

JUNE

2026

WORK IN

PROGRESS

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

The climate challenge is vast. So is the ingenuity being applied to solve it. That's why we remain stubbornly optimistic.

This World Environment Day, we are spotlighting a few Social Alpha portfolio start-ups, among many others, that are building solutions for some of the most urgent climate-linked challenges of our time. They represent only a small fraction of the innovation emerging across the ecosystem, but they remind us that complex challenges can also be opportunities for breakthrough innovation.

Besides that, this edition of Work In Progress brings updates from across the portfolio, including start-up milestones, new recognitions, field updates from Sustain Plus, and ecosystem conversations across regions.

As always, thank you for reading Work In Progress and walking with us on this journey.

To know about how our portfolio start-ups are responding to climate challenges

Click here

START-UP SHOUTOUT

Manastu Space Represents Indian Green Propulsion Technology at AI+ Expo

Manastu Space participated in the AI+ Expo in the United States as part of the US-India Booth curated by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum. The start-up is developing green propulsion systems for satellites and spacecraft as a less toxic, non-carcinogenic alternative to hydrazine-based propulsion.

To know more about Manastu Space

Click here

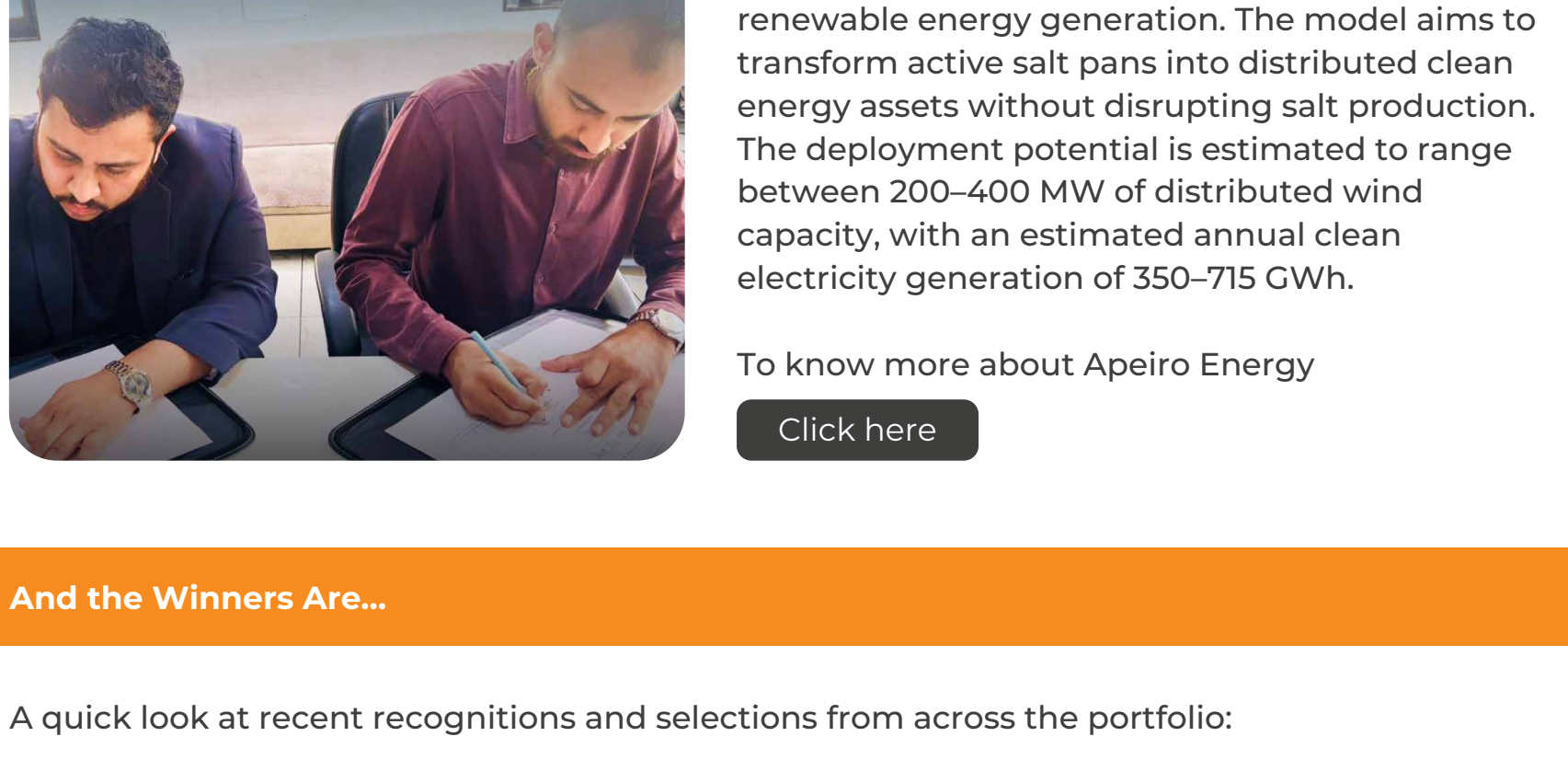


