

Agripreneur

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Regional Workshop on Implementation of Central Sector Schemes and Training Planning of EEI (NE Region) and SAMETIs of North East States

A Regional Workshop was organized by Extension Education Institute (NE Region), in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and SAMETI, Govt. of Manipur. A total of 70 officers of Department of Agriculture, ATMA, SAMETI, EEI representing seven NE states participated in the Workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri V. Hangkhalian, Hon'ble Minister, Agri and Vety, Govt of Manipur, and the inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Suhel Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary (Agri), Govt. of Manipur. Technical sessions were chaired by Dr. K. P. Wasnik, Additional Commissioner, DAC&FW, MoA & FW, Dr P. K. Neog, Director, EEI (NE Region). Dr. B. Venkata Rao, Project Manager – AC&ABC, MANAGE, Hyderabad and Mr. J. P. Yadav, Extension Officer, ER Cell, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, were the resource persons in the technical sessions. Dr. Rao presented the status of KCC, AC&ABC, PGDAEM and DAESI in the country focusing on North East states. He briefed on the key features and im-



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portance of the schemes, and illustrated 'why and how NE states need to put concerted effort to gain maximum benefits from these schemes. He emphasized that, the status of implementation of ACABC is quite poor in the NE states excluding West Bengal and Assam. The number of participants and entrepreneurial ventures are much less as compared to most of the states in the country. ATMAs of all the districts of NE states, and the SAMETIs need to take initiative to facilitate development of entrepreneurs through AC&ABC Schemes.

CARD promoting Horti-Entrepreneurship

In order to discuss the bottlenecks and possible solutions a State level Seminar on Horti-Entrepreneurship 2018 was organized by Centre for Agriculture & Rural Development (CARD) jointly with Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) on January 19, 2018 at CISH campus Telibagh Lucknow. The main purpose was to provide a platform to aspiring agripreneurs to understand the various emerging sectors like tissue culture, Nursery and value addition. The event was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Principal Secretary Department of Horticulture & Food Processing Shri Sudhir Garg. Scientists from CISH and Officers from Horticulture were also present. During the seminar Faculty at CARD gave an exposure to aspiring agripreneurs trained under Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centers (AC&ABC) Scheme to strengthen their horti- entrepreneurial skills. Mr. M.S.Khan, Nodal Officer, CARD in his address, requested states to own horticulture in same way as they do agriculture and also requested the government to introduce MSP for horticultural crops. Since 2012, the Centre for Agriculture & Rural Development (CARD) is collaborating with MANAGE for implementation of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centers Scheme. CARD has two sub centers at Muazaffarnagar and Debiyapur in Uttar Pradesh. A total of 1782 candidates were trained and 743 have established agri-ventures.

Krishak Mitra: The New age Agripreneurs

“Success did not come overnight. I first worked as an executive in a private company for 5 years, but left it as I wanted to do something different, something of my own. There is a lot of scope in the field of input dealership but not many dare to enter it,” says Mr. Kamlesh. In the year 2010 he came across the AC&ABC scheme in the local newspaper; he attended the screening test and joined the two month residential training course at Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals, Bhopal. He launched an Agri Clinic by the name of “Om Sai Krishak Salah Kendra” at Gadarwara Tehsil in Narsinghpur District, Madhya Pradesh. The services of his venture include sale of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, cattle feed, bio and organic inputs and farm implements. He prepared a sound DPR and submitted to the State Bank of India, Sehora Branch, Narshingpur, Madhya Pradesh. “ACABC training was a huge learning experience for me where I learned the power of extension”, says Mr.Kamlesh. Field visits and farmers meets help to build the mutual trust between him and farmers. Slowly his venture expanded and during the year 2011 the bank sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10 Lakh and NABARD offered a 36% subsidy. Afterward, Mr. Kamlesh never looked back and started leveraging the newly found business and extension skills and started making inroads among his customers. In addition to retailing agricultural inputs, he also included custom hiring of agricultural implements and started focusing on consultancy and crop advisory to the farmers. Mr. Kamlesh caters to about 8000 farmers from more than 25 villages. Om Sai Krishak Salah Kendra is now making a turnover of almost Rs.1.50 Crore and extends employment to three people.

