



Better Farming by Every Farmer

e-Bulletin



Agripreneur

A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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Shri. Arun I. Wandre

- **Institute of the month**

ISAP, Punjab

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Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand

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

“Green Gold” Bamboo: A revolution in making

Bamboo has been recognized as the fastest growing plant species in the world with very favourable characteristics for gasification and for the synthesis of gasoline and diesel. Bamboo has a number of desirable fuel characteristics such as low ash content and alkali index. Its heating value is higher than most agricultural residues, grasses and straw. Besides, bamboo has high biomass productivity, and is considered as the best amongst other known biomass resources. “Ishwar Agri-Business and Energy Solutions” is an Agriventure providing consultancy on scientific cultivation of Bamboo - the Green Gold, with an objective to promote Bamboo cultivation in the tropical region of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra.

Shri. Arun Ishwar Wandre, the founder of the firm, is a 42-year old agriculture graduate. Soon after completion of his graduation he was engaged in traditional agriculture . The major crops were Sugar-cane, Jowar, Chilies etc. Shri. Wandre felt “Traditional cultivation system did not meet day-to-day expenses, and farming was always in loss due to constant fluctuation in the market”. Under such circumstances, he decided to engage himself in scientific agriculture with market-led enterprise. Being an agriculture graduate, he had the knowledge of farming but he was looking for a platform to mix knowledge with business management skills. Fortunately, he came across the advertisement inviting agricultural professionals for training under the AC&ABC Scheme. In the year 2011, he succeeded in the screening test and attended the 60-day AC&ABC residential training at Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation in Sangli, Maharashtra.



Prof. Chunale, Regional Research Station (Agri.), Kolhapur visits the Bamboo plantation of Mr. Wandre

Shri. Wandre says, that AC&ABC training helped him in developing skills in business management, market survey, costing & accounting, communication, risk taking ability etc. Apart from this, he stressed that field visits to established Agriventures motivated him to become an entrepreneur and provide services to the farming community.



National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management



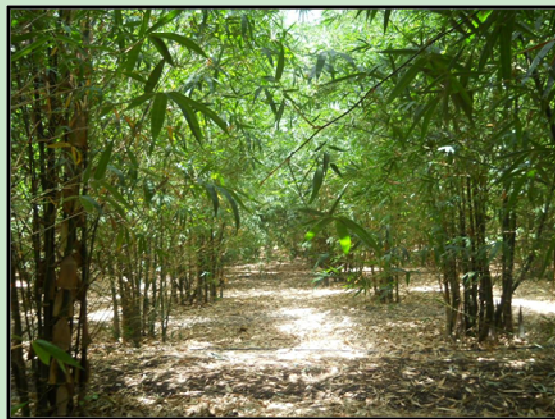
Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture.



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

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After successful completion of the AC&ABC training, Shri. Wandre decided to change the traditional cropping system and searched for alternative crops. After studying a variety of options, he zeroed in on Bamboo. He was convinced that Bamboo would be the most suitable crop in waste lands. He surveyed the market and studied the ecological situation of Kolhapur district. Subsequently, he prepared a Bamboo demonstration plot on his 10 acre land and registered his firm "Ishwar Agri-Business and Energy Solutions". Initially, he took initiative to gather a small group of farmers and made them aware about bamboo cultivation. Sensitizing farmers on Bamboo cultivation was not an easy task; he conducted a series of farmers' meets and exposure visits to make them realize the importance of Bamboo cultivation and its Bio-energy potential. "Ishwar Agri-Business and Energy Solutions" is providing consultancy on scientific package of practices on Bamboo cultivation and tissue culture of bamboo sapling, helping farmers to avail subsidized drip irrigation system from line departments, facilitating tie-up with industries for buy-back arrangement etc. Salinity is a problem in Kolhapur district; hence farmers started consulting Shri Wandre for reclaiming their waste lands.



Shri Sanjay Khot, a Sugarcane grower, resident of Ichalkaranji village, Taluk Katkanangle, District Kolhapur says "Sugarcane is a tropical perennial crop and requires more fertilizer and water. With indiscriminate use of fertilizer and water, my 1.5 acre land became saline and pH was 8.20. I consulted Ishwar firm and was advised to cultivate Bamboo on my land. I followed their advice and felt happy as my waste land was reclaimed into green land. Subsequently it will be providing me risk-free return from Bamboo yield."

The endless efforts reaped the fruits of success; more than 100 farmers have become regular customers of "Ishwar Agri Business & Energy Solutions" and cultivating bamboo on their waste land. The firm is getting bigger day-by-day with limited man power. The annual turn over of the firm is Rs.10 Lakhs. Shri. Wandre appeals to the farming community to cultivate Bamboo for assured source of earning from their waste lands. The statistics of Bamboo cultivation and its benefits, as shared by him, are given below:

Table -1: Statistics of Bamboo Cultivation (1000 plants /acre)

Name of the Farmer	No. of Acres	Yield (tons)	Carbon Sequestration	Bio-Energy Generation
Shri Sanjay Raghunath Khot	1.5	60	126 tons	48 Mw/hr
Shri Krishnabai Tukaram Patil	1.0	40	84 tons	32 Mw/hr
Shri Sanjay Anna saheb Padwal	1.0	40	84 tons	32 Mw/hr
Shri Arjun Yeshwant More	1.0	40	84 tons	32 Mw/hr
Shri Sandeep Chopde	2.5	100	210 tons	168 Mw/hr

(Source: Ishwar Agri-business and Bio energy Solutions)

