RICH COMMUNIQUÉ

January - March 2025

COVER STORY

» Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance - Stakeholder Consultation

RICH conducted two stakeholder consultation workshops as part of the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) project to promote the Greening...

» **Recognition for Visionary Leadership**

» **AI in Healthcare Roundtable under the AI Research and Collaboration Network of Telangana AI Roadmap Policy**

» RAISING AND ACCELERATING MSME PERFORMANCE – STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

RICH conducted two stakeholder consultation workshops as part of the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) project to promote the Greening of MSMEs in collaboration with CII as knowledge partner.. The workshops were held at Nacharam (February 15, 2025) and Jeedimetla (February 22, 2025), bringing together key MSME stakeholders, industry associations, and government representatives. MSMEs actively engaged in discussions and expressed keen interest in the greening initiatives. Over 100 participants attended both workshops. 60 MSMEs submitted Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to participate in the greening MSME project and undertake initiatives. We engaged with MSMEs from Nacharam, Cherlapally, Mallapur, Jeedimetla, Balanagar and Sanathnagar industrial estates, and explained about the recently launched RAMP program and Greening MSME initiative.

Shri. Jayesh Ranjan IAS, Special Chief Secretary (ITE&C and I&C), Telangana, gave insights into how several initiatives being taken up by the state are converging together to provide a robust platform that can be used to accelerate the growth of MSMEs in the state. He further shed light on the recently unveiled MSME policy and Clean and Green Energy policy, along with the strategic interventions being planned under the "Greening MSME" project being undertaken by RICH. MSMEs also had an opportunity to interact with the Additional Director and Joint Director from the Commissionerate of Industries and understand what kind of support would be made available from the department for MSMEs participating in the RAMP Scheme.

Greening experts from CII show.cased the latest clean technology innovations that are at the disposal of MSMEs, and also suggested on how MSMEs can leverage government schemes, aimed at supporting MSMEs in their green transition. Participation from MSMEs throughout the program reaffirmed the need for such collaborative efforts in Greening of MSMEs.

RICH reaffirmed its commitment to technical assistance and funding support for MSMEs adopting green practices. The workshops reinforced the need for collaborative efforts to accelerate MSMEs' transition to sustainable practices, aligning with the state's broader decarbonization goals.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

» RECOGNITION FOR VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad was acknowledged as Visionary Leaders in Science & Technology. This recognition further strengthens our dedication to driving meaningful change in our focus areas.

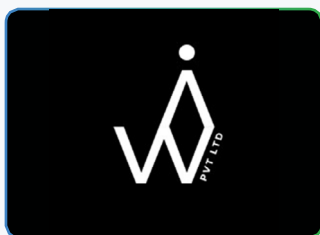## » RASHMI PIMPALE AT THE HEALTHCARE SUMMIT 2025

At the AI Healthcare Summit 2025, Rashmi Pimpale, CEO, Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad moderated a panel discussion titled 'The Path to AI Adoption in Healthcare.' The engaging conversation featured Jay Mookherje, Sanjay Sarin, Anand Sankaranarayanan, PhD, and Pravin Vaddavalli, focusing on the opportunities and challenges presented by AI in healthcare. The insightful discussion shed light on key aspects of AI integration in the healthcare sector.

AID COHORT 7 LAUNCH

RICH announced the selection of 11 startups for the 7th Cohort of its flagship program, AID. This cohort is dedicated to solutions in Musculoskeletal Health, offering startups access to a range of essential support services, including:

- » Clinical validation
- » Product design & manufacturing
- » Regulatory pathways
- » Cybersecurity support
- » Fundraising opportunities

The selected startups benefit from tailored guidance and resources to accelerate their progress in the field of Musculoskeletal Health, furthering RICH's commitment to fostering innovation and growth in this critical sector.

RICH HOSTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON AI IN HEALTHCARE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

RICH organized roundtable discussions on AI in Healthcare and Urban Development. As the nodal agency for the AIRCN under the Telangana AI Roadmap Initiative, RICH fosters collaboration among government, academia, and industry for AI-powered solutions.

