

SIDBI Collaborates with a-IDEA, ICAR-NAARM for Seed Equity Support to Agri-Startups in Off-Farm Sector

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The Association for Innovation Development of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture (a-IDEA), the business incubator of ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM), Hyderabad has entered into a Collaboration Agreement with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to strengthen seed equity support for agri-startups. As part of this initiative, the “SIDBI Seed Fund Program at a-IDEA” has been launched to support startups incubated at a-IDEA.

The agreement was formally signed on March 19, 2026, by **Dr. Gopal Lal, President, a-IDEA & Director, ICAR-NAARM** and **Shri Arijit Dutt, General Manager, SIDBI**, in the presence of **Dr. Ranjit Kumar, CEO, a-IDEA & Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM**, along with other SIDBI officials.

This collaboration aims to strengthen cooperation in providing financial support, mentoring, and enterprise development services to agripreneurs and startups. The program will offer seed funding assistance to help startups effectively scale their operations and accelerate growth.

a-IDEA at ICAR-NAARM will place special emphasis on supporting startups in off-farm sectors such as Post-Harvest Technology, Innovative Food Technology, Supply and Value Chain Technology, Agri-FinTech, Value Addition in Fisheries & Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, and Farm Mechanization. This partnership marks a significant milestone in fostering entrepreneurship and driving the growth of agri-based startups through structured financial and institutional support.



