

## Mentor Mixer on Agriculture Technology

- Organized by BRBC at Venture Center-

<b>Potential gains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an opportunity for startup founders to meet and network with Industry professionals, senior entrepreneurs and investors, and vice versa. This event aims to initiate contact, introduce people and catalyze mutually rewarding interactions and relationships.</li> </ul>
<b>Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Mentor Mixer is focused on AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (includes IOT/ Sensors/ Data analytics, equipment/ machinery, plant nutrition/stimulants/ protectants)</li> </ul>
<b>Stage of startup</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Startups at Concept/POC/Prototype Stage</li> <li>Post-prototype/ product ready/ early revenue/ scale-up</li> </ul>
<b>Themes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Early-stage fund raising/ grants</li> <li>➤ Early as well as Large stage validations/ trials</li> <li>➤ Business strategy/ planning/value proposition/ story telling/ pitching</li> <li>➤ Market entry/ regulations/ certifications/ approvals</li> <li>➤ Sales/ distribution/ marketing/ packaging/branding/ partnerships</li> <li>➤ Raising seed/venture financing/ Angel investments/ referrals</li> </ul>
<b>Organized by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIRAC Regional BioInnovation Center @ Venture Center (BRBC)</li> </ul>
<b>Supported by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIRAC</li> <li>Venture Center</li> </ul>
<b>For whom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Startup founders and CXO level team members</b> of startups</li> <li>Senior entrepreneurs who have already built companies in the sector</li> <li>Industry and business mentors</li> <li>Investors with an interest in the concerned sector</li> </ul>
<b>When</b>	<b>Wednesday &amp; Thursday, 21-22 April 2021   Time: Day 1: 10:00 am - 01:00 pm Day 2: 10:00am – 03.45 pm (Please refer page no. 3)</b>
<b>Where</b>	This is an Online Event   Link to the Event will be shared with selected participants post registration
<b>Contact</b>	<b>Technical queries:</b> Neha Khaladkar     <a href="mailto:neha@venturecenter.co.in">neha@venturecenter.co.in</a>   +91-8956677543 <b>Logistics queries:</b> Lipika Biswas   020-25865877/75/76 <a href="mailto:eventsdesk@venturecenter.co.in">mailto:eventsdesk@venturecenter.co.in</a>
<b>Registration</b>	Register here: <a href="http://bit.ly/AgriMentorMixerApr">http://bit.ly/AgriMentorMixerApr</a>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Free!</b> Acceptance on confirmation by organizers after registration. [Limited seats for Day 2 – One-to-One M Clinics]</li> <li>- Selected participants will be informed via email</li> </ul>

### Introduction

Venture Center (<http://www.venturecenter.co.in>) is India's largest inventive enterprises and scientific business incubator. It is the winner of the National Award for TBI, 2015 and AABI's Incubator of the Year Award, 2018. Venture Center is home to the BIRAC Regional Bioinnovation Center (BRBC). More information at: <http://brbc.venturecenter.co.in/>. Under the aegis of the BRBC, Venture Center organizes Mentor Mixers. Mentor Mixers are usually sector focused and emphasize specific themes. Mentor Mixers are opportunities for startup founders to meet and network with senior industry professionals, senior entrepreneurs and investors. These are also opportunities for senior professionals and investors to connect with the hottest startups in their field of interest. This event aims to initiate contact, introduce people and catalyze mutually rewarding interactions and relationships.



Via this initiative, Venture Center and BRBC hopes to facilitate productive mentor-mentee relationships in different sectors and different regions of the country. Venture Center plans to launch an online mentoring platform to back-end these mentor-mentee interactions and create facilitating "soft" infrastructure for the same.

