Catalyzing Social Entrepreneurship in Low Income States

The Innovative Ventures and Technologies for Development (INVENT) Program launched by the Technology Development Board (TDB), Government of India in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, supports innovative solutions that create sustainable social impact at the BoP.

The program provides funding and builds the capacity of four government affiliated incubators in 8 low incomes states, to incubate social enterprises,

- IIT Kanpur
- IIM CIP
- Startup Oasis
- KIIT TBI

Villgro is the lead incubator and implementing agency for the INVENT program.

Impact in Numbers

- Launched in July 2016
- Only 4 startups incubated till Dec. 2016 and the number steadily rose upto to 47 startups in the last six months of 2018. Now it stands at 161
- 140.76 crore follow-on funding raised by 72 startups
- Total 14.37cr disbursed to 68 Women Startups
- Total 25.43cr out of 135.18cr follow-on funding raised by 27 Women Startups
Replication of Villgro’s incubation model through Incubators:
Villgro ensured that the INVENT incubators are equipped with the essential skills to create successful social enterprises:

1. **Strengthen Incubator Culture**: Villgro offers guidance to incubators to enable them to understand the ecosystem and the various processes involved in incubation.

2. **Incubator Capacity building**: Villgro conducts extensive training programs to acquaint portfolio managers with the startup ecosystem and the key features of effectively managing a portfolio. 3. **Go to Market/Investment accelerator**: 6 accelerator programmes have been undertaken so far in the 8 LIS:

   - SEAP by IIT Kanpur focuses on Agri-business, Healthcare and Education
   - CCL by Startup Oasis focuses on Livelihoods & Craft
   - SA by Startup Oasis focuses on Agriculture, Education
   - Rural Energy by Startup Oasis focuses on Green Energy
   - Health Trail by IIMCIP focuses on Healthtech
   - Agri-elevate by KIIT-TBI focuses on Agri-business startups

**Portfolio Management**
22 portfolio managers were trained to manage and support social enterprises.

**Dedicated Mentorship**
Villgro has helped incubators identify and appoint 114 mentors and subject matter experts.

**Raising follow on funding for startups**
Villgro conducted training programs, connected enterprises with an existing network of investors, advisors and mentors to enable enterprises to raise follow-on funding. It supported the organizing of roadshows and demo days to accelerate the matchmaking process.

**Monitoring of the Program by Villgro**
Villgro monitored the health of the startups and progress of incubators through a comprehensive tracker to monitor progress made against set milestones. Monthly, quarterly and biannual reviews provided a platform for in depth review of challenges and encouraged cross learning and discussion among incubators.
Monitoring of the Program by TDB & DFID

As the enabler and lead implementing agency, DFID and TDB representatives were part of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) which met quarterly to track progress. The Advisory Board meetings and Bi-annual meetings are also attended by DFID and TDB representatives to discuss the strategic part of the program and get specific insights.