



# SOCIAL INNOVATION IMMERSION PROGRAM

ACTIVITY &  
IMPACT REPORT



SPARSH CENTER AT VENTURE CENTER, PUNE (24 OCT 2014-30 NOV 2023)







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# ABOUT THE SPARSH PROGRAM OF BIRAC



SPARSH, initiated by BIRAC is the Social Innovation programme for Products: Affordable & Relevant to Societal Health, that intends to create a pool of social innovators in the biotech arena who will identify the specific needs and gaps in healthcare. The social innovators will be provided financial and technical support for developing market-based solutions that have potential to bring cost effective health care breakthroughs to vulnerable populations in particular.

## SPARSH objectives :

- Identify and provide support to cutting edge innovations towards affordable product development that can bring significant **social impact and address challenges of inclusive growth**.
- Provide support in the form of **impact funding of biotech product innovations** (with social goals) that can be scaled.
- Create and foster a **pool of social innovators** in biotech and provide a **platform** to share best practices, understand intricacies of business models in social innovation and network.





# ABOUT THE SOCIAL INNOVATION IMMERSION (SIIP) PROGRAM

**SIIP** is a fellowship program under SPARSH which intends to create a pool of social innovators in the biotech arena who can identify specific needs and gaps in healthcare of different communities which can then be bridged and serviced through innovative product development and services.

The need-identification is carried out through immersion in urban, semi-urban and rural communities. Each SIIP fellow receives a fellowship of INR 50,000/month from BIRAC and a mini-kick start grant of INR 5 lakhs. The program is implemented through BIRAC SIIP partners/ SPARSH centers and mentored through BIRAC SIIP knowledge partner.

## Expected outcome :

- BIRAC expects the social innovators to reach a point where they either have a **ready business plan to pitch to investors**, or an **advanced proposal** with some preliminary results suitable for funding by BIG or equivalent funding source or a technology / patent suitable for licensing





# ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



## Funding Partner: BIRAC

- Concept & funding
- National selection process
- Program management



## SIIP Knowledge Partner: TISS

- Training for fellows on concepts & framework
- Social innovation focus & perspective
- Review of projects by fellows



