

Suraj Apshinge – Empowering Rural Livelihoods through Innovation in Aquaculture
Founder, Yuva Biofloc | Maharashtra



Hailing from a lower-middle-class agricultural family, Mr. Suraj Apshinge had the first-hand experience of the hardships of farming- limited land, low soil fertility, rising input costs, and unpredictable weather often led to financial distress. These early challenges instilled in him a deep understanding of the value of financial security and the worth of every rupee.

Motivated by a desire to support farmers and drive sustainable rural development, Suraj launched M/s Yuva Biofloc, an innovative enterprise focused on eco-friendly aquaculture. Leveraging Biofloc Technology- a low-cost, sustainable solution for fish farming—his business aims to introduce scientific practices that enhance income opportunities in rural areas.

In 2022, guided by Dr. Shivajirao Thombare and supported by BYST - HDFC Bank Parivartan, Suraj secured a loan of ₹9.1 lakhs from Bank of Maharashtra. This financial backing enabled him to expand his operations, invest in quality infrastructure, and build a strong team.

Today, Yuva Biofloc has grown into a thriving business with an annual turnover of ₹46 lakhs, providing employment to 47 individuals, many of whom come from rural backgrounds. The enterprise is not only contributing to the economic development of the region but is also inspiring a new wave of agropreneurs. Suraj Apshinge is more than a successful entrepreneur—he is a changemaker. His journey exemplifies how vision, mentorship, and determination can turn adversity into opportunity, creating lasting impact for individuals and communities alike.

Name of the Entrepreneur:	Mr. Suraj Apshinge
Business Name:	M/s Yuva Biofloc
Nature of the Business:	Turnkey biofloc aquaculture systems & training
Type of Business:	Manufacturing
Loan:	9.1 lakhs
Bank:	Bank of Maharashtra
Year of Disbursement	2022
Email ID	surajaps101.raje@gmail.com
Donor:	HDFC Bank Parivartan
Turnover:	46 lakhs
Employment:	47
Mentor:	Dr. Shivajirao Thombare
Mentor Occupation:	Soil Scientist



Yuva Biofloc Aquaculture

- Yuva Biofloc Aquaculture employs the biofloc technology, a sustainable fish-farming method where beneficial microbes convert fish excreta and uneaten feed into protein-rich biomass—nourishing fish while maintaining water quality. This system enables high-density stocking in tanks with minimal or zero water exchange, significantly reducing water use and feed costs, with studies showing up to a 50% reduction in feed demand. Suitable species include tilapia, catfish, carp, and shrimp. Yuva Biofloc setups support faster growth, lower disease risk via microbial balance, and increased yields even in small or urban spaces krishijagran.com. The approach is actively promoted under India's PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, offering subsidies to smallholders to set up biofloc units.