Key Highlights:

AI in Healthcare Roundtable:

» Discussions focused on leveraging AI for women and child health, cancer detection, and optimizing healthcare delivery systems.

AI in Smart Cities Roundtable:

» Topics included AI in energy management, urban mobility enhancement, and citizen services for smarter cities.

» Participants' contributions will drive progress towards a smarter, healthier, and more inclusive future using AI.

WORKSHOP ON DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT

In collaboration with NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, and IIIT Hyderabad, RICH hosted a successful workshop on DPDP Act, Cybersecurity, and Real-World Practices for Healthcare on March 18, 2025, at CIE IIIT Hyderabad.

Key Highlights:

» The workshop, part of the AI Research and Collaboration Network (AIRCN) under the Telangana AI Roadmap Policy, united researchers, industry experts, hospitals, and startups.

» The event commenced with Ms. Rashmi Pimpale's insightful address, paving the way for engaging discussions throughout the day.

» Distinguished speakers, including Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao (NALSAR University), P J Narayanan (IIIT Hyderabad), and Shri. T. Ravi Kiran, IFS (ESD, MeeSeva) shared insights on the regulatory landscape.

» Expert contributions were made by Dr. KVK Santhy (NALSAR University), Mr. Venkata Narasimham Peri (Lv Prasad Eye Institute & CognitiveCare), Prof. Dr. Aakansha Natani (IIIT Hyderabad), Dr. Krishna Ravi Srinivas (NALSAR University), Mr. B. M. Irfan (CLFS, NALSAR University), Mr. Rejis Sen (Continental Hospitals), Mr. Vedanth Padigelwar (Aarogya ID), Mr. Meeraj Kanaparthi (Evernorth Health Services), and Dr. Sushmitha Sundar (RICH).

STARTUP SPOTLIGHT

Startup Name: Core Idea Innovations

Achievement/Milestone: Core Idea Innovations, a part of the SISFS portfolio of RICH, recently secured the prestigious Pernod Ricard India Foundation "Unnati Women entrepreneur award". This recognition includes a grant of Rs. 25 Lakhs for their company, along with valuable business support and mentoring from IIM Calcutta Innovation Park.

Sector: Life Sciences

Startup Name: RangBio Solutions

Achievement/Milestone: RangBio Solutions, a supported startup by SISFS, achieved a significant milestone by interacting with Honourable PM Narendra Modi at the Bharat Textile Innovation Expo 2025. Furthermore, they were awarded the 1st prize for Textiles Innovation Challenge at Bharat Tex Expo 2025 by the Secretary of Ministry of Textiles.

Sector: Life Sciences

Startup Name: Artelus Technologies

Achievement/Milestone: Artelus Technologies has been acknowledged as one of India's top AI healthcare companies by IndiaAI, a Government of India flagship initiative. Out of over 900 AI companies, Artelus is recognized as one of the 30 most innovative companies driving AI transformation.

Sector: Life Sciences

Startup Name: KUPPISMART SOLUTIONS Pvt Ltd

Achievement/Milestone: KUPPISMART SOLUTIONS Pvt Ltd has secured an investment agreement under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), facilitated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Their pioneering work in developing an AI-powered device for rapid disease prediction and continuous monitoring of environmental factors in the poultry industry stands as a testament to their commitment to innovation. This significant support will enable them to further their progress in proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, and market entry.

Sector: Food & Agri

Startup Name: Proleri

Achievement/Milestone: Proleri has secured investment under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) facilitated from RICH. The company transforms agricultural waste into high-quality RuBisCO protein isolates, addressing nutritional gaps and promoting sustainable agriculture. Incubated at ASPIRE BioNEST, University of Hyderabad, Proleri has achieved recognition as the winner of the "Startup Grand Challenge" and the 2nd runner-up at TGS100. This support will further facilitate their progress in prototype development and market entry.