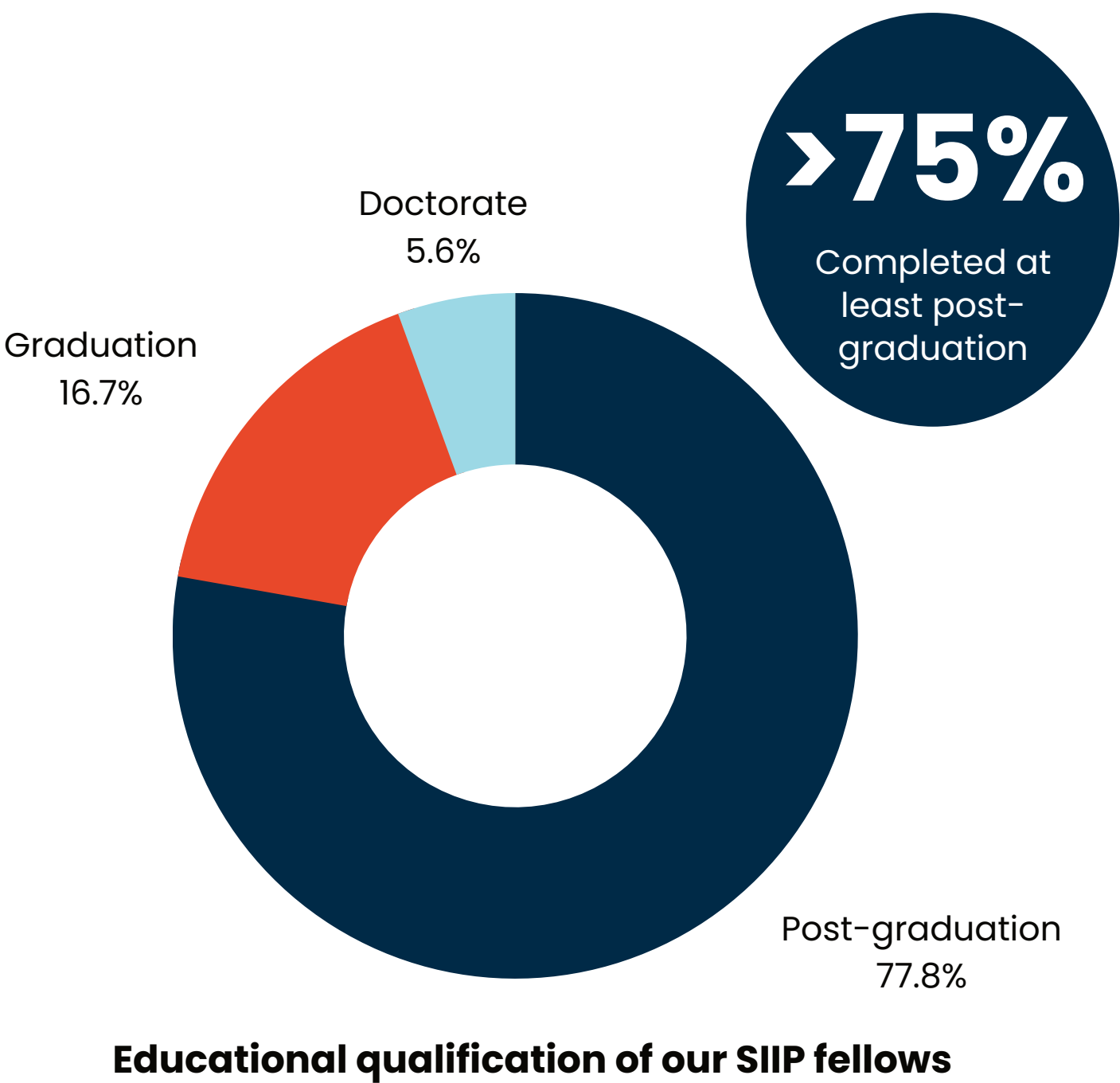
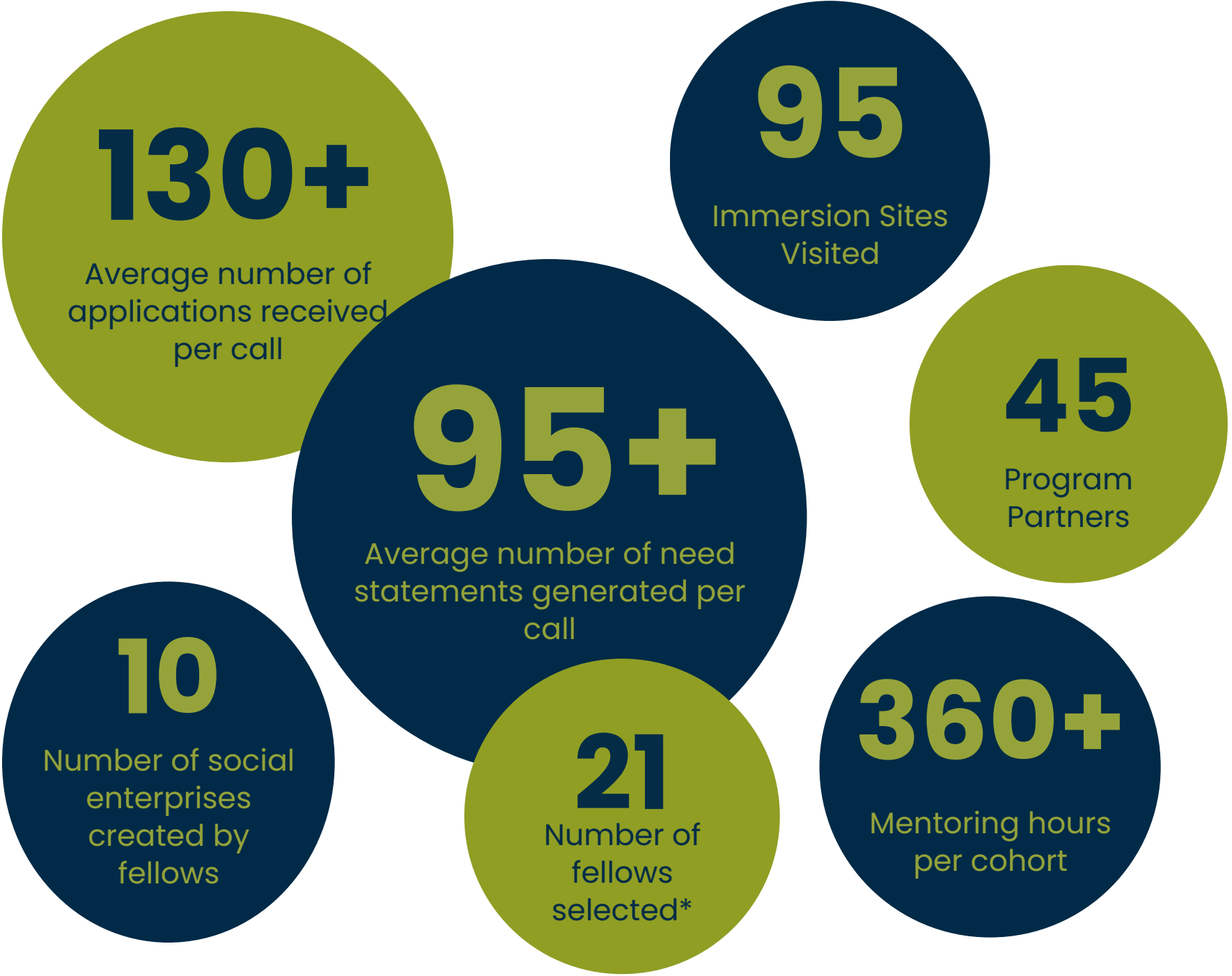
## SIIP Partner: Venture Center