### Why you should attend?

For Startups:

- Meet potential mentors/ senior entrepreneurs and get advice/ inputs on various themes
- Meet other entrepreneurs/ peers in similar industry spaces

For Mentors:

- Exposure and interaction with a curated group of startups
- Meet and interact with other mentors/investors in the field

### Workshop structure and outline

- Open sessions (in LT)
  - Non-confidential elevator pitches by startups
  - Introductions of mentors and moderated panels
- Brief talk and interaction with an Industry Leader
- Networking
- Private mentoring clinics

### Terms and Conditions for Participants

- Participants shall arrange their own devices (preferably Laptop/ Tablet) and ensure the good internet connectivity during the online course.
- Attendance is mandatory for all sessions once registration is confirmed.
- No sessions will be repeated if a participant is unable to join due to poor internet connectivity or any other reasons.

Schedule			
DAY 1 – 21 Apr 2022			
Time (TBC)	Duration (TBC)	Session title	Speaker
10:00-10:10	10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Venture Center</li> <li>Introduction to the Mentor Mixer &amp; Mentors</li> </ul>	Smita Kale
10:10-10:35	25 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad Overview of Opportunities in Agriculture</li> </ul>	Vidya Gupta
10:35 -11:00	25 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AgriTech landscape, ecosystem roles and innovations required for the emerging themes.</li> </ul>	Hemendra Mathur
11:00 -11:25	25 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding opportunities and Investor's point of view</li> </ul>	Nagaraja Prakasam
11:25 -11.50	25 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulations and Policies for Agri startups</li> </ul>	Abhilash Gorhe
11:50 -13:00	70 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderated panel discussion with mentors &amp; AgriTech startup founders</li> <li>Q &amp; A</li> </ul>	Renuka Diwan Jasveer Singh Shubham Singh and all above Speakers Moderator: Premnath V
DAY 2 – 22 Apr 2022			
10:00 – 10:20	20 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breaking the ice: Lightning Pitch Session by entrepreneurs (6-12 participants – 1 or 2 mins each)</li> </ul>	Vidya Gupta Hemendra Mathur Nagaraja Prakasa Abhilash Gorhe Mugdha Lele
10:20 – 15:45	325 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-One Mentoring Sessions 45 min each Mentee * 3 Mentee per mentor</li> </ul>	

**Slots for Mentoring Clinic (10:20 am – 03:45 pm)**

#	Entrepreneur	Time (hrs.)	Time (Min)	Mentor	Meeting Link	
1	Gandhali Bapat	10:20-11:05	45 min	Vidya Gupta	Zoom Meeting Room 1 VC Coordinator – Neha Khaladkar	
2	Bhavesh Jain	11:05-11:50	45 min			
3	Lakshay Sethi	11:50-12:35	45 min			
LUNCH BREAK						
1	Vimal Kumar Panjwani	01:30-02:15	45 min	Nagaraja Prakasam		Zoom Meeting Room 2 VC Coordinator – Smita Kale
2	Neeta Doshi	02:15-03:00	45 min			
3	Tushar Pawar	03:00-03:45	45 min			
LUNCH BREAK						
1	Murugan Kottaisamy	10:20-11:05	45 min	Abhilash Gorhe	Zoom Meeting Room 2 VC Coordinator – Smita Kale	
2	Prasant Kumar	11:05-11:50	45 min			
3	Rohit Rathi	11:50-12:35	45 min			
LUNCH BREAK						
1	Aditya Kabra	01:45-02:15	30 min	Hemendra Mathur		Zoom Meeting Room 2 VC Coordinator – Smita Kale
2	Mangesh K	02:15-02:45	30 min			

**About Organizers & Mentors (in alphabetical order of last names)**



**Ms. Renuka Diwan**  
**Chief Executive Officer - BioPrime AgriSolutions Pvt Ltd**

First generation entrepreneur, having doctorate and post doctorate in plant sciences with 17 years of research experience. She was also a visiting faculty at various institutes - Department of Botany, University of Pune, IBB and NIV to name a few. As CEO, she focuses on developing sustainable strategies for achieving long term goals of the company by developing key partnerships and collaborations for rapid penetration in the market. Renuka is also in charge of finance and fund-raising with a focus on building profitability with long term growth.