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Gladiolus blooming Income

Gladiolus is a perennial cormous flowering plant belonging to Iridaceae family. The name “Gladiolus” is derived from the Latin word “Gladius”, meaning “sword”, for the shape of its leaves. This is one of most beautiful flowers which blossoms from October to March in the plains and from June to September in the hills (Indian zones). Mr. Ankit Kumar (28) an Agripreneur from Meerut district, narrates the importance of Gladiolus. After completion of the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business centers training program from CARD, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Ankit has been fully involved in floriculture. He explains that, “Commercial flower farmers can grow Gladiolus in playhouse or greenhouses as well. However, minimum of 10 hours sunlight is required for well blooming in Gladiolus. It can grow very well in warm climatic conditions, I cultivate it in the open field in two acres of land. Gladiolus cultivation starts in the month of July- August, and continues flowering till March. Keeping the life cycle of the gladiolus, I had prepared a complete set of activities to avoid the unfamiliar risk in cultivation”. Four varieties of gladiolus namely American Beauty, Summer Sunshine, Candy Man and White Prosperity are presently being grown in the field. White Prosperity starts blooming 70 days after sowing. For a single plant 5-6 cuttings are possible. By the end of the season, Mr Ankit harvested thousands of stems. Each stem was sold for approximately Rs. 10 to 15/- to the Delhi dealers, earning a net income of Rs.60,000 to Rs.70,000 per acre. Additionally, each gladioli bulb produced 4 to 7 seed bulbs. “Planting gladiolus has created a reliable and secure source income for us, since this year’s yield has given our family not only a good income but also produced thousands of seed bulbs to plant next year”, explained Mr. Ankit. I am grateful to AC&ABC for helping me to find a respectable way to earn income”, he concluded.

Count the Chickens before they Hatch

Krishan Nishad is a youth who has become a successful poultry farmer. The 30-year old Agripreneur of Itahia village, Gorakhpur runs poultry farms with a capacity of 3000 birds under the banner, Krishan Poultry Farms. “Like so many other educated unemployed youth, I too was looking for a government job. Then a friend gave me this idea of setting up a poultry farm, and I finally enrolled myself in the training programme of Agri-Clinics and Agri-business Centers Scheme at SMGGs, Varanasi” he says. One day trainees visited an established Layer poultry unit. It was the turning point in the life of Mr. Krishna. Well versed with layer farming and carrying the contact details of the established Agripreneur, Mr. Krishna decided to start layer poultry. A Detailed Project Report of Cost Rs. 10.00 Lakh was submitted and the loan got sanctioned from State Bank of India, Tajpipra, Gorakhpur by showing 50% asset in mortgage. NABARD also released 36% subsidy. “To begin with, I started a small farm with a capacity of around 1000 chickens. Initially, I had to face risks and work very hard. Today my venture is a successful one and rearing 3000 birds,” said a triumphant Mr. Krishna, with a smile. “After I setup my layer farm, many people from the village realized that they too can do it. I helped them in whatever way I could to establish their own poultry units on a small scale by supplying one-day old chicks,” said the young entrepreneur with a sense of pride that he has shown the way to many youth in his village that government job is not the only means to earn livelihood. The daily egg production has now reached 2700 per day.



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Make Every Drop Count

Sai Agro-Sales is the brand name for a one stop solution in micro-irrigation Sector in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Lakhan Singh Semil (47) an Agripreneur trained from ISAP-Bhopal says that “a total of 50 acres of land has come under protected cultivation and more that 500 farmers are my customers using micro-irrigation system in Morena district. Its helps in reducing cost of cultivation and saving water. After completion of training under AC&ABC scheme, Mr. Lakhim started trading on Drip irrigation by collaborating with Harvel company, New Delhi. During a seminar arranged by Harvel Company, Mr. Lakhim came across the concept of protected cultivation. He attended a training course on Polyhouse cultivation. Afterwards, he was involved in Manufacturing and complete consultancy of erecting Polyhouse. Now Morena has become the vegetable hub. The farmers are cultivating domestic and exotic crops like, Cabbage, Cauliflower, tomato, and colored capsicum, cherry tomato, Gherkin etc. throughout the year. Mr. Lakhim Singh is a resource person for the Horticulture department of Madhya Pradesh. He motivated the farmers to cultivate vegetable under polyhouse. The polyhouse is drip irrigated and has foggers to maintain steady temperature in summer. Fertilizers and insecticides are mostly fed through the drip irrigation channels. The one-acre farm can maintain a team of two labourers working for i.e irrigating the beds, strengthening the plants with sticks and wires and checking for signs of pest or insect attack. “Vegetables in a polyhouse are like babies in intensive care units. They need constant care,” says Mr. Lakhim. A complete consultancy is provided by Sai Agro on polyhouse cultivation, drip-irrigation, Net-house, Tunnel nursery etc. The firm crossed an annual turnover of Rs. 4.00 Cr. and has extended employment to 50 skilled persons.



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www.agriclinics.net is the portal providing information about Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme. The portal gives updates on eligibility criteria, training institutes, training progress, handholding activities, finance options and subsidy to the prospective Agripreneurs. The website also provides information on details of established Agriventures, pending projects, relevant schemes etc., and other information useful for State governments, Agricultural Universities, Banks, Training Institutes and Agripreneurs.



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