Sector: Food & Agri

Startup Name: Pavakah Energy

Achievement/Milestone: Pavakah Energy is developing innovative thin film technology known as solar paint, capable of converting any surface into a solar panel.

Support from RICH:
Connected with wet lab facilities and characterization facilities for synthesizing new formulations.
Secured funding of Rs 10 L from RICH through SISF.
Shortlisted for a potential funding of 50L from IIT Hyderabad under the SISF scheme.

Sector: Sustainability

Startup Name: Gudlyf

Achievement/Milestone: Gudlyf is focused on developing Type 4 composite cylinders for high-pressure storage of industrial gases, with a particular emphasis on Hydrogen.

Funding:
Secured Rs 10L from Nidhi Prayaas.
Received an additional Rs 30L in funding from RICH (SISF).

Recognized achievements:
Winner of the Carbon Zero Challenge.
Selected as a part of the Energy Leap Cohort.

Sector: Sustainability

Startup Name: Ambiator

Achievement/Milestone: Working on eco-friendly cooling technology for commercial, industrial and large built environments. PoCs with Mahindra Lifespaces, Brigade Group, Indian Institute of Human Settlements etc.
Funding: Rs 30L from RICH (SISF)
Partnerships and Pilots:
Conducted Proof of Concepts (PoCs) with prominent entities such as Mahindra Lifespaces, Brigade Group, and the Indian Institute of Human Settlements.

Funding:
Secured Rs 30L from RICH (SISF).

Sector: Sustainability

Startup Name: Liqsure systems

Achievement/Milestone: Liqsure Systems, backed by RICH's support, has been honored by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India for its innovative work in wastewater treatment. Their use of cavitation technology demonstrates a commitment to sustainable and cost-effective solutions. With available demo systems for hands-on demonstrations, LiqSure Systems is revolutionizing the approach to wastewater treatment, making a tangible impact in this critical area.
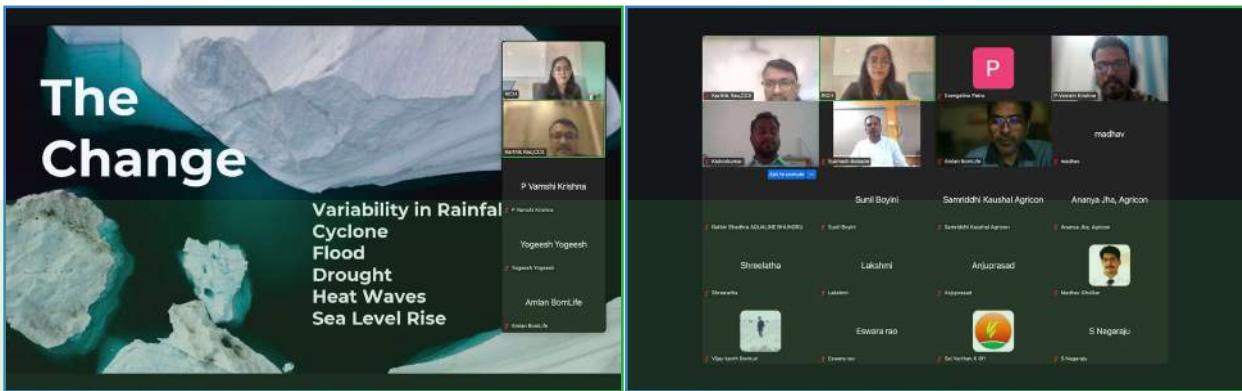
Sector: Sustainability

PARTNERSHIPS

RICH was a part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between the Departments of Industries & Commerce and Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITEC) - Government of Telangana, and Health Innovation Manchester. The aim of this collaboration, hosted by Manchester University NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust, is to advance the Life Sciences industry through joint efforts and partnerships.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between RICH and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Hyderabad. The primary objective of this collaboration is to enhance the partnership between TIFRH and partner stakeholder institutions, creating a collaborative ecosystem that boosts innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment.

