

NMIMS Sobus Center of Excellence
for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Shirpur

BI-MONTHLY REPORT MAY-JUNE 2023

As per the commitment of fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the NMIMS campus and the local region, the NMIMS SOBUS Center of Excellence for Innovation and Entrepreneurship has undertaken numerous initiatives in the last two months to create platforms for students, faculty and local innovators.

VIHAAN INITIATIVE MEETING WITH SHIRPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

The NMIMS SOBUS CoE launched the Vihaan initiative to open up the avenue for the NMIMS students to empathize with local issues, work on designing innovative, tech-based solutions and test their solutions within a real-world environment.

The CoE and the MPSTME school have collaborated with the Shirpur Municipal corporation to innovate solutions for managing the waste management issues.

As a part of this initiative, the center of excellence organized a meeting between Shirpur corporation officials and NMIMS campus faculty to discuss the project timeline and implementation plan. For the meeting MPSTME Associate Dean Dr. Venkatadri, Faculty Dr. Prashant Udawant, Waste management department head Mrs. Deepali Salunkhe and NMIMS SOBUS CoE Manager Mr. Chetan Patil were present.



PLAN OF ACTION

1

The municipal officials will conduct a student workshop in July to present various problem statements under waste management and students will then choose one theme as per their interest.

2

Top three solutions will be sent to the Swachh India National Challenge and will be implemented in the Shirpur city.

3

A joint faculty group from all the four schools will visit the waste processing facility in Shirpur to devise a joint project to tackle waste management and guide the students

This is a continuation of an event that the CoE conducted in March for the engineering students with the municipal officials to give them an overall perspective.



SOCIAL IMMERSION: INSTITUTE-COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FOR A LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

A project to create agro-based farmer producer companies (FPCs) in a few villages is being worked out. The initiative will provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for women in rural and tribal regions of Shirpur.

The project will engage students from the Agriculture and textile college, especially the locals in activities like resource mapping, feasibility survey, focused group discussions with diverse local stakeholders. This project will involve agri business models using agricultural and animal husbandry techniques, making this a live project from which students can learn and co-create impact plans and lead to one more model of Institute- community collaboration for empowering local communities.

Over May and June, extensive on-ground meetings were conducted in several villages in the Shirpur region, leading to a few active women coming forward to lead this project.



The meetings have already been conducted with the women self help groups in the villages for FPC formation and also with the deans of the both Agriculture and Textile college to create a plan for involving faculties and students. Several agriculture students expressed their interest in conducting these surveys post their exams. Currently the formation process of four companies is in the process.

Orientation sessions to introduce the farmer producer company concept were conducted at Textile and Agricultural school. Students from both these schools will work on designing and conducting surveys to collect the necessary data.



Sobus recently signed a MoU with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission, Dhule to create women farmer producer companies in the Shirpur block. These producer companies will mainly undertake business activities based on Agriculture and Animal rearing.



Patents

The CoE reached out to faculty to understand their journey with patents and setting up the next steps. We have started interacting with faculties to understand the different stages of their projects and the main objective of the initiative is to explore if any faculty would like to move their work towards commercialization.

We have received the patents list from all the four colleges and now in the phase wise manner we will interact with all the faculty patent holders to understand their concepts and guide them for pursuing their patent ideas further and make a successful startup out of it.

We believe that this initiative will not only help the faculties with the patents but it will also inspire students to take up research activities and work on their own entrepreneurship ideas.