Blackfrog Technologies Showcases Emvólio at Africa HealthTech Summit

At the Africa HealthTech Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, Blackfrog Technologies presented Emvólio to H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC (Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention). Emvólio is a patented rapid cooling device designed to address last-mile biological transport challenges in healthcare delivery. The showcase was part of the Bharat Pavilion, which highlighted Indian health innovations with potential for deployment across African healthcare systems.

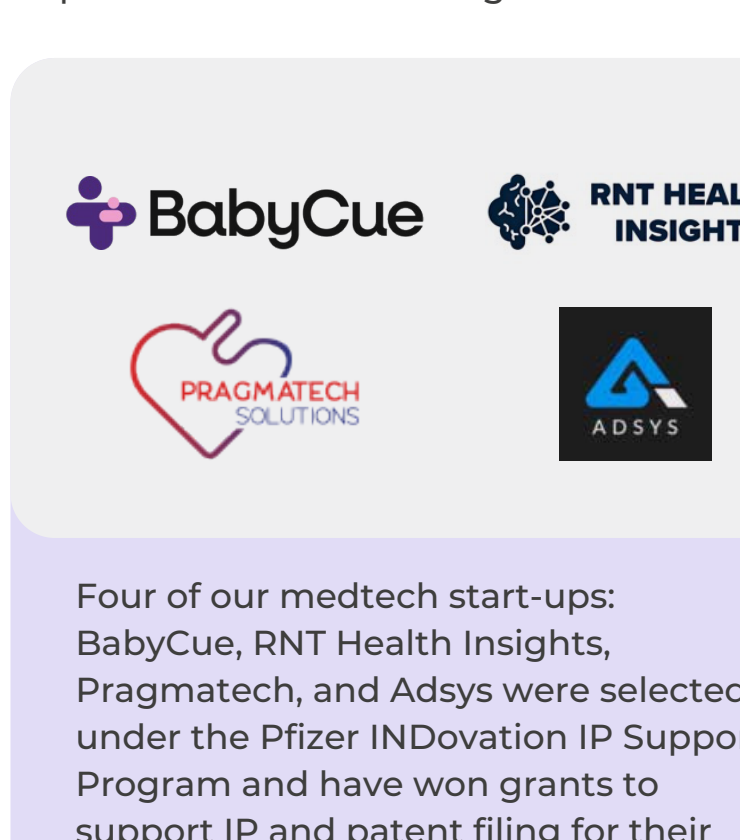
To know more about Blackfrog Technologies

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APEIRO ENERGY SIGNS MOU WITH ASHAPURA SALT WORKS

iWind Vertical Axis Wind Turbines deployment in Bhavnagar Salt Farms



Apeiro Energy to Power Salt Farms with Distributed Wind

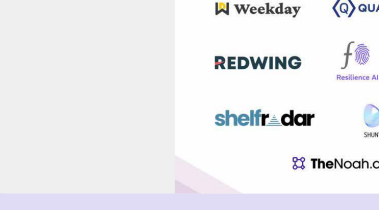
Apeiro Energy has signed an MoU with Ashapura Salt Works, Bhavnagar, to deploy its proprietary iWind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine technology across salt farms and work towards 100% captive renewable energy generation. The model aims to transform active salt pans into distributed clean energy assets without disrupting salt production. The deployment potential is estimated to range between 200–400 MW of distributed wind capacity, with an estimated annual clean electricity generation of 350–715 GWh.

