



Better Farming by Every Farmer

e-Bulletin



Agripreneur

A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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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”.

NABARD Plays key role in sensitization of Tamil Nadu bankers on Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centres Scheme



Mr. Sudharshan, AGM, NABARD, Addressing the participants at Tiruvannamalai on 3rd January, 2013

NABARD organized a State-level workshop on AC&ABC Scheme at its Tamil Nadu Regional Office, Chennai, on 26th November, 2012 and a District-level work shop at Tiruvannamalai on 3rd January, 2013.

State-level work shop was organized to popularize the scheme among bankers and Agri professionals and to discuss various issues to take the scheme forward. A total of 45 representatives of Commercial banks, State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), MANAGE, Nodal training institutes (NTIs) of Tamil Nadu such as Voluntary Association for People Service (VAPS) and National Agro Foundation (NAF), along with their Agripreneurs, had participated.

The DGM, NABARD emphasized the significance of AC&ABC scheme and the purpose of the workshop. The GM, while enlightening the participants on the decisions taken during the National review workshop on AC&ABC on 07-08-12, emphasized that the financing bank should communicate the status of the loan application to the candidates within 15 days. He urged the bankers to bring all the relevant circulars to the notice of all branch managers. Shri Ram Reddy, Consultant, MANAGE, presented the scheme and loan pendency issues in Tamilnadu.

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National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management



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



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

“ We prosper when villages prosper” - Mr. S. Mahalingam

Mr. Siva Mahalingam , with rich experience in the State Agricultural Department and Indian Overseas Bank, joined the army of Agripreneurs and serving Tamil Nadu farmers in a unique way.

He graduated in Agriculture in the year 1968 and started his career in State Department of Agriculture as an extension officer. In the meanwhile, he pursued his post graduation in Horticulture in the year 1973 and joined Indian overseas Bank and retired as an Assistant General Manager.

He established Maruthi Agri-Clinic and Agro Service Center after his retirement and underwent AC&ABC training at Voluntary Association for People Service (VAPS), Madurai. Later, he has taken multi-dimensional approach in extension services such as trainings, consultancy, awareness campaigns, field days and crop insurance services.

Services Provided by Maruthi Agri-Clinic and Agro service Center:

- Agri - Horti consultancy services.
- Training to women Self Help Groups on power tiller and paddy transplanter operations.
- Authorized agency to provide services under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) for all notified crops namely Paddy, Sugar cane, Pulses and Ground nut.
- Seasonal awareness campaigns in nearby 10 villages on Government schemes and latest Agro-Technology by name “Marching towards villages” in association with Rotary clubs of Mannai.
- Custom hiring of agricultural implements and machineries to the farmers and distribution of all designated Agri inputs.
- Authorized distributor/dealer for the sales/services and spares for Escorts Tractors-Farmtrac, Powertrac and spares, Howard Rotavators & Spares-Farm implements India Pvt. Ltd., Kubotta PowerTillers & Spares ,Manam Rice Planters and Spares-Southern Agro Engine pvt. Ltd. and Jain Irrigation pipes.

With his enormous exposure in various fields, AC&ABC trainees of VAPS were gifted to learn from his experiences as a resource person. He is the Project consultant for Indowind India Ltd, organic farm at Kanyakumari in 500 Acres and Aravind Fish Farm & Hatchery, Fish feed unit in 60 acres and stall fed Goat rearing of (100+5) S.R.Goat farms at Thirumakottai.



He is covering the entire 10 blocks of Thiruvaur District, 195 villages and 2536 farmers with an Average annual turnover of 5 Crores.

In his words – “I always follow the golden words of Mahatma Gandhiji. **We prosper when Villages Prosper**”. As the son of the soil, I would like to continue my services to the Indian farming community till my last breath.

Mr.Siva Mahalingam can be contacted at
09443712020, E - mail: smligam1947@yahoo.com

Mr. S. Mahalingam demonstrating Paddy Nursery during the Field day

Rajalakshmi Polytechnic College - Providing A path for Innovative Agripreneurs

Rajalakshmi Polytechnic College (RPC) of the KSKSR Educational Trust, Tiruvannamalai, has been in the service of rural communities through polytechnic education and by providing gainful employment to the candidates who graduated from the various Diploma Courses offered by the college. It was established in the year 2008 with a mission to be the premier source for quality polytechnic education, training and professional certification to serve the needs and advancement of the excellence of technical education and industries worldwide. It offers six diploma courses in various disciplines of engineering - Mechanical (DME), Civil (DCE), Electronics & Communication (DECE), Tool & Die Making (DT&D), Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (DR&AC) and Automobile Engineering (DAE)

Achievements

- Many students got placed in national and international companies.
- Plantation of One Lakh Trees on 10 acres dedicated only for Green Cover in collaboration with Forest Department.
- Conducted three Skill Development Training Programmes of the NI-MSME, Hyderabad, successfully for unemployed youth.