**Dr. Vidya Gupta**  
**Senior Scientist, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune**

Dr. Vidya Gupta has been working with the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) since 1982, and presently holds the position of a Senior Scientist. Dr Gupta did her B Sc. (Chemistry) in 1975 from Pune University. Later on she obtained M.Sc (Biochemistry) in 1977 from Pune University. Dr Gupta did her doctoral studies in Molecular Biology in 1981 from Pune University (worked at NCL). Dr Vidya Gupta has a spectacular research experience. She did her Post-Doctoral CSIR fellowship in 1981-82. Dr Vidya was a Visiting Scientist at Texas A & M University, College station USA in 1988-89 under the Raman Research Fellowship and also at Texas A & M University, College station USA in 1992. Her areas of interest include: host-pathogen/pest interactions, molecular markers for agro-economic traits, agricultural biotechnology, genetic diversity in wild population. Her areas of expertise are: plant biochemistry, molecular biology and genetic engineering with special reference to repetitive DNA organization in plants, genetic diversity in wild population, biotic stress in plants, molecular marker aided end product quantity improvement. Dr. Vidya Gupta was awarded the 'CSIR award for S&T (Science and Technology) Innovations for Rural Development' for the year 2007. She is an editor for "Plant Cell Biotechnology and Molecular Biology". Dr. Vidya is also a reviewer for "Current Science", "India Journal for Plant Biotechnology and Biotechnology", India and for International Journals such as "Molecular Breeding", "BMC Journals" and "Genome". Dr. Vidya Gupta also has to her credit patents in the field of Plant Biotechnology.



**Mr. Abhilash Gorhe**  
**Food Safety Counselor**

Mr. Gorhe is a compliance consultant and FSSAI& FOSTAC approved trainer, lead instructor for preventive control Qualified individual a requirement of USFDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). He has experience in farm, food and packaging materials compliance for Global - Good Agricultural Practices) GAP, India GAP organic (both APEDA and PGS) BRC FSSC 22000 and social standards as well as corporate multinational companies for vendor qualification. He is part of teams for Witness / accreditation teams for design of certification schemes /with quality council of India like medicinal plants, geographically indication. He can help to comply horticulture plant import requirements and has federation of various horticulture crops associations in Maharashtra. Implementation of #alphonso geographical indication is one important project  
For More Info Visit : [www.alphonsomangogi.com](http://www.alphonsomangogi.com) ; [www.avocadoindia.com](http://www.avocadoindia.com)



**Dr. Smita Kale**  
**Associate Manager- Incubator Operations, Venture Center**

Smita is working as an Associate Manager at Venture Center, Pune. As a part of Incubation team, she facilitates incubator operations by interacting with incubatees, infrastructure and facilities creation and development of the ecosystem. She is leading Bio-incubation activities at Venture Center. She is Ph. D in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai and has academic experience of 12 years which includes research experience of 3.6 years.



**Ms. Neha Khaladkar**  
**Asst. Manager at BRBC- BIRAC Regional Bio-Innovation Center**

Neha is responsible for planning & co-coordinating activities of BRBC. She studied MSc. in Microbiology. During her Masters she did her project work in National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. Neha is a qualified healthcare/Lifescience expert with cross functional expertise. She is an experienced professional in Business Development and has 7+ years of experience working with a Healthcare IT.



**Dr. Mugdha Lele**  
**Senior Manager – Social Innovations**

Mugdha is currently Sr. Manager for Social Innovations at Venture Center. She has done Ph.D from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and has teaching and research experience in a State Government medical university. At Venture Center, she is responsible for driving the Social Innovations and related activities and is responsible for providing technical mentoring for incubatees at Venture Center. Mugdha has been a Fellow of the Chevening Rolls Royce Science, Innovation, Policy and Leadership Programme (CRISP) at the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK in 2016. In 2018 she has also been part of the Aritra Accelerator Program for Leadership in the Social Sector at IIM Bangalore with Phicus Solutions and Dr. Reddy's Foundation. She is interested to drive programs which support development of novel technology solutions for impact in the social sector.



