



Better Farming by Every Farmer

Agripreneur

A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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

Nepal Delegates visit MANAGE



Nepal delegates interacting with DG and faculty of MANAGE, Hyderabad

Senior administrators and faculty from Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Nepal visited the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) on 8th September, 2015. This visit was a part of Agricultural Innovation Partnership (AIP) project of USAID being implemented by Cornell Sathguru, Hyderabad to build institutional capacity,

develop human resources and improve organizational functioning.

Director General, Smt.Usha Rani, IAS, interacted with the delegation and suggested them to make agricultural graduates interact with farmers from the beginning of their degree programmes. This will make students understand and empathise with the farmers. Dr .V. P Sharma, Director IT, Documentation and Publication gave an overview of activities of MANAGE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director(Agricultural Extension) talked about the extension programmes in India, the Public Private Partnership and AC&ABC scheme. Dr K Uma Rani, Director (Extension) gave a detailed presentation on the Post



Nepal delegates at field visit

Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM) which was followed by a discussion on Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) by Dr N Balasubramani. This one day visit concluded with a visit of the visiting delegates to Kisan Call Centre (KCC), Rajendranagar and

Aparna Agro Biotech, Nursery unit established by a Agripreneur, Mr. Janakiram Reddy, from Hyderabad. The delegates were highly impressed with performance of AC & ABC scheme

Avinash Salunkhe's Bare Footer School: Bridging the Techno-Extension Gap

Avinash Salunkhe (47) grew up in Ahmednagar in a landless agricultural family. After his formal studies in Agriculture, he joined a Pesticide Company, based at Pune. The job took him extensively throughout Maharashtra including those areas known for farmer suicides. Frequent droughts that lead to crop failures, non-realisation of prices for agricultural products, dependence on greedy moneylenders were some of the reasons which drove farmers to take the extreme step of ending their lives. A contemplative Avinash wanted to find out ways to prevent them from the losses.

In the year 2002, Avinash left his job and joined the two months residential training program under Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres scheme at Agricultural College, Pune. After training, Avinash laid the foundation of Bare-footer school and registered his Agri- consultancy firm by name "Sheti Dawakhana". With very small capital, he also started manufacturing of Bio-controls agents. The firm by providing dedicated and quality services, slowly expanded its business by providing services in pesticide spray, pest and disease diagnostic services, manufacturing and sale of bio-controls agents, bio-pesticides, pheromones-attractants, services in fumigation with restricted pesticide etc. Today, Avinash is the owner of two Companies, 3 proprietary firms, and accredited as International Fumigator. The annual turnover is around Rs.5 Crore with 46 employees on payroll. The services extend to nearly 1500 farmers from 46 villages.



Avinash Salunkhe imparting training on hydroponics to women SHG

Vikas Admane (37) graduated in agricultural sciences from Nipani Village, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. He attended training at Bare footer school in 2013 and qualified in Pest management and controls. Vikas, opened Agri-consultancy firm by name of 'Maui Agro Clinic' and started motivating farmers on organic farming. Vikas also became the authorized fumigator in his service area and is known as the Doctor of pest management. Significant results from Bio-controls agents, has prompted a total of 125 farmers to adopt organic farming practices from four villages.



To serve the farming community, in a more concerted way *Avinash* has also opened 'Bare footer school' for 'farmers'. A farmer wanting to expand and diversify his operations, rural youth to make agriculture their profession, rural women wanting to start enterprises can all reach Avinash's Bare footer school without any eligibility criteria. Providing guidance courses and demonstrations, providing farmers and all other interested persons with information on various aspects of agriculture and related issues, Bare footer school is running five days a week giving need based training courses. Horticulture, veterinary, pest management, Agri-engineering, pest and diseases, medicinal plants, agro-tourism, hydroponic and allied business are some of the subjects covered here. The Certification of recognition to small course is given independently. The fully equipped and computerized school has as on date trained more than 500 farmers and helped establish their enterprises. *Avinash* extend the message to the budding Agripreneurs that,

"You can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets".

Avinash N Salunkhe

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Institute of the Month

Mr. S. A. Arul
Nodal Officer



Name of NTI: Voluntary Association for People Services (VAPS)

Address: 39, Besant Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai – 625002, Tamil Nadu, 0452-2538642 / 4361903 (O), 0452 – 2538642 (F),

Mobile No. : 09443569401

Email:
vaps_india@rediffmail.com

Website: www.vapsindia.org

No. of Training: 74

No. of Trained Candidates:
2534

No. of Established Ventures:
1407

Success Rate: 55.52%

Agri-ventures established: Agri-Clinic, Agri-business centers, Soil, Dairy Units, Poultry, Horticulture Nursery, Bio-fertilizer units, Vermicompost units, Seed Production Units, Farm machinery unit, Custom hiring, Milk collection centers, Bee keeping, Piggery consultancy, Cut flower production, Mobile vet Clinic etc.

50 Shades of Success

VAPS-Voluntary Association for People Service, Madurai, Tamil Nadu is one of the organizations approved by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, to conduct free 60 days residential training programme of AC&ABC scheme for candidates from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The VAPS training centre has as on date trained 1810 Agri-professionals of which 1101 Agripreneurs have established their Agri-ventures at the Village level to cater to the technical and input needs of the farming community. 155 Agripreneurs have received financial support from different Nationalised Banks.

This illuminating success prompted VAPS Madurai to publish a book comprising success stories of 50 established agri-ventures. The concept being to illustrate 50 “shades of success” that will help the budding agripreneurs discover avenues, un-



Smt. V. Usha Rani, DG, MANAGE publishing the book

leashing their potential and learn the secrets of success in agri-business and life. 50 shades of success summarizes key ideas of each Agriventure and how the insights developed by individual agripreneurs got transformed into successful Agriventures on the ground. The book contains several inspirational rags –to-riches success stories of agripreneurs, who have established a diverse variety of Agriventures such as importance of farm mechanization, eco-environment, waste to wealth, dairy, agri-consultancy, value addition, nursery & horticulture, landscaping, organic farming, seed production, bio-control, bio-fuel, agri-export, medicinal plants, floriculture etc. It also gives an account of not only the individual successes of the agripreneurs in their chosen area of business activity, but also about the services rendered to the farming community.

The Cotton Apps

Realizing the significance of e-extension services to farming community, *Mr. Parikshit Bokare* (26) an Agripreneur has developed an e-application on Cotton Crop in Marathi language. This cotton app is first authentic source of Information on cotton cultivation practices and was launched on occasion of Marathwada Mukti Sangram Din i.e. 17th September, 2015. The cotton app developed by him was demonstrated at the Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, Maharashtra, in the presence



A farmer with Mobile app on Cotton

of Hon. Shri. Diwakararoji Rawte, Transport Minister Maharashtra state. Dr. B. Venkateshwarlu, Vice Chancellor, of the university vetted the value of Cotton-App developed by *Mr. Parikshit* and assigned him the job to prepare such e-applications on different Crops More than 500 farmers from the Marathwada region attended the program and got attuned with the Cotton-apps. More details can be had from Mr. Parikshit D. Bokare, Director & Technical Head, Krushi Sarthi, www.krushisarathi.in, Email- admin@krushisarathi.in, Mobile: 07588526040

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 Agri-ventures, pending projects, relevant schemes etc., and other information useful for State governments, Agricultural Universities, Banks, Training Institutes and Agripreneurs.



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