One key area of focus for the collaboration is the establishment of an international platform to facilitate the discovery and engineering of Green Energy Materials for Sustainability (GEMS). Additionally, the institutions plan to collaborate on research and technology commercialization by utilizing the startup ecosystem and exploring ways to leverage TIFRH's advanced labs and research resources within the innovation ecosystem.

RICH HOSTED SESSIONS & WEBINARS

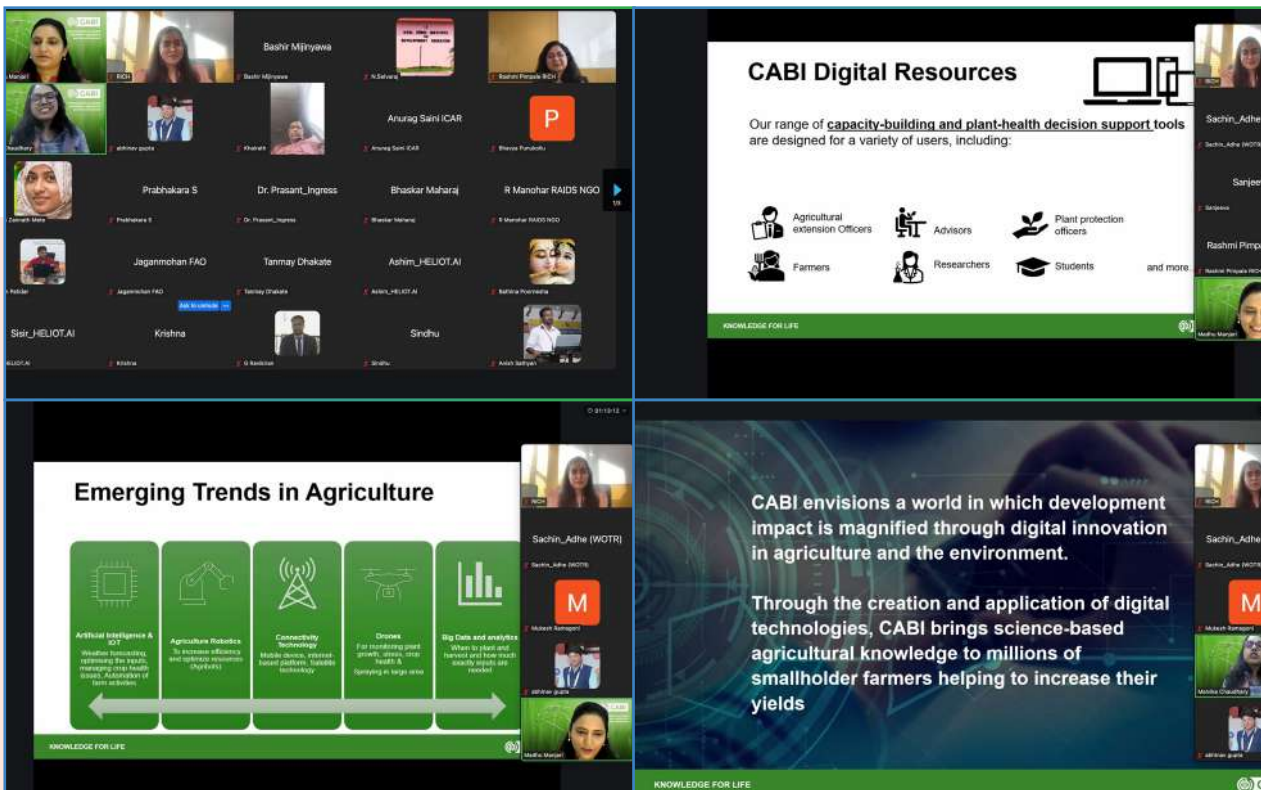**Event Name & Date:** **Together for Resilience**: Climate-Smart Agriculture

Speakers/Experts: Diverse panel including agricultural experts, tech innovators, and community leaders.

