reflects the spirit of what it truly means to build for impact: not in isolation, but in collaboration, and not just at the surface, but from the ground up.

From global diseases and emerging climate risks, to contracts for on-ground deployments, mission-aligned partnerships, and new rounds of funding, the stories in this issue remind us that progress is rarely linear. But it's always possible when entrepreneurs remain focused.

We also spotlight the power of partnerships, with our portfolio companies joining hands across sectors to drive impact. Whether it's a biotech company working with farmers or a tech startup back to sale, only full stack! What does it take to solve not just the problems, but the systems that create them?

As always, thank you for being part of this journey. We'll be back next month with more stories and shifts from across the ecosystem.

Why Full Stack?

What happens when your competition isn't another company, but poverty, disease, and climate change? You need a different playbook. One that doesn't just build products but rebuilds systems.

In this piece, we unpack why Social Alpha operates as a full stack platform, what that really means, and why solving for impact requires following the problem end to end.

MANOJ KUMAR
Founder, Social Alpha

Read the full article here

STARTUP STAGE

Just Back From Stanford

In July, we found ourselves among some truly inspiring minds at the Stanford Sustainability Accelerator's Demo Day. The room was full of people who care deeply about the world, brought together all global changemakers working on climate and sustainability, and we were glad to be part of the mix.

This is a recognition of our commitment to science- and technology-led solutions for climate action, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive development. At the summit, our team presented our work across climate-resilient agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and community-led land restoration. We came back with more than ideas, new solutions, shared intent, and a deeper sense of possibility.

Blackfrog Secures Funding to Scale Climate-Health Innovation

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Blackfrog Technologies, a Social Alpha portfolio start-up, has raised $1 million in pre-Series A funding from Ankur Capital, Elevation Capital, Climate-Health Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation and Medical Group, and Illuminative by Zerodha.

Blackfrog's flagship product, Emvolta, is a potentiated, battery-assisted refrigeration platform designed to safeguard vaccines, vaccines, medicines, and biologicals. It's already in use across India, Kenya, and Nepal, reducing cold chain failures and enabling last-mile immunisation access to temperature-sensitive medicines. The company is now preparing to scale manufacturing, expand commercial sales, and develop new products for emerging markets.

To know more about Blackfrog Technologies

Loopworm Secures $3.25M to Scale Recombinant Protein Production

Loopworm has raised $3.25 million in a funding round led by WaterBridge Ventures and Romulus India Capital. The investment will support the commercialisation of its recombinant protein production technology, which uses silkworms as bio-factories, offering a sustainable alternative to traditional bioreactor-based systems.

Following three years of R&D, Loopworm is now set to establish a dedicated facility to bring its proprietary platform to market, addressing critical supply constraints in India's biopharmaceutical biotechnology. The company will also focus on expanding international sales in its animal and pet nutrition segments.

The investment will strengthen efforts to build cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable protein manufacturing within India's growing biotech sector.

To read more about Loopworm

Click here

CLIMATE GROUND UP

Stories from the field where innovations are being deployed, tested, and adapted, offering early signals of what works, what scales, and what it takes to build being impact.

Circular Feed Innovation in Action

Where a Social Alpha portfolio start-up under our SAIN program, is building a circular food ecosystem that converts food waste into high-value feed ingredients, supporting more high-quality food systems.

In collaboration with IIT Guwahati (SAFIC), ASAIR initiatives, and Krishmark, Ahara conducted lab-scale on-ground trials to test these upcycled ingredients. The field demonstrated strong digestibility and nutritional value, leading to better cattle productivity and increased farmer income. The pilot also highlighted key challenges in the feed sector and the critical role of early initiatives of product market fit.

The intervention addresses two systemic challenges at once: food waste and the shortage of sustainable, high-quality animal nutrition.

Biological Pest Control Opens Export Doors for Odisha Mangoes

Odisha's Annapurti mango is known for its flavour, but only a fraction typically meets the quality standards required for export, owing to damaging pest and disease pressure.

Under the Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) program, a biological fruit fly trap, feature developed by Social Alpha portfolio company Ecofy, has been deployed across 1,000 farmers in Ganjam. Installed the trapes across four fruit fly species prevalent. The result: healthier fruit, fewer interventions, and for the first time, a batch of mangoes ready for export. The produce was shipped to Italy in the coming weeks, marking a premium price, a simple, chemical-free intervention, now opening up global opportunities.

MONTHLY SCOOP

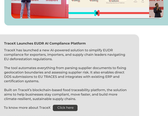
Charting the Agri-Tech Path in Odisha

What does it take to move agri-tech innovations from pilots to public systems? On 25 July, we hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop in Bhubaneswar with the Department of Agriculture & Farmer Empowerment, Government of Odisha, to explore exactly that question.