**Mr. Hemendra Mathur**  
**Investor, Co-founder of ThinkAg, Chairman of FICCI Task Force for Agri Startups**

Hemendra has over 24 years of experience in venture capital, private equity, management consulting and investment banking. Hemendra in his career has invested in several early stage agritech and mid-sized companies in the agricultural supply chain. He is a mentor, investor, board member and adviser in many food and agritech start-ups working on innovations in areas such as agri-inputs, market linkages, mechanization, food nutrition and value chain financing. He is currently working as Venture Partner with Bharat Innovation Fund –investing in early stage deep-tech start-ups across sectors. Hemendra is also co-founder of ThinkAg – a platform for accelerating the adoption of innovations in agriculture space. He also is the Chairman of FICCI Task Force on Agri Start-ups. He is also an advisor to a few Foundations, Multilaterals and Funds with interest in Indian food and agribusiness sector. He has authored many papers on the subject and speaks regularly at conferences pertaining to food and agribusiness sector as well as start-up ecosystem. He is a management graduate from IIM (Ahmedabad) and Agricultural Engineer from Rajasthan Agricultural University.



**Mr. Nagaraja Prakasam**  
**Partner Acumen Fund - Farmer - Growing Startups**

Nagaraja (Naga) Prakasam is a versatile and passionate leader with 28 years of global experience (decade in the USA, rest in India). As a full time, lead angel investor, he has lead 15 deals, invested in 23 start-ups, serves 12 boards, seen 6 exits & 2 write-offs. He has co-founded IAN Impact. His personal mantra is "Start-ups should focus on India's strength – people, problems, Tech". Believing in hands on approach, he does Bharath Dharshan traveled extensively in rural areas across 28 states/UTs understanding the need first hand. He is looked up as a thought leader in Impact space and has inspired many students as a motivational speaker in number of colleges. He is featured by forbes magazine as Social investor engineering social change. He has chaired "Green Revolution 2.0 – Food Security and the role of innovation" at 10th CII Innovation Summit. Spoke at launch of Bank of Innovations and Ideas (BII) by Ministry of Rural Development along with Dr. Abdul Kalam. Awarded "Successful Person 2015/Vetri Tamilar" by Sangam4, Chennai. Partner at Acumen – New York based \$100M impact venture fund. Served as an independent director in one of its portfolio company, Guardian-a micro finance venture working in Water and



