

AGRI - CLINIC & AGRI - BUSINESS CENTRE (AC-ABC)

State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata: 700 103 has been declared as Nodal Training Institute since 2013 for conducting 2-month “Fully Sponsored Professional Residential” Training Course on ‘Agri Clinics & Agri Business Centres (AC & ABC)’ under the Agri Clinic & Agri Business Centre Scheme of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, in collaboration with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

The objectives of the scheme are

- Generation of employment through self initiative with agriculturally educated rural youths
- Support to public extension system through the trained agripreneurs to cater local needs
- To support agricultural development

The Agriculturally educated youths are trained for 2-months and after completion of the training they go for establishment of the Agri-Business Centres with good scope of bank loan in subsidy mode.

Agri-Clinics are envisaged to provide expert advice and services to farmers on various technologies including soil health, cropping practices, plant protection, crop insurance, post harvest technology and clinical services for animals, feed and fodder management, prices of various crops in the market etc. which would enhance productivity of crops/animals and ensure increased income to farmers.

Agri-Business Centres: Agri-Business Centres are commercial units of agri-ventures established by trained agriculture professionals. Such ventures may include maintenance and custom hiring of farm equipment, sale of inputs and other services in agriculture and allied areas, including post harvest management and market linkages for income generation and entrepreneurship development.

Supporting the Trainees during training and follow up

Two months training programme with free of cost aims at transforming persons qualified in the field of agriculture and allied sectors into agri-entrepreneurs. It is an intensive capacity building effort mainly divided into two categories of activities:

(i) Exposing the trainees into potential agri-ventures in their area and providing additional subject matter training to refresh their knowledge and skills. Besides motivation, training will also concentrate on building communication skills, record maintenance, schemes/ programmes from where financial assistance is available etc. The basic idea is to customize the trainings modules based individual and collective needs of the entire group.

(ii) Facilitate the trainees to choose a venture and to prepare DPR based on market survey, hands on experience with the support of experienced bankers.

Detailed interactions should be arranged with stakeholders such as farmers, bankers, department officials, input dealers, NGOs working in the area.

Identification and analysis of farmers' problems and provision solutions through extension and business advisories are focused upon. Assessing technical feasibility and financial viability of ventures, hands-on interface

with the successful entrepreneurs and DPR preparation with assistance by experienced bankers as resource persons are the other crucial parts of this activity.

Linkage with Credit Assistance under the scheme would be purely credit linked and subject to sanction of the project by banks based on economic , viability and commercial considerations. The eligible financial institutions under the scheme are different nationalize Banks refinanced from NABARD.



Project Cost/ Loan Ceiling

After successful completion of the 2-month residential training, the trained person will get the opportunity to have bank loan with Special NABARD Subsidy (36- 44%) of project cost (up to Rs. 20 lakh individually and Rs. 1 crore in group) for doing business with a close follow up and monitoring.

Candidates trained under this Scheme can avail subsidy from any Scheme of Central or State Government related to his/her field of agri-business, if it is Beneficial to the candidate. However, subsidy for the same project cannot be availed from more than one Scheme by a candidate.

Status of training:

Sl. No.	Date of Course	No. of Trainees	No. of estab. Unit	Pattern of Investment (No. of candidates)		Bank Loan obtained (Lakh)
				With Bank Loan	Self Finance	
1	30 th January to 30 th March'2013	28	19	4	15	42.00
2	5 th August to 3 rd October, 2013	35	26	3	23	14.00
3	9 th December,13 to 6 th February'14	29	22	3	18	16.00
4	15 th Oct to 13 th December,13	35	28	4	24	34.00
5	8 th Dec,14 to 5 th Feb,15	27	20	2	18	13.00
6.	7 th Nov,15 th Jan,16	31				
7.	29 th Jan. - 29 th Mar.,16	31				
	TOTAL	216	115	16	99	119.00

Types of Agri-Business established

So far the agri-ventures are established along with advisory in the area of Dairy, Poultry , Goatery Piggery & Agri-clinic, Fishery , Integrated Farming , Custom Hiring, Purchasing & selling of Agril. Input & Output (Stock business), Fertilizer, Pesticide & Seed Shop and Nursery.