



Better Farming by Every Farmer

e-Bulletin



Agripreneur

A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) Scheme established 2138 Agri ventures during 2011 –12

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Mr. Thimmanna Hegde, Agripreneur, honoured with Dr. Dwarakinath Award from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, in the year 2012 for extension work.

“ Agripreneur is a virtual platform to share the experiences of Agripreneurs, Bankers, Agribusiness companies, Nodal training institutes , Extension functionaries, Academicians, Researchers and Agri-business thinkers in the country working for promotion of Agri Entrepreneurship development”.

The AC&ABC Scheme, a Central sector scheme, was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, during 2002, in association with NABARD, for supporting unemployed agricultural graduates, diploma holders and other eligible Agri professionals to establish Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, to supplement the efforts of Public Extension in support of Agricultural development in the Country. MANAGE is the nodal agency with the responsibility of coordinating, training and handholding of the selected agricultural professionals under the scheme with the help of a network of 72 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) throughout the Country.

Progress during 2011-12

During the period of April 2011 to March 2012, 4015 Agri-professionals were trained out of which 2138 have established Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, which indicates a success rate of 53.25 per cent.

Progress of the scheme in the North Eastern States: Four centers are imparting training to Agriculture and allied professionals under the scheme. During the year, 57 candidates were trained of which 31 candidates have established agri-ventures. A total of 954 applications have been received and 939 candidates were trained of which 262 Agri-clinics and Agri-Business Centres have been established, since inception.



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management



Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture.



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Mrs. Akhilamole - An Inspiring Success Story of Aquapreneur in Kerala

Mrs. Akhilamole is a women agripreneur with innovative ideas for a successful enterprise. After graduating in fisheries from Calicut University, she worked as an “Export Inspection Council-approved Quality Control Technologist” at Abad Fisheries, Munambam, Kochi. Later, she worked as an Extension Officer at Fisheries Department, Govt. of Kerala, where she had to interact with fishermen, Fisheries Department officials and marketing agencies. She realized that there were a number of opportunities in that area which made her take up an enterprise in fisheries.



She quit the job and started a venture in 2010 with a processing unit that produced value added products in vegetables, rice, wheat, fish, squid, prawn and beef. During this period, she realized that business in fisheries sector is very profitable and she has undergone AC&ABC training at Kerala Agricultural University in 2011. She started a fish hatchery, trading of inputs required for aquarium units such as Aquarium tanks, Aquatic ornamental plants, different breeds of ornamental fishes etc. Her fish hatchery venture was a big success and it gave her inspiration to expand her

working zone on a big way.

She provides consultancy on fisheries, hatchery operations of fresh water & brackish water, marine fishes, prawns, shrimps and crabs. She also does water analysis, pond preparation, eradication of weed and predatory fishes, supplying of suitable fish fingerlings, fish feed, checking of diseases, production aspects and market linkages. She is an expert in induced fish breeding. She monitors the ponds periodically and provides recommendations for better yield. She is offering consultancy to 650 farmers.

She imported Mono sex hybrid Tilapia and *Pangasius sutchi*, Red belly Natar, ornamental fishes and Milk Fish from Bangladesh for production in Kerala. She is cultivating Crabs in 1 hectare and Shrimps in 1.2 hectares. She is marketing around 10 to 15 tons of fish, crabs and prawns to marine product exporters, who export these to Japan, USA, Europe and south east Asia.



Indian Overseas Bank , Kodungallur Branch, sanctioned a loan of Rs.25 lakhs for her project. She has her own pond in which Pearl Spots are reared and 15 tanks with several varieties of ornamental fishes. She is one of the largest individual producers of the State Fish of Kerala i.e. Pearl spot (*Etroplus suratensis*). Her farm got the State award for maximum pearl spot fish production in 2012. She was recently invited to inaugurate an Aqua Film Festival organized by MES College, Kodungallur. Her annual turnover is Rs. 40 Lakhs.