- Implementation of program objectives
- Induction training
- Day to day mentoring of fellows
- Immersion program
- Guidance on tech development project & fund raising
- Mentoring for new venture creation



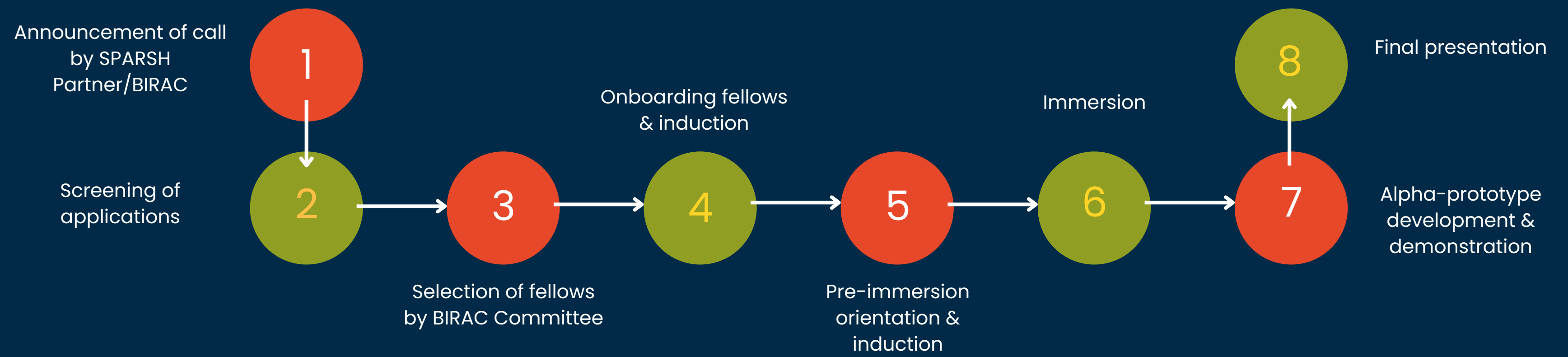


# FACT FILE: SIIP AT VENTURE CENTER



\*Disclaimer: Total 21 fellows were selected. Out of which 3 opted out of the program, 18 have successfully completed the program.





## SELECTION OF THE COHORT

The total number of applications received by Venture Center are shortlisted initially based on the eligibility criteria as stated by the program guidelines. Upon filtering out the initial entries, our internal committee then screens out further applications based on the applicant's skills, background and technical expertise. A total of 20-25 applications are then sent to BIRAC's committee for the selection of the final cohort. Five fellows are then selected by this committee for pursuing the fellowship program.

Venture Center as one of the SPARSH centres and a partner for this fellow ship program, has always been committed to scouting around for skilled individuals with a passion for social innovation. More than 75% of our SIIP fellows have at least completed their post-graduation and are alumni of reputed national and international educational institutes. Venture Center encourages candidates who have shown a track record of commitment to social impact and keen interest in building new enterprises.





# INDUCTION & TRAINING

On-boarding of the fellows and their subsequent induction is a 2-3 months long phase, aimed at exposing the fellows to the diverse facets of entrepreneurship. Venture Center invests an extensive amount of time in training the fellows via organizing workshops & talks, facilitating interactions with other theme-based program partners and providing constant handholding support. Our SIIP fellows have access to 15+ in-house mentors that provide them with technical and business mentoring as and when needed.

The Startup 101 Series, one of our flagship workshops, is a six week certification course split over 24 sessions covering diverse concepts from ideation & need identification to sales distribution & online marketing. Our 24+ Social Innovation Talks held by eminent theme specific speakers is an endeavor to initiate thought-provoking conversation around the theme and identify relevant problem statements first-hand. These talks also present role models and inspire fellows to pursue social enterprises.



# IMMERSION

- The immersion phase lasts for about 5-6 months.
- It focuses on observations and conversations to unravel needs & sharpen problem definitions following a methodology akin to the Stanford Biodesign Program.
- A total of 95 immersion site visits have been conducted cumulatively in urban & rural setting for generating quality need statements.