To know more about Apeiro Energy

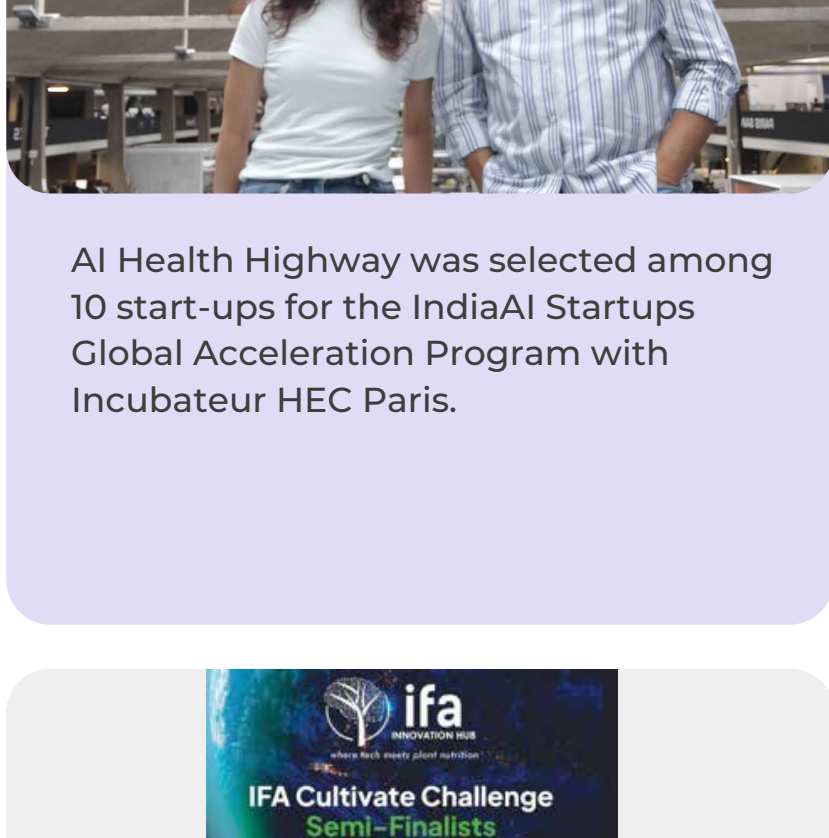
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And the Winners Are...

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



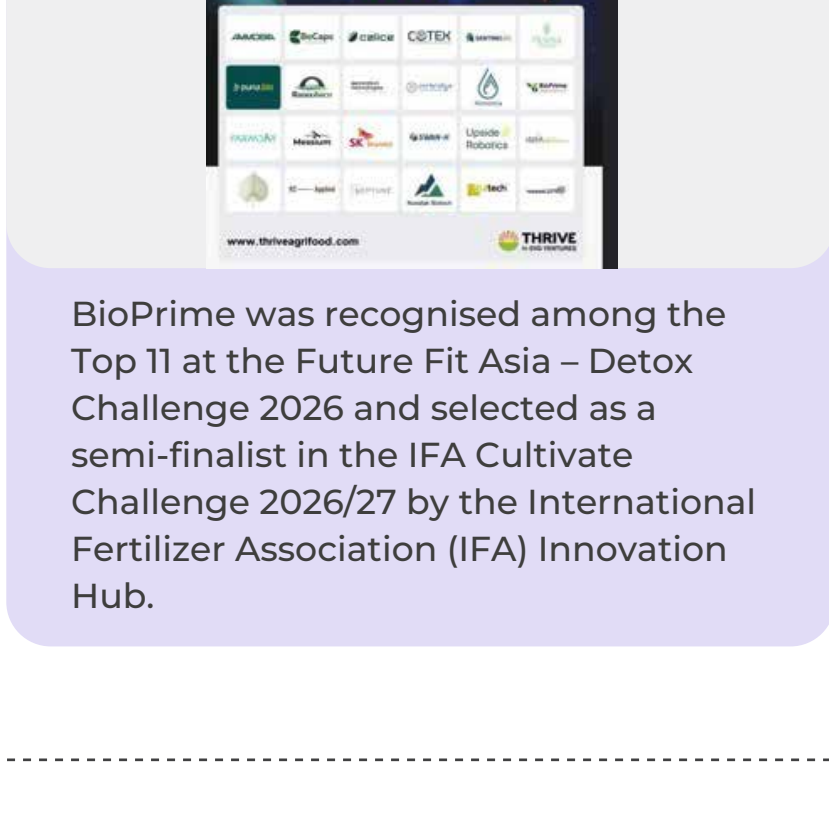
Four of our medtech start-ups: BabyCue, RNT Health Insights, Pragmatech, and Adsys were selected under the Pfizer INDovation IP Support Program and have won grants to support IP and patent filing for their innovations.



Biome Technologies was selected among the 33 global finalists for the WIPO Global Awards 2026, organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), from over 1,300 applications across 126 countries.



