



Better Farming by Every Farmer

e-Bulletin

# Agripreneur



A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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Agripreneur  
Toll-free No.

**1800-425-1556**

*“ 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”.*

## Agripreneur honoured on ICAR Foundation Day

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi honored Shri Vimal Kishore an Agripreneur on the 87th foundation day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), at SK Memorial Hall, Patna, Bihar on 25th July, 2015. The Prime Minister appreciated the initiative of ICAR to celebrate its Foundation Day at Patna, Bihar from where agricultural research was initiated in the country through establishment of agricultural research institute way back in 1905.



**Shri Vimal Kishore honoured by Hon'ble Prime Minister during ICAR foundation day-2015**

Emphasizing on the lab to land initiative, he urged agricultural scientists to make farmers their fellow travelers in development and refinement of farm technologies. Adoption of villages by teams of scientists can bring significant changes in the life of farmers by enhancing productivity. In the category of Best farmers, Shri Vimal Kishore, a farmer cum Agripreneur from Samastipur, Bihar, bagged the Award with cash prize & citation. Shri Vimal Kishore has registered a cooperative by name “Sonmar Chaur Matsya Vikas Samitee, Shajadapur” by involving more than 200 fishermen and has successfully established a 70 acre Integrated Fish Farming activity on co-operative basis. He has also developed a Hatchery for providing the indigenous fish carps.

His project has been identified as a Nodal project & being supported by ICAR. Shri Vimal Kishore can be contacted at this address: M/S Muskan Agri-Clinic, Village-Shahjadapur, Po- Ramchandrapur, Distt.- Samastipur. Mobile No.09430242544.



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management



Department of Agriculture and Co-operation,  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

# Agripreneur of the Month

## Ducks to Enrich Paddy Farmers

‘Duck rearing doesn’t require elaborate housing like poultry. Ducks are hardy, more suitable in Indian climate and disease-resistant than chicken’, says Vikas Kumar (27) a youth from Rural Karnal. Initially, as it often happens, he struggled hard to obtain significant income from Duck farming, due to a variety of reasons. Today he rears 2,000 ducks of Indian Runner and Khaki Campbell breeds which are considered as good layers.

Vikas Kumar says, “Rearing animals was always my hobby and even during my student days I had kept a small flock of hens and ducks. After studies, I got fully engaged in farming activities and at the same time searching for other opportunities. It was at this juncture, I came across an advertisement of Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals, (ISAP), Karnal, Haryana, inviting candidates to join the AC&ABC Scheme. I applied for the same and after the initial interview and screening, I was selected for the training program. A lecture on local animal husbandry enterprises, where an expert compared poultry and duck farming, that fascinated me to take to Duck farming. After gathering all the required technical and market details on duck farming, I decided to start a commercial duck farming enterprise”.

With a land holding of only three acres, Mr. Vikas Kumar earlier had a mix of paddy crop and vegetables grown in his land. While paddy was grown in 2 acres, in 1 acre he grew different types of vegetables. After the training programme, instead of growing vegetables, he started duck farming. He invested Rs.2 lakh to erect low cost pens, farm pond and fenced it with iron wire mesh, ensuring availability of ample clean water for ducks to drink and bathe in. After every three days, all the water which had accumulated droppings was released next to the paddy field and the pond filled with fresh water. This way, he not only kept the Ducks healthy but also provided Paddy crop with much needed organic manure. Integrating Paddy farming with Ducks is giving excellent results to Mr. Vikas.



Mr. Vikas Kumar, Agripreneur



Mr. Shushil Kumar (26) residing at village Galli Multan, Karnal, is engaged in Duck rearing. “It was my visit to Vikas Duck farm that not only fascinated me but also motivated me to take up Duck farming. I spent three days at his farm, studied duck farming. I purchased two months old ducklings from his farm, kept them on balanced feeding, gave them proper care. After about 4 months, my ducks started laying eggs, which made me extremely happy. I am also planning to expand my enterprise” he says.



Ducks supplement their feed by foraging. They eat fallen grains in harvested paddy fields, insects, earth worms, small fishes etc. Keeping in mind, the nutritional needs of ducks, Mr. Kumar mixed the daily diet with a high-protein diet that promoted faster growth. Infertile eggs from the hatcheries were collected and feed to the flocks, which he found hastened the growth of ducks. Periodic vaccination, timely deworming and routine veterinary medications are all well managed in the farm. ‘A best way to raise healthy ducks is to provide them ample water, space, good nutrition and routine veterinary services’, says Vikas.