Association with AC&ABC Scheme:

RPC is associated with MANAGE from the year 2012. Till now, 67 candidates were trained through two programmes, and 35 Agriventures comprising of various activities such as Agro-Service Centres, Custom Hiring, Nursery, Agri-Input Supply, Agri Clinics, Bio-fertilizer Production, Dairy, Goatery, Food Processing Units etc. were established. Out of these, Tiruvannamalai Agripreneurs Association for Input-Supply (TAAI) has come out with a unique idea to support financially weak trainees to start Agriventures and Agro tourism under the overall guidance of RPC.

Shri. Anshul Misra, IAS, the former District Collector of Tiruvannamalai, and Shri. Vijay Maruti Pigale, IAS, the present District Collector, interacted with TAAI, appreciated its efforts and wished that TAAI expand its scale and spread by training and establishing successfully many more Agricultural professionals. RPC is further planning to increase the success rate by introducing innovative models and refining the existing models.

Handholding Activities:

- Nodal officer guides all the trainees to examine the possibilities of viable ventures along with the family/guardian.
- Makes regular visits to banks either personally or along with the Agripreneur to convince the bankers on the viability of pending AC&ABC Projects.
- Organized a One-day Workshop for the trainees of the earlier batches on 3rd February, 2013 and bankers were invited to discuss the issues and to guide the Agripreneurs.



Ms. R. Suganthi
Nodal Officer

Rajalakshmi Polytechnic College can be contacted at:

**No.58/41, Varthagar Street, Somasipadi, Iyngunam Road,
Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu – 606 611. Ph: 04175-251346
Mobile : 09443223146, Fax: 04175-251632,
Email:suganthareddy@gmail.com.**

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Mr. Murugan, Nodal officer, National Agro Foundation (NAF) and Mr. Arul, Nodal officer, Voluntary Association for People Service (VAPS), raised a few issues in implementing the scheme as indicated below:

- Insisting of margin money by banks for loans even up to Rs. 5 lakhs despite relaxation as per guidelines.
- Lack of awareness among branch managers about the AC&ABC scheme guidelines.
- Agri graduates are switching over to employment or other fields due to delay in release of funds.

DGM, NABARD, responded stating that as per the guidelines, margin money need not be insisted for loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs. He advised the Agripreneurs and NTIs to bring such situations to the notice of NABARD so that they could take up the matter with RBI. DGM, NABARD also stated that the scheme guidelines were forwarded to all the controlling offices of the banks with a request to circulate among bank branches. SLBC convener informed the participants that a separate cell was in existence for AC&ABC Scheme in Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). He has taken note of the suggestion to include AC&ABC as one of the Agenda items of the SLBC meetings.

NABARD also organized a district-level workshop on 3rd January 2013 at Tiruvannamalai to create awareness among bankers and Agripreneurs. The participants are representatives from SBI, Indian Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Central Cooperative Bank, IOB, Canara Bank, Pallavan Grama Bank, Corporation Bank, Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA), Tiruvannamalai, Nodal Training Institute and Agripreneurs. Mr. C. Sekar, LDM, Indian Bank, Tiruvannamalai exhorted the bank managers to provide necessary impetus to the Scheme by entertaining the applications of genuine candidates trained under the AC&ABC Scheme. Mr. Sudharshan, AGM, NABARD, Tiruvannamalai, besides explaining the scheme details, also appreciated the efforts of NTI behind the AC&ABC Scheme.

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 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.

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



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Contact us at:
Centre for Agripreneurship Development, (CAD)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management
(MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad Pin- 500 030,
Andhra Pradesh, India.
Tele fax : +91(040)-24016693

Editor in Chief : Shri B. Srinivas, IAS.

Editor : Dr. P. Chandra Shekara

Associate Editors: Dr. Lakshmi Murthy

Mrs. N. Suneetha

E-mail : indianagripreneur@manage.gov.in
Website: www.agriclinics.net