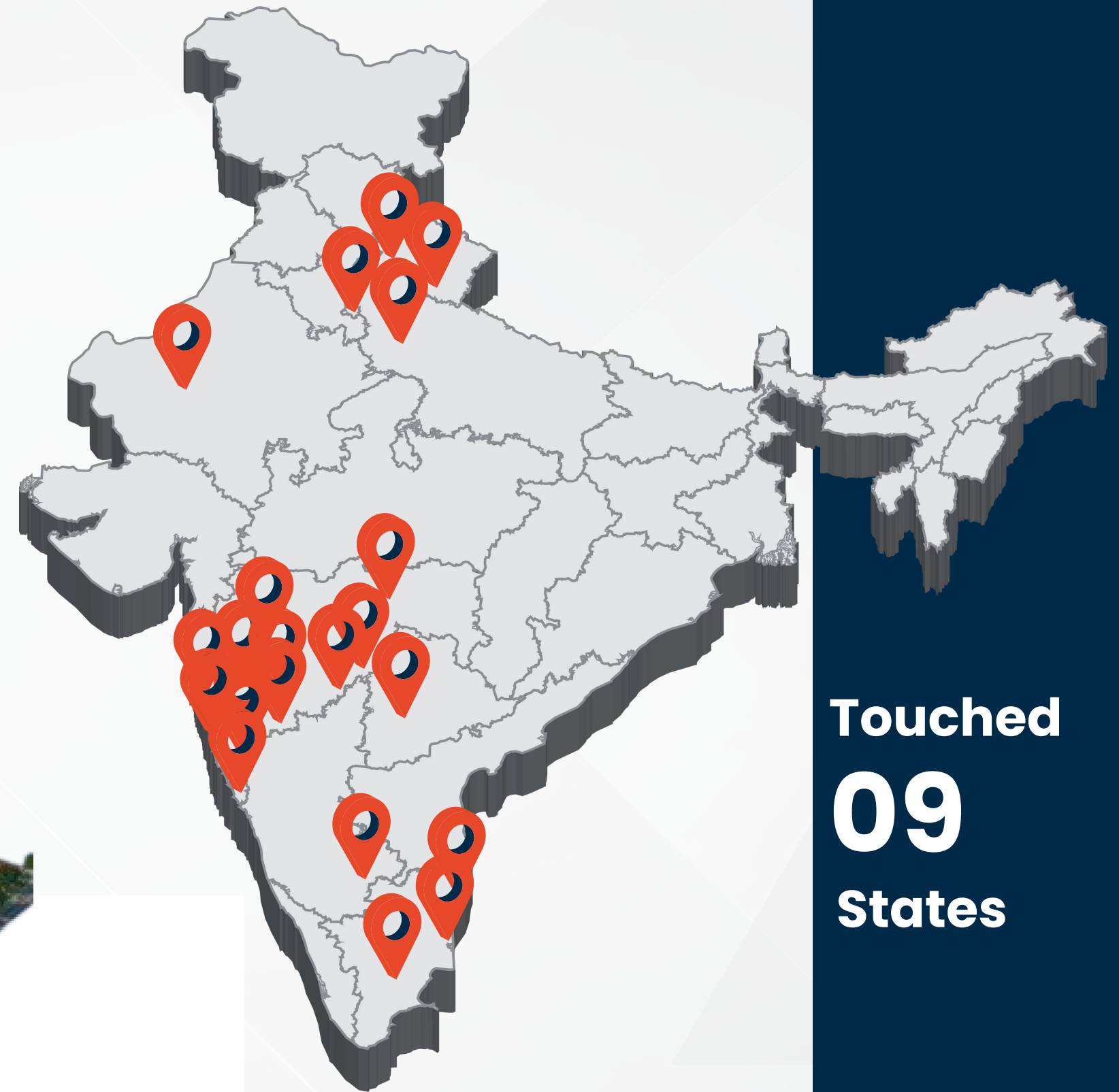


# IMMERSION COVERAGE

- Maximum coverage of Tier-2/ Tier-3 cities with an aim to reach the grass-roots for qualitative need identification.
- 70+ one-on-one interactions with individual stakeholders & 40+ relevant organization visits.



- Theme specific immersions in remote villages & rural settings to get firsthand exposure for need identification.
- 20+ relevant organization visits in rural settings.



**Touched**  
**09**  
**States**



# NEED IDENTIFICATION

The observations recorded during immersion visits are then reorganized over several brainstorming sessions amongst fellows and with the internal mentoring team.

Venture Center actively encourages work interactions amongst fellows and emphasizes over peer to peer learning, for generating quality need statements through group learnings. We have developed a **detailed screening matrix** internally that is then used by our fellows for the purpose of shortlisting the identified needs.