Based on his experience he says, “Ducks lay more eggs in winter than during summer months hence I kept the flock size based on the seasons. To obtain maximum breeding in winter I kept drake-to-duck ratio 1:10. At present 1000 eggs are obtained daily and sold. While each egg fetches Rs.6 -7/- in the rural areas, in urban areas the rate goes up to Rs.16/- per egg. A total of 200 farmers from 12 villages have thus far visited my duck farm and taken my advice. Besides, farmers also purchase 2- 3 months old ducklings from my farm and start their own duck rearing unit”, says a beaming Vikas. “I have also designed a three day training module on package of practices on duck farming, and also provided employment to 6 youth from my own village”, he adds with pride.

Mr. Vikas Kumar

S/o. Late Sh. Brahm Pal, Mohiudinpur Vill., & Post, Karnal Teh., Karnal-132001, Haryana

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# Institute of the Month

## Dr. Bhaskar Gaikwad Nodal Officer



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**No. of Training Programs:**  
20

**No. of Trained Candidates:**  
559

**No. of Established Ventures:**  
299

**Success Rate:** 53.48%

### Agri-ventures Established:

Agri input, Seed processing, Bee-keeping, Custom hiring, Dairy, Poultry, Nursery, Production of Micro Nutrients, Organic farming, Food Processing, Oil extraction units, Agri consultancy, Manufacturing of Animal feed unit, Sericulture, Playhouses, etc.

## 'Agripreneurs' Networked by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhaleshwar, Maharashtra

Since 2004, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhaleshwar, Maharashtra, is a collaborative partner with MANAGE for implementation of Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centers (AC&ABC) Scheme. A total of 20 training programs have been conducted so far and 559 candidates were trained. Under the scheme, the mission of the KVK is to promote Agripreneurs who in turn give employment to rural youth and work as extended hands of the KVK to provide Knowledge, Inputs and Services for socio-economic development of the farming community.

Thousands of Agripreneurs are trained by extending employable skills and more than 53.48 percent of the trainees have started their enterprises. However, after training and start of the enterprise, there is weak network with KVK Agripreneurs related to Agri-ventures. Many a times, due to petty problems or issues, these Agripreneurs discontinue their enterprises. Realizing the need to create a common platform for sharing issues, challenges and concerns, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhaleshwar Agripreneurs Association has been formed with an aim to promote self-employment opportunities and extend extension services among the farming community.

### Objectives of the Agripreneurs Association:

- To develop inter and intra agro-based networking among various entrepreneurs developed by KVK, Babhaleshwar
- To develop groups of various agripreneurs and organize regular interactions among these groups
- To organize refresher training programs to update current knowledge
- To develop a system to address their problems related to credit, marketing, quality, management, licensing, etc.
- Use different ICT tools to strengthen this network
- To encourage rural youth towards agro-based enterprises so that they can get self-employed.



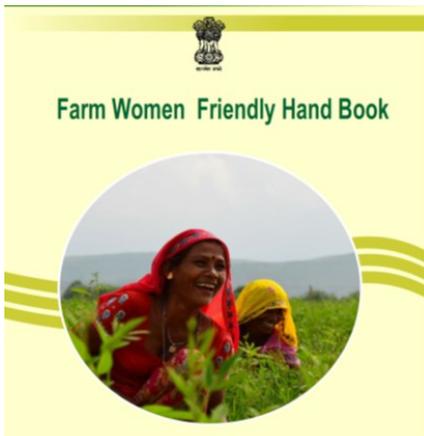
Agripreneurs showcasing their products in workshop

Strengthening the association, as on date, 299 well established Agripreneurs under the AC&ABC scheme are networked from the state of Maharashtra. Regular monthly meetings and an annual workshop is organized at the KVK campus where agripreneurs are sharing their success, challenges and innovations to learn from each other and co-create new solutions and partnerships.

## DAC e-Bulletin

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India released its first e-Bulletin, containing different activities of the Department, state initiatives, success stories of farmers and many such updates. Needless to say this will immensely help in quick dissemination of information to farmers, extension functionaries, developmental experts, policy makers, researchers, agripreneurs and other stakeholders across different regions of the country. Many portals have been linked to the Departmental website ([www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in)) viz. mKisan portal, Farmers portal, NOWCAST weather SMS alert and crop insurance portal etc. for the benefit of farmers, agripreneurs and extension workers.

More details can be accessed at <http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/e-buletineDAC.pdf>



## Farm Women Friendly Hand Book

The National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture (NGRCA) set up in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in its endeavor to reflect that the policies and programmes in agriculture are fully engendered and promote the National commitment to empowerment of women, is inclined to bring out a Handbook carrying 'pro-women initiatives' under all major initiatives of the Department. More detail available at :[http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/extension/ext\\_rpt.pdf](http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/extension/ext_rpt.pdf)

[www.agriclinics.net](http://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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