Attendees included Ankur Vaishnavi, Sisquality, Cadder, Tensorself, and Sal Doctor in the room, the conversation centered around real-on-ground results, across farm mechanization, soil health, and water management, and how to scale these innovations through state programs.

The discussion reinforced a shared view: what works must be practical, measurable, and inclusive. We leave for Odisha's small and marginal farmers.

START-UP SHOUT-OUT



A First for the World, A Leap for India

Kepler Aerospace has signed an OEM Prime contract with the Ministry of Defence, to collaboratively develop and deploy a 15-satellite LEO constellation to build the world's first swarming SAR constellation.

The mission involves six autonomous satellites working as a coordinated swarm, communicating, self-tasking, and sharing data in real time, intelligence across land, sea, and space. Each of Kepler's satellites will carry a payload designed for high-resolution and full-spectrum surveillance capabilities.

Backed by 10 million in government support, the launch is targeted for 2027. This marks a major milestone in India's defence technology and lays the foundation for Kepler's broader ambitions in the Indian Ocean Region.

To read more about Kepler Aerospace

Click here

PodCare is Poised

PodCare is poised for circular hygiene made its way to Infrabess 2025, one of Central Europe's largest tech and start-up events, held in Ostrava, Poland. They showcased deep impact from investors and peers alike, opening up conversations around sustainable, inclusive hygiene from an global perspective.

To learn more about PodCare

Click here

Track Launches EUDR AI Compliance Platform

Track has launched a new AI-powered solution to simplify EUDR compliance for exporters, importers, and supply chain leaders navigating its deforestation requirements.

The tool automates everything from gathering supplier documents to flying risk assessments and generating audit-ready reports. It's built on Track's existing AI platform and AI-powered solutions for EU TRACES and integrates with existing ERP and certification systems.

Track's platform, which powers food traceability platform, the solution helps companies stay compliant, move faster, and build more climate-resilient, sustainable supply chains.

To know more about Track

Click here

Soapscape Gets a Sensitive Boost as Satyajit Goes Live

As part of the SPJIC-SEIC Challenge backed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under the Government of India, Satyajit Analytics has begun deploying its AI-powered sensitive boost across the soapscape ecosystem.

The on-ground rollout of the SPJIC-SEIC Challenge marks a major step for Cohort 3 of the Challenge, bringing the first operational phase of a structured pilot into the ecosystem. The pilot will provide data-driven insights to support farmers and soapscape hygiene-conscious practices.

To know more about Satyajit Analytics

Click here

Powering Progress Through Partnerships

This month, several of our portfolio start-ups unveiled new collaborations, each unlocking fresh possibilities for climate, health, and livelihoods.

Rang De x CAP

Aiming to bridge the credit gap for water workers powering India's circular economy, Rang De has partnered with CAP under the Circular Water Credit Pilot. Shared impact, enabling affordable credit for water entrepreneurs, creating new pathways for income and dignity.

To know more about Rang De

Click here

Dots x TNEPI

Dots Health's Carehelper has partnered with the Transnational Health Science and Entrepreneurship Institute (TNEPI) to deliver digital health training and support across rural primary care models, bridging hospital-based expertise and digital innovation to support early detection and timely interventions.

To know more about Dots Health

Click here

Pixxel x AEI

Pixxel has partnered with AEI to explore new frontiers in ecosystem monitoring, starting with habitat mapping and creating new applications like methane detection.

To know more about Pixxel

Click here

And the Winners Are...

A quick look at recent recognitions and selections from across the portfolio:

Microbiomes Institute Named winner of the Hub Launchpad Program 2025-26, organised by Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre and a Tridea University.

Acoelera Selected for the Climate Innovation Program by Upaya Social Ventures, a program that supports organisations building climate-resilient livelihoods and renewable energy solutions while fostering local micro-entrepreneurship.

Samaliya Sustainable Alternatives Chosen as a contributing partner for Upaya's Significant Data initiative. Samaliya shared insights from its decentralised value chain to support the study of how data and capital can jointly advance dignified employment.

IN THE MEDIA

Inside Lambert Water's Mission to Decentralise Waste Atoms

To read the article

Click here

BlueFrog: The world is moving towards decentralised water and biologicals will be integrated

To read the article

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From A Garage In Pune To The Bridges Of Cambridge

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AI Health Highway featured on The Better India

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Manasa Space's eco-friendly satellite fuel set to replace toxic hydrazine

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MR families and elder care | Insights from Samaliya - Part 1

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Turning Cobblers into Designers: The Steel Hangover' Story of Jute and Steel

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Hasiru Habba 2025

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At Social Alpha, we see an a mission to drive Economic Growth, Social Justice and Climate Action through the power of Entrepreneurship and Innovation creating thriving ecosystems.

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For any media enquiries or further information, reach out to us at communications@socialalpha.org