**Call 01: Maternal & Child Health**

Needs identified: 90



**Call 02: Sanitation & Waste to Value**

Needs identified: 78



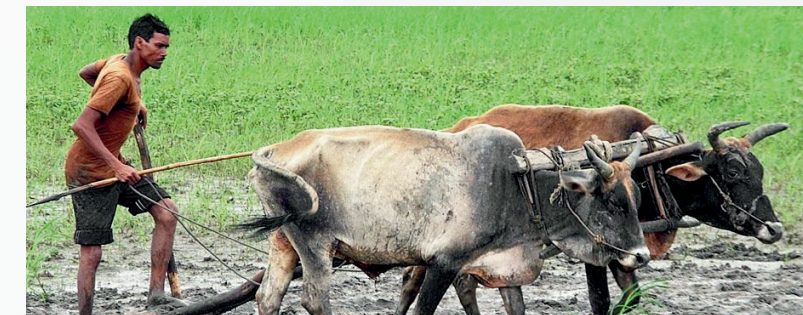
**Call 03: Ageing & Health**

Needs identified: 137



**Call 04: Waste to Value**

Needs identified: 46



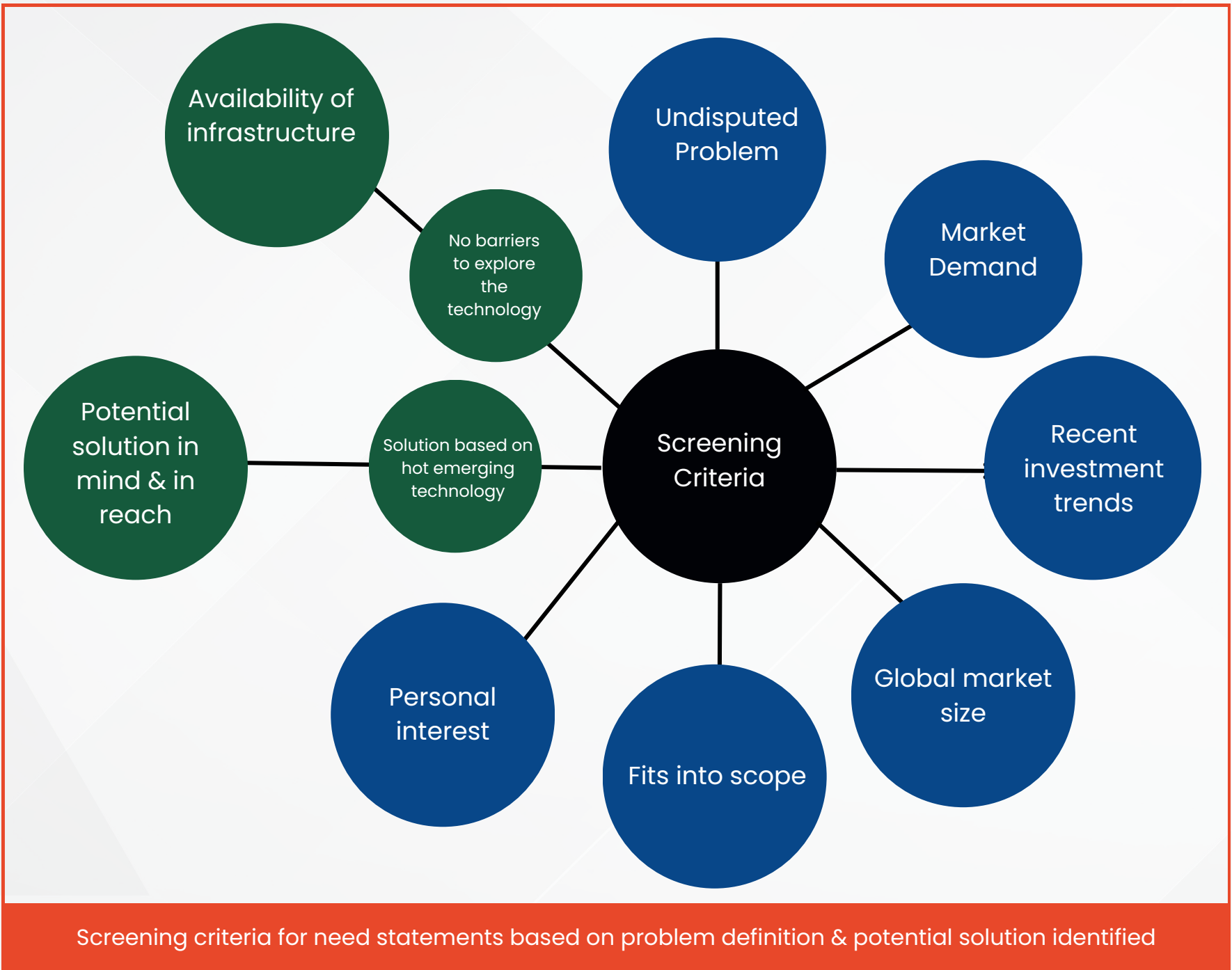
**Call 05: Agri-tech**

Needs identified: 151

Stanford Biodesign Need Statment format

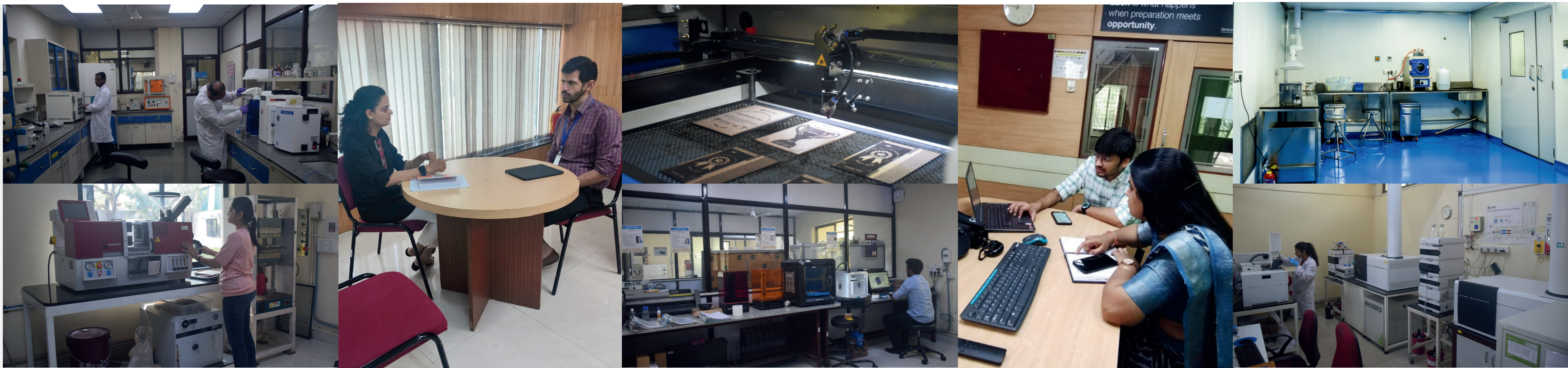
**"A way to address [problem] in [population] in order to achieve the following [outcome]"**

# PROBLEM SHORTLISTING



Based on the rankings as per the matrix, the fellows own skill sets, and the idea which the fellow passionately wishes to take ahead as his own project, 3-5 problem statements are selected and presented to the BIRAC Committee. As per the inputs given by the BIRAC committee, the final approved project idea is pursued by the fellow for prototyping.





