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Upaya Social Ventures Announces Social Enterprises Selected for its Accelerator

11 innovative startups have been selected to join Upaya's accelerator cohort focused on the agriculture industry in India

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Upaya Social Ventures today announced the 11 companies selected for its second accelerator program, which will target the agribusiness industry in India. The 11 participating companies were selected from a competitive pool of 281 applications by a committee of impact investing, agriculture, and social sector experts. The entrepreneurs represent cities across India and agriculture sub-sectors such as organics, processing and agri-waste.

The rigorous selection process was aimed at identifying enterprises with the potential to create — or significantly increase the income from — 1,000 jobs in the next three years for people who are currently living on less than \$1.90 per day.

“Upaya has always been about creating dignified livelihoods for the poor,” Says Kate Cochran, CEO of Upaya. “It is impossible to tackle that challenge without getting involved in agriculture, an industry that 90 million households in India depend on, but the vast majority cannot earn a stable income from. We are excited to partner with some of the brightest and most socially minded entrepreneurs in the country to help ensure that farming families keep more of their profit.”

The 11 companies will take part in Upaya's five-month accelerator program that includes three three-day workshops, one-on-one mentoring from a successful professional, and an investor showcase where the entrepreneurs can connect with impact investors. At the end of the program, Upaya expects to select between one and three ventures for its own investment.

“I am excited about the 11 enterprises that have been selected for Upaya's upcoming Agribusiness Accelerator program,” says Amit Alex, Upaya's India Country Director. “They come from across the value chain in the agriculture space, and we believe through Upaya's Accelerator program we can help support their next stage of growth and fund raise.”

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A complete list of the participating companies includes:

Enterprise	Entrepreneur / CEO / MD	Location
Aicya Organics	Jitendra Yadav	Kanpur
Fib-Sol	S. Kavitha	Chennai
Go Desi	Vinay Kothari	Bangalore
Gram Shree	Rakesh Gupta & Namita Pandey	Jaipur
Happy Roots	Reema Sathe	Pune
Laymen Argo	Selvakumar Varadharajan	Coimbatore
ONganic	Ekta Jaju	Kolkata
Rural Roots	Shagun Setia	Delhi
Taank Brothers	Vinod Taank & Sushil Taank	Panipat
Yasasree	Aneel Kumar Ambavaram	Kadapa
ZooFresh	Sadananda Satapathy & Ambika Satapathy	Bhawanipatna

About Upaya Social Ventures: Upaya creates dignified jobs for the poorest of the poor by building scalable businesses with investment and consulting support. Since 2011, Upaya has supported 14 small and growing businesses in India with investments and expertise. Upaya partners have created nearly 8,000 jobs. With offices in Seattle, Washington and Bangalore, India, Upaya has committed to a goal of helping partners create 15,000 jobs by the end of 2019. For more information about Upaya, please visit <http://www.upayasv.org>

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