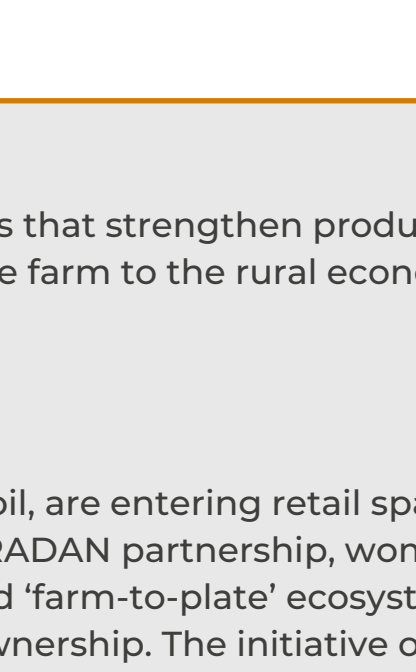
PadCare has been selected for the JioGenNext Market Access Program (MAP) 2026 cohort, which brings together start-ups building next-generation solutions across AI, robotics, retail, and emerging technologies.



AI Health Highway was selected among 10 start-ups for the IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program with Incubateur HEC Paris.



CareMother by Doto Health was selected for the UNICEF Innovation FemTech Ventures Cohort, chosen from 1,100+ applications across 85 countries to advance sexual and reproductive health solutions in emerging markets.



BioPrime was recognised among the Top 11 at the Future Fit Asia – Detox Challenge 2026 and selected as a semi-finalist in the IFA Cultivate Challenge 2026/27 by the International Fertilizer Association (IFA) Innovation Hub.

FROM THE GROUND UP

Across geographies, our Sustain Plus program builds models that strengthen production, processing, market access, and climate resilience — from the farm to the rural economy around it.

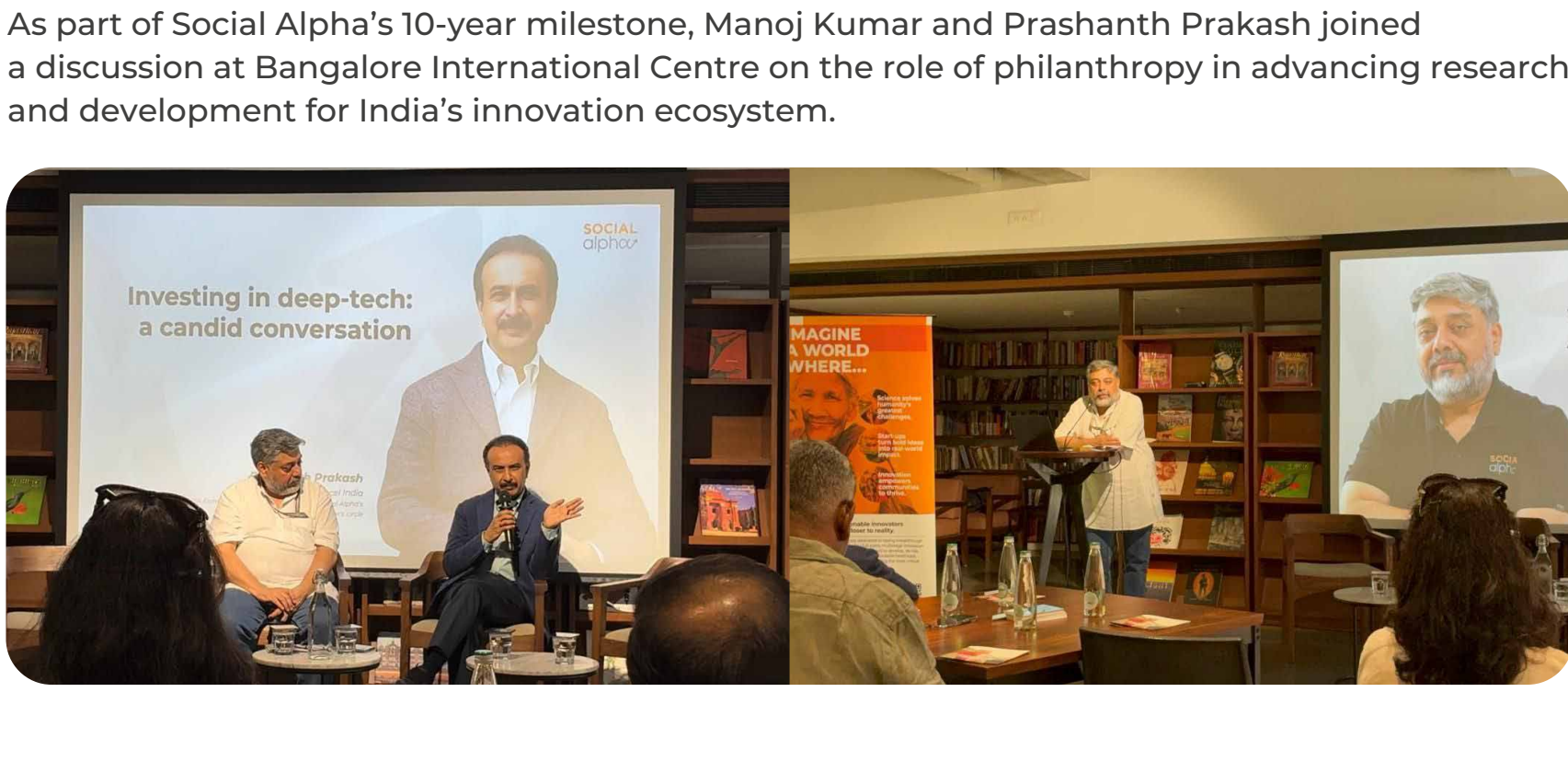
From Raw Produce to Retail Shelves, Jharkhand