# IDEATION & PROOF OF CONCEPT

Venture Center has a diverse array of resources that include a high end analytical instrumentation facilities center (**VC Analytix**), regulatory information facilitation center (**RIFC**) with access to dedicated mentoring on regulatory compliance for medical devices in India as well as the global markets and an IP facilitation center (**IPFACE**) that provides handholding support with end to end requirements for securing the fellows intellectual property. Our dedicated vertical (**Protoshop**)

offers advanced prototyping services with instruments like 3D printers, laser cutters, design & simulation software including SolidWorks, Simulink and others. Venture Center's SIIP monitoring team is constantly in close contact with its fellows and invests considerable efforts in solving any technical or operational challenges as well as alleviating any personal challenges that are encountered during their prototyping journey.

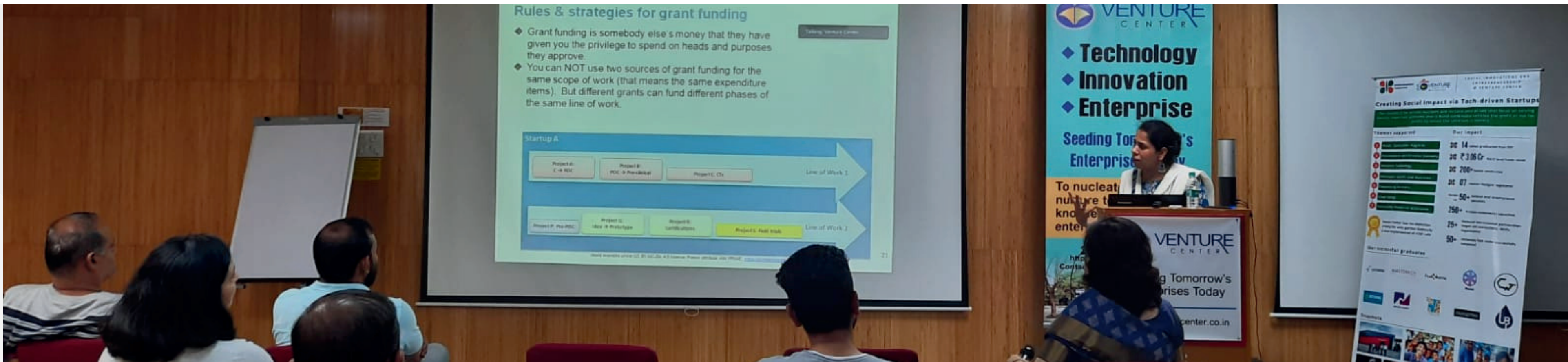
• VC Analytix | <https://www.venturecenter.co.in/analytical/>