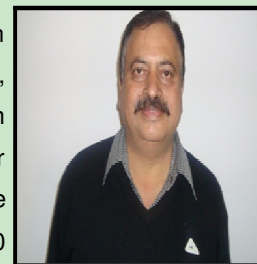
Table-1 reveals that massive earnings will be accruing to the farmers. Also, tons of carbon sequestration from Bamboo crop facilitates in earning 'carbon credit' at field level. For more scientific information on Bamboo cultivation,

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Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP), Punjab: Empowering Agricultural Professionals

Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) is a non-government, not-for-profit organization established in the year 2001, under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act. ISAP acts as a bridge between the network of Indian Agricultural community and various other stake-holders viz. State Governments, International Organizations, Bilateral Developmental Agencies, Corporates, Academia and end-users, through large scale projects in Agriculture and allied sectors. ISAP has also broadened its horizon recently in other rural development areas like Skill development, Dairy Development and Rural Healthcare. ISAP has full time dedicated staff of more than 200 people across 25 field offices in more than 15 states. ISAP reaches 1500 villages, 49 blocks, 27 districts in 15 States of India. So far, ISAP has provided Entrepreneurship Development training to 2659 Agri-graduates and incubated 715 successful ventures. It is also successfully running Community Radio Station "Kissan Vani Sironj" in Vidisha District, Madhya Pradesh.



Shri Anuj Sood, Nodal Officer

Association with AC&ABC Scheme:

ISAP is implementing AC&ABC Scheme in 12 states under the aegis of MANAGE. Since the year 2006, ISAP-Punjab had initiated innovative methods for better out reach of the AC&ABC Scheme to aspiring Agri professionals. ISAP-Punjab has so far trained 409 aspiring Agripreneurs from Agri / allied sectors from all districts of Punjab, through 12 batches. A total of 138 Agripreneurs have established their Agri-ventures and running successfully; Out of these, 44 Agri-ventures are bank-financed projects while 94 have been established with their own funds. Some of the major activities of ISAP-Punjab are listed below:

- Strengthening food security through Seed production & multiplication programme by providing Breeder Seeds to Agripreneurs from premier Institutes in India such as IARI, CCS Haryana Agriculture University-Hissar, Rajasthan Agriculture University-Bikaner, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology-Pant Nagar etc., with the help of Head Office at New Delhi.
- Launched "**Punjab Agripreneurs Association**" for strengthening the network among Agripreneurs.
- Collaboration with Govt. of Netherlands for conducting training on Organic farming and Floriculture.
- Facilitating fortnightly marketing of flowers

Salient achievements of Agripreneurs trained through ISAP - Punjab:

- Shri Sardar Gursharan Singh (PUN-0440) was awarded 'Best Agripreneur' award by NABARD on its foundation day in 2013 for his role in Protected Cultivation of Vegetables. He has established more than 200 net houses, 12 Poly houses, 200 Kisan Clubs and 100 Joint Liability Groups in 9 districts of Punjab.
- Shri Sardar Jaswinder Singh (PUN-0454) has produced around 80 truckloads of Wheat variety i.e. Foundation & Certified Seed through contract farming, with 150 farmers of 3 districts in Punjab. Pusa-1509 scented Rice variety produced and multiplied through contract farming with farmers of Andhra Pradesh on 60 acres of land and marketed in Punjab, Haryana, J & K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
- Around 40% of trained Agripreneurs availed the subsidy of Rs.30,000/- on establishing "Vermin-compost units" and subsidy of Rs.50,000/- for "Shade net house cultivation" from State Government through National Horticulture Mission. At present, these units are effectively serving as demonstration units.
- Shri Harkanwal Singh (PUN-0660), an Inter Pass trained Agripreneur, is running a Hi-tech Dairy unit with Holstein Friesian breeds and Murrah buffalo, which was admired as a "**Demonstration Unit**" for ATMA, NABARD and Dairy Development Board.

ISAP-Punjab can be contacted at: Mr. Anuj Sood, Nodal Officer,

Indian Society of Agri-Business Professionals (ISAP), 181, Preet Vihar, (near GNDU, Purani Chungi,) P.O. Rayan & Silk Mills, Amritsar, Punjab, Phone- 094633 23755, 09465078461, e-mail ID- anuj@isapindia.org, Skype ID: punjabisap

Refresher Training Program (RTP- 67) for “Established Agripreneurs on Business Expansion Capabilities Under Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme”



A Refresher Training Program for “Established Agripreneurs on Business Expansion Capabilities under AC&ABC Scheme” was conducted during 29-31 October, 2013 at Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Twenty three Agripreneurs from Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal participated in the training program. The program was inaugurated by Shri K.C. Panda, CGM, NABARD. Shri K.C. Panigrahi, DGM, NABARD, Dr. R.P. Singh Ratan, Director, Extn. Éducation, BAU, Ranchi, Dr. Niva Bara, HOD (Extn.), BAU, Ranchi graced the function. The program started with an orientation session on the Revised Guidelines of AC&ABC Scheme.

The participants shared their experiences, discussed the constraints in their business and also brainstormed for solutions to business problems. They also discussed the business opportunities which resulted in expansion of Business networking among Agripreneurs. Expert bankers Shri J.P. Lala, Deputy Manager (Rtd.), SBI, and Shri A.P. Sinha, Chief Manager (Rtd.), SBI, Ranchi, scrutinized the submitted Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and guided the Agripreneurs as well as encouraged them to re-submit their individual DPRs. Participants were provided study material, which covered details on project preparation along with some Model Projects. The average rating of the Refresher Training Program was 9.72 out of 10, indicating the overall impression about the effectiveness of the program. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri A. Vasudeva Rao, Consultant, CAD, MANAGE, Hyderabad.

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, Hand-holding activities, Finance options, 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 AC&ABC Scheme - please mail to indianagripreneur@manage.gov.in



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