In Gumla, community-produced goods, including mustard oil, are entering retail spaces alongside mainstream brands. Through the Sustain Plus–PRADAN partnership, women-led Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are building localised 'farm-to-plate' ecosystems rooted in renewable energy, climate resilience, and local market ownership. The initiative operates across 8 districts and nearly 20 blocks in Jharkhand, aiming to benefit around 40,000 smallholder households through 20 women-led FPOs.



Net House and Shade Net Cultivation Systems, Gujarat

Through its partnership with Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives (CINI), Sustain Plus program is supporting Net House and Shade Net cultivation systems across Gujarat and Rajasthan to help smallholder farmers build climate resilience and diversify incomes. The program currently supports over 1,200 smallholder farmers across Dahod and Banaskantha–Sabarkantha districts, enabling cultivation of high-value crops such as English cucumber and mushrooms under controlled conditions.



Turning Processing Waste into Fodder, Ranchi

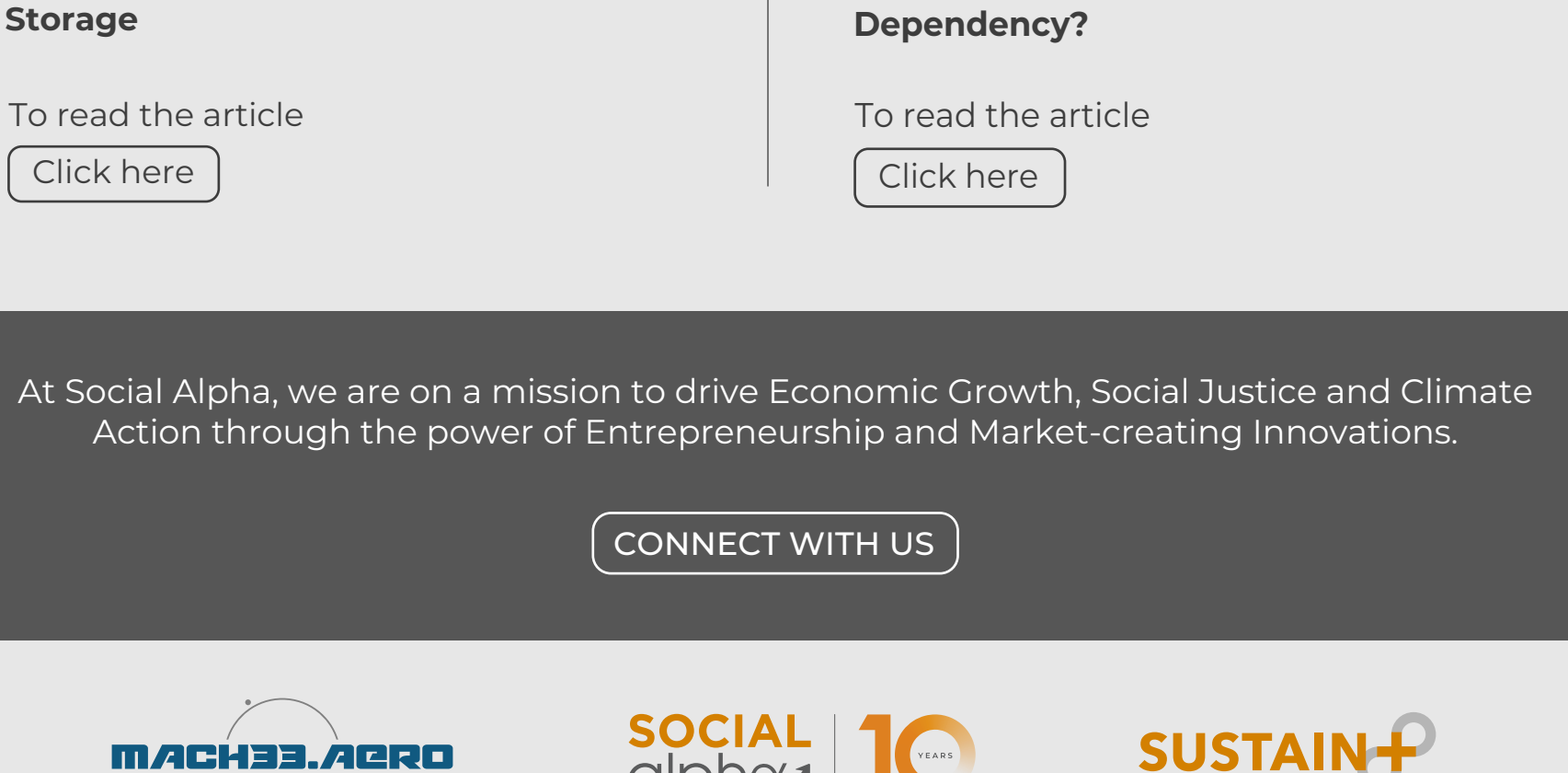
At the Mother Dairy plant in Ranchi, a silage production unit is being set up jointly by Sustain Plus, NDDB, and Jharkhand Milk Federation. With a proposed capacity of 2.5–3 TPH and estimated annual production of up to 5,000 MT of silage, the unit will convert waste generated from green peas and sweet corn processing into silage for dairy systems, demonstrating a circular approach where agricultural processing by-products can be redirected into animal nutrition instead of treated as waste.