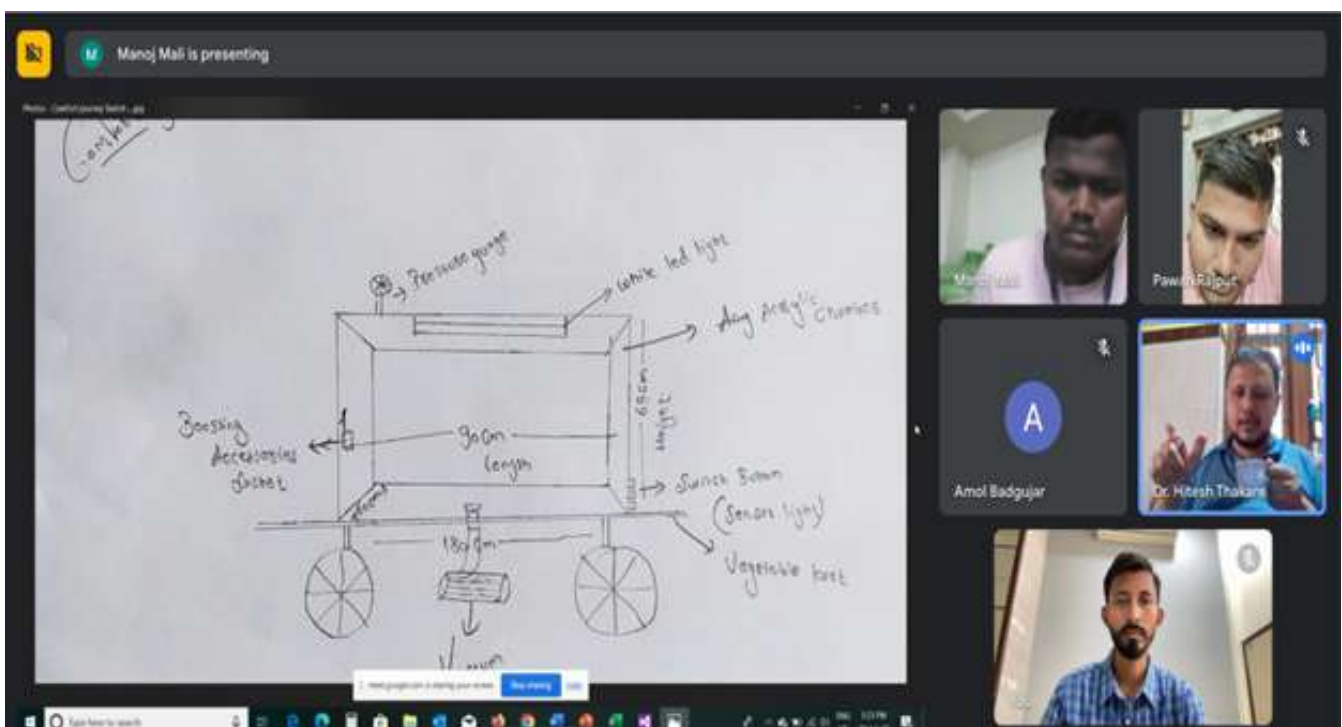
As the awareness about the NMIMS SOBUS center of Excellence is growing, we are now approached by innovators and entrepreneurs from the local villages and communities. Till now five such entrepreneurs have approached the CoE with their startup ideas on agriculture and related businesses for the guidance and mentorship support. Center of Excellence is happy to support budding entrepreneurs in the region thus contributing to the development of the local economy.