S NO.	Speaker	Designation
1	Rajat Vardhan	Founder – Scanxt Technologies Pvt Ltd
2	Amlan	Founder – Bomlife solutions Pvt Ltd
3	Karthik Rao	Vice President – CoreCarbonX Solutions
4	Vivekanandhan	Lead ESG and sustainable finance- Samunnati
5	Madhav Gholkar	Thematic Lead – CRA - WOTR
6	Mukesh Ramagoni	Project Manager - Ag-Hub
7	Manas Banarjee, Manisha	Secretary, Project Coordinator – Chattisgarh Agricon Samiti
8	Evangelina Patro	Program Associate – Dr. Reddys Foundation
9	Pramod Meshram Kishore Kumar	Project Coordinator, Coordinator-Climate Change – Ambuja Foundation
10	Vamshi Krishna	Associate Director - WWF

Topic Focus: Discussing climate-smart agricultural practices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Impact: Audience inspired by the focus on farmer empowerment, tech-driven efficiency, and gender inclusivity in agriculture. Significantly, the webinar emphasized the need for collective action to drive sustainable transformation in the agricultural sector.

Participants Attended - 60

Event Name & Date: Webinar on "Leveraging CABI's Free Digital Tools for Pest Management and Climate-Resilient Agriculture" - 10-03-2025

Speakers/Experts: Madhu Manjari and Malvika Chaudary from CABI

Topic Focus: Highlighting the use of free digital tools for pest management and climate-resilient agriculture, specifically focusing on CABI's advancements.

Key Takeaways:

» Empowering Smallholders through CABI Plantwise Plus programme.

» Bridging the Digital Divide with extension advisory services.

» Technology in Agriculture, including IoT, drones, and big data for pest management

CABI's Three Key Impact Pathways:

» Pest Preparedness

» Pesticide Risk Reduction

» Farmer Advisory Services

Explore CABI's Free Digital Tools:

» CABI Academy

» Plantwise Plus Knowledge Bank

» CABI Bioprotection Portal

» Crop Sprayer App

Participants Attended : 55

The webinar received positive feedback from the participants, with many finding the content useful and relevant to their work. Attendees appreciated learning about CABI's digital tools and highlighted the initiative's support for researchers, farmers, and entrepreneurs, ultimately contributing to the growth in agriculture.

Event Name & Date: Syngenta Closed Group Discussion on Challenges in Data and Digitization in Agriculture - 23-01-2025

Speakers/Experts: Syngenta R&D data and analytics team, Ag-Hub Team

Topic Focus: Discussion on key challenges and emerging trends in agricultural data and digitization, hosted by the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) in collaboration with Syngenta's R&D, Data & Analytics teams, and Ag-Hub Team.

Event Summary: The event provided a platform for agri-tech startups to present their solutions to industry leaders. Insights gained from discussions indicated potential for impactful collaborations. The aim is to facilitate pilot projects and collaborations between startups and industry leaders to drive innovation and sustainability in agriculture.

Impact: RICH and Syngenta are collaborating to identify relevant use cases and offer pilot project opportunities for startups. This partnership aims to support innovation, foster connections, and create a more sustainable future for agriculture.

Event Name & Date: F&A Advisory Council Meeting

Council Members:

» Aynampudi Subbarao – President, Indian Innovators Association

» B. Uday Bhaskar – CGM, NABARD RO

» CS Reddy – CEO, APMAS

» Dr Hemalatha R – Former DG, NIN

» Jinesh Shah – Managing Partner, Omnivore (virtual)

» Pavan Kumar – Managing Director & CEO, NACL Industries Ltd

» Dr Praveen Rao Velchala – VC, Kaveri University

» Ram Kaundinya – Co-Founder ThinkAg, Former DG, FSII

» Venkata Subbarao Kolli – Partner Agvaya, Founder Plow Lab Ventures LLP (virtual)

» Tara Sathyavathi, Director IIMR Millets

Topic Focus: The F&A Advisory Council Meeting convened to discuss RICH's ongoing initiatives and future directions in the Food and Agriculture sector. Key discussions included fostering collaborations, validating projects, addressing region-specific agricultural challenges in Telangana, and exploring opportunities in climate-smart agriculture, market linkages, and food start-ups. Actions decided upon include developing a two-year work plan, defining KPIs for the sector, and supporting start-ups focusing on local agricultural issues. The upcoming meeting aims to review progress and refine strategies to benefit farmers and enhance the agricultural ecosystem.