	<p>Sanitation. Founder Chairman of Nativelead Foundation (NLF)- enables entrepreneurship in non-metros of Tamilnadu, with the vision to Enable, Nurture, Incubate, Invest (Native Angels). Nativelead grown into 242 angels in Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore, Erode, Tuticorin, Karur, Tirunelveli with 9 investments, touching 120 startups, 37 colleges. Replicated Nativelead model in Malabar area of Kerala as MiZone/Malabar Angels. Advisor, Resident Mentor at NSRCEL, IIMB; Investment Committee, IIT Madras Incubator; Mentor at CIIE, IIMA; Board Member, Madurai Agri-Business Incubator, TNAU-NABARD. Along with Principle Scientific Advisor (PSA) Office to Gol, conceptualized and advising to build KisanMitra-national digital platform to make Atmanirbhar Farmer. Expert jury Panel: Govt. of India National Entrepreneurship Award, Govt. of Karnataka Elevate, Forbes 30 under 30.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. Jasveer Singh</b> <b>Founder - Sense it Out</b></p> <p>Jasveer Singh is an IIT Bombay Alumnus and founder of an Agri-tech startup – Sense it Out, passionate to solve the water crisis problem that connects Agriculture &amp; Environment using his expertise in Sensors, IoT &amp; AI technologies. He has been instrumental in getting many startup grants, accolades and recognition from the Govt of India (DBT &amp; DST), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), and premier institutions like IIM-A, IIM-C, ICAR-IARI, CSIR-NCL and NASSCOM.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. Shubham Singh</b> <b>Director - Futuristic Materials Labs (FUMA Labs)</b></p> <p>Futuristic Materials Labs (FUMA Labs) wherein they are contributing towards a sustainable future through innovative materials and a circular economy structure. He has done his Masters in Advanced Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London. In 2017, Shubham was selected as a fellow for Social Innovation Immersion Program, a fellowship conceptualized under BIRAC, Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. His startup work is being recognized at various platforms and received notable awards such as Millennium Alliance Award, BIRAC SOCH Innovation Challenge Award from Minister at Ministry of Science &amp; Technology. He has been an Entrepreneur in Residence fellow under Dept. of Science &amp; Technology. Shubham is a TedX speaker and actively shares his views on education and environment on various public forums. He is an alumnus of Academia-Industry Training Program hosted by Swissnex and SINE, IIT Bombay. He is also an alumnus of Pitch at Palace, an initiative by Duke of York and had the privilege to be in the audience of HM Queen Elizabeth II at St James’s Palace.</p> <p>Shubham has been associated with social issues from a young age. He founded a non-profit Gramiksha in 2011, at the age of 19. Gramiksha works towards imparting holistic education to the children in the government schools, those living helplessly on the streets, and those belonging to unprivileged and deprived communities. Over 1000 volunteers have been a part of Gramiksha's projects impacting the lives of over 5,000 children.</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Premnath V</b> <b>Director, Venture Center   Head, NCL Innovations   Head, IP Group, NCL</b></p> <p>Premnath V is currently the Head, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Innovations - the group within NCL charged with the responsibility of championing the cause of technology innovation within NCL. Dr Premnath is also the Founding Director of the Venture Center - a technology business incubator on NCL campus. Dr Premnath is also a Scientist, Polymer Science &amp; Engineering Division at NCL with an interest in technology development for biomedical products. He holds a B.Tech. from the Indian Institute of Technology - Bombay and a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. He has also been a Chevening Technology Enterprise Fellow with the Centre for Scientific Enterprises, London Business School and Cambridge University, UK. He brings with him considerable experience in technology development and commercialization (two successfully commercialized families of products), working with start-up companies (in Cambridge-UK and India) and engaging with large corporations on research and consulting projects as project leader.</p> <p>More information at: <a href="http://www.premnath.org">www.premnath.org</a></p>



**About the Organizers**

	<p>BIRAC Regional Bioinnovation Centre (BRBC) is the third regional centre of BIRAC and is located in Venture Center. BRBC aims to fill up key innovation ecosystem gaps for bio-based industry sectors and thus significantly impact the translation of high quality innovative ideas into viable and sustainable business enterprises. Some key BRBC initiatives are Venture Mentoring Service; Venture Base Camps; Regulatory Information and Facilitation Centre; Bio Incubation Practice School</p> <p>More on: <a href="http://www.brbc.venturecenter.co.in/">http://www.brbc.venturecenter.co.in/</a></p>
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**Supported by**

	<p>Biotechnology Industry Research &amp; Assistance Council is a non-profit company created by the Department of Biotechnology (Government of India) with a mandate to develop the national ecosystem for biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship and provide targeted support to innovators and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>For more information about BIRAC: <a href="http://www.birac.nic.in">www.birac.nic.in</a></p>
	<p>Venture Center is India's largest inventive enterprises and scientific business incubator. Venture Center is a technology business incubator hosted by CSIR- NCL and supported by the Department of Science &amp; Technology's National Science &amp; Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (DST-NSTEDB) and BIRAC.</p> <p>For more information, visit <a href="http://www.venturecenter.co.in">www.venturecenter.co.in</a></p>