Now, she has started integrated farming of Fish, Prawns, Crabs, Cow, Buffalos, Goat, Duck, Rabbit and Poultry, including supply of chicks. Her ambitious project is Home-Stay, where tourists can plan a holiday trip and farm tourism. The construction of Home-stay has already started. She is the role model for women Agripreneurs in the country.

Mrs. Akhilamole can be contacted at 09287924215, e-mail: akhilamole@gmail.com

AC&ABC in Sustainable Rural Development - National Agro Foundation (NAF), Tamil Nadu

National Agro Foundation (NAF) is a Public Charitable Trust founded in 2000 by Mr. C. Subramaniam, recipient of India's highest Civilian Award 'Bharat Ratna' and other international honours namely the 'U Thant Peace Award and Borlaug Award'. He established the trust with an objective to socio-economically empower the rural community. NAF is working in Tamil Nadu for creating a sustainable integrated rural development model that can be replicated in other parts of the Country. It follows an integrated mission mode approach for creating sustainable livelihoods for the poor rural community with primary focus on Agricultural Productivity Improvement. The Principal beneficiaries of NAF's integrated Rural Development initiatives are small and marginal farmers, women, youth and those below the Poverty line/under privileged rural communities.

Major Activities:

- Motivational/Agricultural/Animal husbandry/ Skill development and Vocational training programmes
- Crop productivity improvement
- Integrated nutrient management practices including soil fertility assessment & improvement
- Monitoring pesticide residue levels in agro foods for compliance with food safety norms
- Facilitation of bank credit and market tie up
- Formation of village level community organizations such as Farmers Club, Joint Liability Group and Self Help Groups
- Milk productivity improvement
- Cross bred cattle induction through bank credit linkage
- Awareness training and Women Empowerment
- Microfinance through Public-Private-Partnership
- Functional Adult literacy
- Watershed development and Natural resources management
- Job oriented vocational programs for high school drop outs, rural youth, farmers and women to improve their employability with NAF-IGNOU Community College.
- Services offered on partnership basis to any organization willing to replicate NAF model in their area of operation.

Association with AC&ABC Scheme:



Mr. S.V. Murugan
Nodal Officer

The institute has been conducting the 2-month training programme under AC&ABC Scheme since September 2010 and so far trained 120 candidates through five training programmes. Out of these Agripreneurs, 50 have established Agri-ventures i.e. a percentage of 41.66.

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Refresher Training Programmes under AC&ABC Scheme

During 2011-12, Centre for Agripreneurship Development (CAD), MANAGE, organized 22 Refresher Training Programmes for established Agripreneurs all over the country and trained 517 candidates. The training focused mainly on (a) Sensitization to the Revised AC&ABC Guidelines (b) Documentation of success stories (c) Business networking among Agripreneurs and (d) Preparation of Bankable Projects for New/Diversified/Enhanced business activities of Agripreneurs.

Annual Workshops for Nodal Training Institutions

CAD, MANAGE, organized 4 workshops during 2011-12 for Nodal Training Institutions of AC&ABC Scheme at Jhansi, Madurai, MANAGE, Hyderabad and Pune wherein Nodal Officers along with AC&ABC Training Coordinators participated. The workshops focused on Revised Guidelines, Quality of training, Handholding and Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation besides performance review of Training Institutions.



Refresher Training Programme at Pune conducted during 28-30 November 2011

www.agriclinics.net is the portal providing information about Agri Clinics and Agri business Centres Scheme. This portal gives updates on Eligibility criteria, Training institutes, Training progress, Hand holding activities, Finance options and Subsidy to the prospective Agripreneurs. The website also provides information on details of established Agri-ventures, pending projects, relevant schemes etc, and other information useful for State governments, Agricultural Universities, Banks, Training Institutes and Agripreneurs.

For any query on Agri Clinics and Agri business Centres scheme - please mail to indianagriprenaur@manage.gov.in



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