• RIFC | <http://rffc.venturecenter.co.in/>

• IPFACE | <https://www.ipface.org/>

• Protoshop | <https://www.protoshop.in/>





# COMPANY CREATION & FUND RAISING

Venture Center introduces & makes accessible several pockets for follow on funding, which are diligently utilized by our SIIP fellows post completion of the fellowship program. CSR grants, multiple government grants for early stage entrepreneurs and seed funding support are some of those opportunities and our fellows have successfully raised

more than Rs. 6.5 Cr follow-on funding till date. Our in-house mentors closely mentor the fellows and provide them with hand-held support needed for applying to the various fund raising schemes. Nearly 64% of our fellows have registered companies during the course of their fellowships as a means to pursue full-time entrepreneurship in the future.



# IMPACT REPORT

21



Graduated SIIP fellows  
out of 18 supported

10



Companies Registered

32



Employment Generated

11.12 Cr



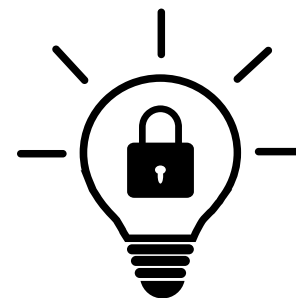
Total follow on funds raised  
by fellows till date

10



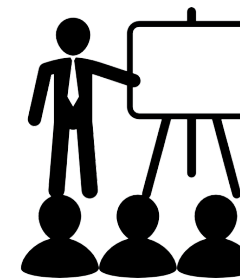
Products Launched

22



IP filed

160+



Trainings/ Workshops  
Conducted

50+

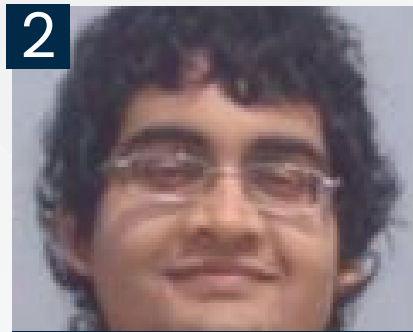


Mentors Engaged

# PROFILE OF SIIP FELLOWS



1  
Amrita Sukrity  
Alumna, IIT- Kharagpur



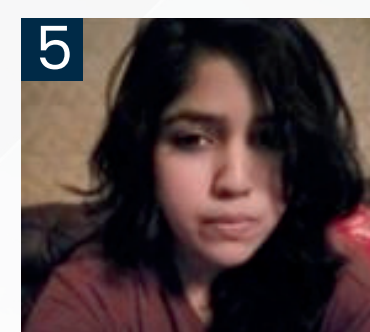
2  
Sarang Kulkarni  
Alumnus, MIT USA



3  
DSS Chaitanya  
Alumnus, University of  
Hyderabad



4  
Apoorva Bedekar  
Alumna, Imperial  
College London



5  
Aishwarya Nair  
Alumna, IISER Bhopal



6  
Pramod Bhurji  
Alumnus, TISS Mumbai



7  
Raunaq Pradhan  
Alumnus, NIT Rourkela



8  
Monish Deshmukh  
Alumnus, University of  
Melbourne



9  
Shubham Singh  
Alumnus, Imperial College  
London



10  
Yashoda Kashikar-Padhye  
Alumna, Savitribai Phule  
Pune University



11  
Mangesh Khadase  
Alumnus, IIT Kharagpur



12  
Divyakshi Kaushik  
Alumna, MIT Institute of  
Design Pune



13  
Lakshay Sethi  
Alumnus, BITS Pilani  
Hyderabad



14  
Aakash Baglane  
Alumnus, COEP Pune



15  
Akash Singh  
Alumnus, University of  
Mumbai



16  
Tushar Pawar  
Alumnus, IISc Bangalore



17  
Gandhali Bapat  
Alumna, Savitribai Phule  
Pune University



18  
Rupesh Pawar  
Alumnus, ICT Mumbai



19  
Abhishek Deshmukh  
Alumnus, Erasmus+



20  
Sanchit Aggarwal  
Alumnus, IIIT Hyderabad



21  
Mohan Kumar  
Alumnus, Bangalore Univ.



# PROGRAM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS





# MENTORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE MENTORING OF SIIP FELLOWS

- Amol Nisal
- Anjali Raje
- Anshuman Lath
- Anuja Jayram
- Dilip Ranade
- Harshvardhan Modak
- Hitendra Singh
- Jayant Umranikar
- Kishori Gadre
- Koumudi Godbole
- Mahesh Dharne
- Milon Nag
- Muralidhar Tambe
- Nandini Devi
- Nerges Mistry
- Niranjan Khambete
- Nuriel Pezarkar
- Prema Gopalan
- Rakesh Kumar
- Ramesh Awasthi
- Ravi B
- Rosette Farugia Bonello
- Sandeep Kale
- Sandeep Tamane
- Sanjay Ingale
- Sanjay Juvekar
- Sanjay Nene
- Satyajit Majumdar
- Shashikala Sangale
- Sreeram Dhurjaty
- Sucheta Banerjee Kurundkar
- Ulhas Kharul
- Vaijayanti Pethe
- Vidya Gupta
- Vijay Panchnadikar
- Vilas Sinkar
- Vishal Sardeshpande
- .....& many more



Disclaimer: Only mentors whose photos were accessible to us have been included in this list.