Impact: Following the meeting, RICH has formulated a two-year work plan for its Food and Agriculture vertical, aligning with the agreed-upon actions and strategies discussed during the council meeting.

FROM DATA TO DIALOGUE:
The Power of Science Communication

" Be fearless in your choices, whether it's pursuing science, research, or any other path. Don't let the opinions of others hold you back. Be financially independent, confident, and always stay engaged with science, as it's not just a subject but a way of life. And most importantly, be fearless about communication. Speak up, make yourself seen and known in any space, whether personal or professional. Overcome hesitation and make your voice heard.

Dr. Sarah Iqbal

Event Name & Date: From Data to Dialogue: The Power of Science Communication: Empowering Women in STEM - The Art of Science Communication

Speaker:

» Dr. Sarah Hyder Iqbal, Independent Science Engagement Expert

Event Summary: The session hosted Dr. Sarah Hyder Iqbal, an experienced science engagement expert, as part of the Women in STEM programme's second cohort. Dr. Sarah shared insights from her work at DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance and FAST India, guiding students on translating complex scientific concepts into compelling narratives.

Throughout the session, interactive activities and real-world examples were used to impart actionable strategies to the students on:

» Building confidence in presenting research.

» Simplifying scientific ideas for non-expert audiences.

» Bridging the gap between researchers and communities.

The blend of knowledge-sharing and hands-on practice equipped the students with practical tools for effective communication, ensuring their voices are heard and research understood. Dr. Sarah empowered the future women leaders in STEM with impactful communication skills to make a difference in their fields.

Event Title: Awareness and Brainstorming Session on the Critical Digitization Processes for Hospitals and the Application of AI in Clinical and Non-Clinical Aspects

Host: Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH)

Venue: Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology - AINU Hospital

1. Digitizing a Hospital:

» Digital transformation is vital for enhancing operational efficiency, improving patient outcomes, ensuring improved communication across departments, and offering various advantages.

» The need for digitization stems from the demand for better healthcare services, data-driven decision-making, and compliance with regulatory standards.

» Successful digital transformation necessitates prerequisites like a robust IT infrastructure, a secure and scalable data management system, comprehensive staff training programs, and strong leadership support.

» Assessing hospital workflows, integrating interoperable systems, and prioritizing patient data privacy and cybersecurity are crucial for sustainable digital transformation.

» These discussions align with India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) vision.

2. AI in Healthcare:

» The session explored leveraging AI for clinical applications focusing on Urology, including diagnostics and treatment planning, as well as non-clinical use cases like resource optimization and administrative efficiency.

Event Title: Roundtable Discussion on Women in STEM – Redefining Life Sciences through Collaboration, Skills, and Cutting-Edge Research on the Occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Participants: 31 distinguished participants from government, R&D institutions, industry, academia, and CSR sectors

Key Highlights:

1. Speakers:

» Jayesh Ranjan, Dr Renu Swarup, Dr Anupama Shetty, Bheemashankar Kulkarni, and Rashmi (Rohini) Pimpale shared their perspectives on advancing women's participation in STEM and the collaborative responsibilities of stakeholders in creating an inclusive ecosystem.

2. Breakout Sessions:

» **Breakout Group 1:** Explored enhancing Industry-Academia Collaboration in Life Sciences to provide hands-on experience, internships, and career opportunities.

» **Breakout Group 2:** Discussed bridging the Skill Gap by identifying critical skills necessary for careers in science and proposing solutions to bridge the gap.

» **Breakout Group 3:** Addressed Navigating Funding and Research Opportunities, focusing on challenges and proposing solutions for CSR-driven funding initiatives for women in STEM.