MENTORSHIP FOR STUDENT AND FACULTY INNOVATORS

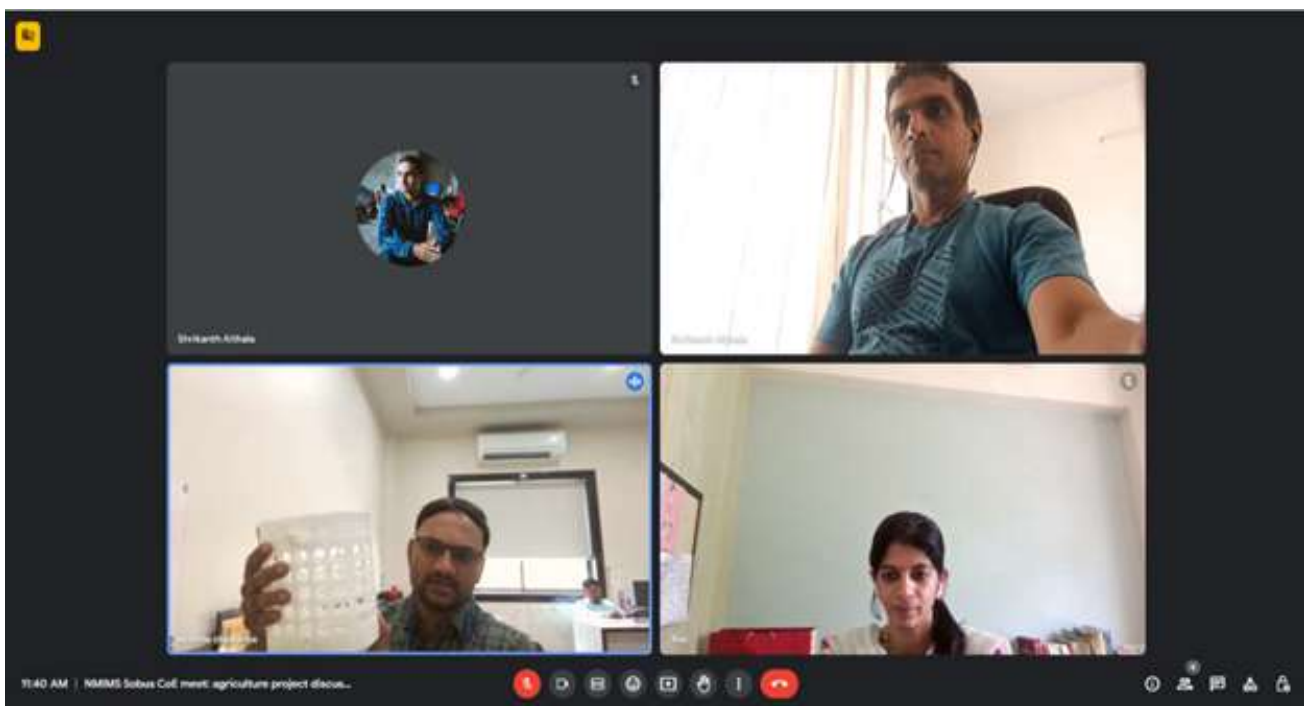
Innovators from SAST, Pawan & Manoj have gone through a series of mentorship sessions with CoE mentor, Dr. Nitin Kulkarni. Both of them are working on creating a machine to increase the shelf life of vegetables and fruits. They have now reached a stage where they have finalized their product design, developed a business plan and identified target customers. Currently the duo is in the process of developing a prototype to test their product with the customers in the market.

To build the working prototype, CoE recently connected them to the Mechanical Engineering department from NMIMS Dhule Campus. Dr. Amol Badgajar and Dr. Hitesh Thakare from NMIMS Dhule campus guided them virtually for building the prototype using various parts. Innovators are now quite clear about the material requirements and the process to build the proof of concept and now have begun the process of preparing a working model of their idea.



Dr. Krishna Chaitanya, Faculty from SAST, is working on creating a pheromone light trap which can be used to kill a target pest species while keeping other non targeted species safe. Dr. Krishna has been taking mentorship from CoE mentors to bring precision in his concept.

For further refinement of his ideas, NMIMS SOBUS CoE connected him virtually to Mr. Shrikant Aithala (Entrepreneur and Consultant) who comes with an experience of designing successful mechanical prototypes. Dr. Chaitanya presented his 3D model of the machine and explained the working and the challenges. Mr. Aithala spoke about approaching the problem with an entrepreneurial mindset and using the locally available material. Dr. Chaitanya is now working on building a full model using suggestions form the conversation with the mentor.



APPLICATION FOR ITBI

The CoE facilitated the application of NMIMS Shirpur campus for the NIDHI iTBI (Inclusive Technology Business Incubator) program by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The iTBI grant supports the development of Innovation and Entrepreneurship among college students.



WAY FORWARD

With the new academic year, CoE has planned several new initiatives and targets-

- CoE will work with faculties to get 5 startup ideas from all the four schools
- Center will also work with non teaching staff to motivate them to work on their ideas and get at least one startup idea from each school.
- CoE will organize events and workshops to equip students with innovation & entrepreneurial skills. Major focus will be on connecting students with diverse local stakeholders and motivating them to take up live projects for designing sustainable solutions.
- Center will closely work with student innovators from the campus for mentorship and help them refine their idea and build a successful business venture out of it.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we look forward to working closely with everyone to create a stronger ecosystem for the institute.





SOBUS

If you have an idea for a project, innovation or business,
get in touch with us.

CONTACT:

RESHA PATEL
resha@sobusinsight.org

CHETAN PATIL
chetan@sobusinsight.org