MONTHLY SCOOP

Enabling Last-Mile Agri-Tech Adoption

Social Alpha organised an Agri-Tech Choupal, bringing together agri-input retailers, farmer representatives, and agri-tech innovators to accelerate the last-mile adoption of agricultural technologies. Thirty-two agricultural input retailers engaged directly with Social Alpha-supported start-ups working across farm mechanisation, dairy, agricultural inputs, soil testing, and distributed renewable energy. Participating start-ups included Stepupify, AgrowSure, Niyo Farmtech, Occamy BioScience, EF Polymer, Capsber, Ekosight, Arkashine, New Leaf Dynamics, and Rudra Solar. The event focused on exploring dealership opportunities, business models, farmer demand, and market linkages that can help technology-driven solutions reach small and marginal farmers more effectively.



Across the Innovation Ecosystem

Over the past month, Social Alpha contributed to discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship, and deployment across a range of forums and convenings.

As part of Social Alpha's 10-year milestone, Manoj Kumar and Prashanth Prakash joined a discussion at Bangalore International Centre on the role of philanthropy in advancing research and development for India's innovation ecosystem.

At the Mizoram Grand Challenge 2026 in Aizawl, Social Alpha engaged with the Planning & Programme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, as part of its ongoing collaboration in the state through the FOCUS 2.0 initiative.

In Guwahati, Social Alpha and the Assam Innovention & Startup Foundation (AISF) hosted Pathways for Progress, bringing together start-ups, incubators, and government stakeholders to strengthen the region's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The convening also marked the beginning of a strategic collaboration between Social Alpha and AISF aimed at enabling science- and technology-led start-ups through mentorship, lab-to-market support, innovation programming, market linkages, joint workshops and collaborative ecosystem-building efforts.

Meanwhile, the workshop and Demo Day with Vaishali KVK saw encouraging participation from women farmers, while a multi-stakeholder workshop in Varanasi, organised in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and NABARD, brought together key stakeholders to discuss field realities, adoption barriers, and partnership opportunities for agricultural innovations.

IN THE MEDIA

Biogas Could be LPG Hedge in India's Dairy Belt

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How these Agri Startups are Making Farming Easier through Technology?

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Revolutionizing Eye Donation Success with Advanced Cornea Cold-Chain Storage

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Recharging and the Sodium-Ion Shift: Can India Leapfrog Lithium Dependency?

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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.

CONNECT WITH US

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