3. Outcome:

» Each group presented key takeaways, offering actionable insights and recommendations to build a more inclusive and supportive STEM ecosystem.

» The inputs from the discussions will be compiled into a White Paper, outlining strategic steps to drive meaningful change in advancing women in STEM fields.

This Roundtable Discussion provided a platform for collaboration, skill development, and research advancement to empower and support women in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

RICH AT EVENTS

» SESSION ON AI IN HEALTHCARE AND CARE DELIVERY

RICH in association with I-Venture@ISB organised a training session on AI in Healthcare and Care Delivery which is designed to equip with essential insights on harnessing AI to transform patient care, streamline clinical workflows, and enhance diagnostic precision

Team Members Involved: Ms. Rashmi Pimpale and Dr. Sushmitha Sundar

» DREAMS PROJECT ADR PILOT DEMONSTRATIONS

DREAMS Project consortium gathered in Delhi for discussing the project progress and witnessing the field demonstrations of the automated demand response scheduling. RICH along with Smart Innovation Norway has discussed with the funding agency Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, and the Utility partners BRPL, BYPL, NPCL about potential of scaling ADR solutions in India. The technology provider Sustain Impact has also joined in the discussions. 50 Consumers covering residential, commercial and E-rickshaw charge point operators onboarded for the Pilot. IoT enabled hardware deployed and configurations of the software and hardware completed. Consortium members interacted with the consumers and witnessed how the demand side energy management is helping households and businesses to optimize their energy use.

Team Members Involved: Srinivas Cherla & Naga Durga Babu Nainala

» MEETING WITH NTPC

RICH, in partnership with NTPC and TGSRTC, is spearheading the establishment of a Green Hydrogen Valley in Telangana, focusing on sustainable green hydrogen production, supply, storage, and distribution. During the meeting, the RICH team collaborated with NTPC's Green Hydrogen division to assess the feasibility of integrating green hydrogen into mobility applications and strategize the creation of green hydrogen hubs across Telangana.

Team Members Involved: Srinivas Cherla & Naga Durga Babu Nainala

» MEETING WITH GREEN TREE GLOBAL

The RICH and SIN teams visited the GreenTree Global office to introduce the DREAMS project, an initiative focused on demand-side energy management. The teams also provided an overview of RICH, highlighting its efforts in sustainability, energy transition, skilling, and MSME sector development in Telangana. Discussions covered GreenTree Global's engagement with DISCOMs in other states on demand-side energy management, their skill development programs, and ongoing energy efficiency initiatives. The meeting explored potential synergies for collaboration on MSME-focused decarbonization and energy efficiency initiatives in Telangana, as well as opportunities to demonstrate demand response pilots in other states.

Team Members Involved: Naga Durga Babu Nainala

» NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON IPR 20TH & 21ST MARCH 2025, HYDERABAD

The MSME-DFO organized a National IP Workshop to foster a culture of intellectual property among MSMEs by raising awareness of various aspects of IPR and enabling them to capitalize on the value of their intellectual assets. The RICH team participated in the workshop, engaging with MSMEs, startups, and other ecosystem stakeholders. Ms. Rashmi Pimpale, CEO of RICH, emphasized the importance of IPR, its value potential, and RICH's role in bridging research institutions, industries, startups, MSMEs, and government bodies to drive innovation. Mr. Naga Durga Babu Nainala, Project Manager – Sustainability, provided an overview of the RAMP scheme and the Greening of MSMEs project, encouraging MSMEs to actively participate in the program.

Team Members Involved: Ms. Rashmi Pimpale, Srinivas Cherla, Naga Durga Babu Nainala, Guru Sri Charan

PRESENTING ANNUAL REPORT 2024!

From empowering 400+ startups to partnering with 70+ industry leaders for various projects and collaborating with 50+ institutions, we have strengthened Telangana's innovation ecosystem across Life Sciences, Food & Agriculture, and Sustainability.

VIEW REPORT

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad

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