# OUR FELLOWS IN THEIR OWN WORDS!

*"I can safely say SIIP was the formal beginning of my entrepreneurial career. The program is designed to really imbibe empathy, that I believe is an extremely important skill in life in general and especially for an entrepreneur. It's a great first step if you want to do something big but don't know how."*

**- Lakshay Sethi, SIIP Call 4, Waste to Value**

*"The Social Innovation Immersion Program was instrumental in accelerating my entrepreneurship journey, offering crucial guidance, connections, and resources. With the program's support, I successfully developed the hybrid solar biomass dryer, a sustainable solution that not only addresses environmental challenges but also promotes social impact in agricultural communities."*

**- Pramod Bhurji, SIIP Call 2, Sanitation & Waste to Value**

*"Venture Centre and its unique services like Mentorship programs, 101 lectures on various topics, webinars and periodic review meetings really helped me to start my early entrepreneurship journey. Though I am not continuing entrepreneurial journey anymore, I have learnt a lot in those two years under the Social Innovation Immersion Program in the Venture Centre."*

*Thanks to Dr. Premnath, Dr. Manisha and Dr. Mugdha Lele for their guidance and support, even beyond the tenure."*

**-Yashodaa Paadhya, SIIP Call 3, Ageing and Health**



# FEATURED CASE STUDY-SHUBHAM SINGH



I was sitting in the Imperial College library one day and reading the newspaper that stated Delhi was one of the most polluted cities in the world and the problem of stubble burning. A part of my research at that time was already connected to biomass so I wondered if something could be done with the crop waste instead of burning it down.



## Company Details

- Founded in 2018, Craste purchases crop residues from farmers and upcycles them to make packaging materials and engineered boards for furniture.
- Based in Pune, Craste repurposes crop waste, helps farmers make additional revenue and provides customized packing solutions to its clients.

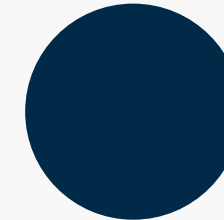
## Recent Spectacular Achievements

- Raised Rs. 250+ lakhs follow-on funding from CSR funds & grants.
- Finalist for World Sustainability Award & Honorable mention Seoul Design Award.
- Winner of Make it Circular Challenge, Amsterdam & Circular Economy Award.
- Contributed to setting up the first agri-fibre conversion unit.



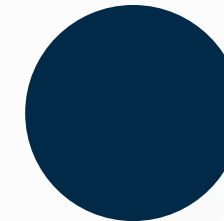


# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



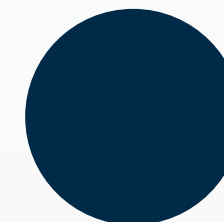
## DATA CREDITS

Dr. Mugdha Lele (Head- Social Innovations) has contributed to the data in the report.



## DATA CREDITS

Niruta Killedar (Senior Associate- Social Innovations) has contributed to the data in the report.



## EDITS & DESIGN

Meghana Bhandari (Associate- Bioincubation) has contributed to the overall data compilation, data visualization and design of the report.













# SOCIAL INNOVATION IMMERSION PROGRAM

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## ACTIVITY & IMPACT REPORT

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**Mobile no:** 7410045652

**Website:** [www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations](http://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations)

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