



First RIC Meeting on 12-13 December 2024: Selecting Innovative Startups for the 6th Cohort of RKVY RAFTAAR R-ABI at ICAR-IVRI, Bareilly

The first **R-ABI Incubation Committee (RIC)** meeting was convened on **12-13 December 2024** in the Committee Room of the Administrative Block to evaluate and select startups of the 6th cohort of the RKVY-RAFTAAR R-ABI scheme under the Chairmanship of Director, IVRI. Among others members of the panel Dr S.K.Singh, JD Research, Dr Rupasi Tiwari, JD EE, Dr Mahesh Chander, PS, Extension Education, domain experts Academia, Dr Mahendra Domain expert Industry, Mr Vipul & Mr Kiran from Knowledge partner, Pusa Krishi, Dr Bablu Kumar, PI-CEO R-ABI participated in this meeting. The meeting involved a comprehensive assessment of **20 potential startups**, consisting of **6 startups in the Navodaya (pre-seed stage)** pitching for up to ₹5 lakhs and **14 startups in the Samriddhi (seed stage)** pitching for up to ₹25 lakhs.



The primary objective of the meeting was to evaluate of each startup's potential, in terms of innovation, scalability, business potential and impact for farmers. The RIC panel, comprising experienced domain experts and technical evaluators, undertook an in-depth analysis of each application. For the Navodaya pre-seed stage startups, the focus was on evaluating the foundational business concepts, the innovative potential of the proposed solutions, and the capabilities of the founding teams. The evaluation for Samriddhi seed stage startups was more comprehensive, covering aspects such as business models, market traction, financial projections, technological feasibility, and scalability potential.

These startups represent the focus areas of IVRI RABI such as Supply Chain Management, Waste to Wealth, Animal Feed, Food Processing, Livestock and Poultry Farming, Engineering tools for livestock and productivity, and Veterinary Extension Services/ICT.

The participants engaged in thorough discussions, carefully assessing each startup's potential and alignment with the scheme's objectives. The evaluation process was designed to ensure a fair and comprehensive assessment of each entrepreneurial venture.

Following the comprehensive review, the committee will recommend the selected startups for funding to the Selection and Investment Committee (SIC) for final deliberation and approval. The next phase will involve detailed due diligence of the selected startups, marking a crucial step in supporting and nurturing innovative entrepreneurial ventures under the RKVY RAFTAAR R-ABI scheme.

The selected startups represent a promising frontier in animal science innovation, with the potential to transform traditional veterinary practices, enhance livestock productivity, and contribute to the sustainable development of the animal science sector.

The domain experts from different divisions, such as Dr. Ayon Tarafdar from the LPM Division, Dr. Yash Pal Singh from ARIS Cell, Dr. L.C. Chaudhary and Dr. Anju Kala from the Animal Nutrition Division, Dr. A. R. Sen from the LPT Division, Dr. Rokade Jaydip Jaywant from CARI, Dr. Vikash Chandra from the Physiology & Climatology Division, and Dr. Ran Vir Singh from the Animal Genetics Division were present at the meeting.

The meeting was coordinated by Dr Bablu Kumar, PI-CEO (R-ABI) and member secretary RIC. The RIC extended its appreciation to all participants, domain experts, and startup founders who contributed significantly to nurture the statup ecosystem of the institute.

