

An Analysis of the Current Scenario of the Agri Clinics and Agribusiness Centers Scheme in India

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Abstract

The Government of India has established the Agricultural Centers and Agribusiness Centers Programme, a credit-linkage program to help agriculture graduates set up agribusinesses to improve knowledge transfer, public outreach, and rural employment. The research report outlines the history, mission and development of the Indian Agricultural Clinics and Agribusiness Centers over a decade. This is an attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of agricultural clinics and agribusiness centers, training centers, and training programs in the states. Secondary data used in this study was collected from various websites, research publications and newspapers. Survey data shows that compared to the poor performance of southern states (Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra) and northeastern states in areas such as agribusiness, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are doing better in ACABCs, supporting the advancement of the system. To achieve the goals of agricultural clinics and agribusiness centers, the government needs to pay special attention to the northeastern states of the country.

Keywords:[Agri Clinics, Technology Transfer, Progressive Analysis, & Employment Generation].

Introduction

India's support system needs to be realigned. This will enable farmers to receive more efficient service from extension experts and appropriate systems. Additionally, MANAGE said approximately 15,000 agriculture graduates have been successfully trained. Only around 2,500 farmers graduate from agricultural schools in India every year to find jobs in the public and commercial sectors. As a result, approximately 11,500 agriculture graduates can assist in farming each year. The ratio of farmers to extension work-

ers was set at 1000:1. This means there is only one extension worker for every 1000 farmers (Global Farming Systems, 2010). Based on this, the Indian government decided to develop a plan to establish Agriculture Centers and Agriculture Clinics (ACA-BC). Later, on February 28, 2001, the government announced the program in the 2002 budget Table 1 shows general information about Indian Agricultural Clinics and Agricultural Business Centers (ACABC). **Table1:General Information Regarding Agri clinic and Agribusiness Centers Scheme (ACABCs)**

S.N.	Particulars	Remarks
1.	Recommendation of agribusiness Centers Agri clinic scheme by and the committee	M.S. Swaminathan committee
2.	Date of announcement of scheme by Union Finance Minister	28th February 2001
3.	Date of launching of the scheme	9th April 2002
4.	Eligibility criteria	Graduate in agriculture and Allied subjects
5.	Implementing agencies	MANAGE, NABARD, Department of Agriculture, Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) and Commercial Banks.
6.	Total numbers of NTI in India	116
7.	Total numbers of Agri graduate trained under the scheme	30977
8.	Total numbers of Agri venture established under the scheme	11641

9.	Maximum number of Agri venture established under the scheme in India	Uttar Pradesh (3097)
10.	Maximum number of Agri venture established under the scheme in India	Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura (00)
11.	Subsidy and margin money under the scheme	Subsidy–33% for General candidates and 44% for SC/ST/Women candidates Margin–According to RBI guideline

Mission of the Agricultural Clinics and Agricultural Business Centers Program: Agricultural Clinics and Agricultural Business Centers (ACABC) employ “agripreneurs” or qualified agronomists to advise local farmers. As a subsidy, the central government pays 33% of the production cost. Farmers wanted access to reliable, competent and locally available external consultants and thus formed the ACABC (Planning Commission, 2006). The aim of the program is to expand the population, provide ideas and services to farmers, and provide agricultural jobs for graduates (Global Agricultural Systems, 2010). With the help of these programs, the public sector extension system will be improved. Currently, most dealers are responsible for teaching users how to use their products properly. The program has been available since 2002 and is open to agriculture graduates from all over the country (Karjagi et al., 2009). Depending on the interest of the graduates, these centers provide various services such as agriculture, veterinary medicine, plant protection, pesticide products, soil, water quality and equipment testing laboratories, agricultural service centers and important projects (NABARD, 2010).). In order to improve technology transfer and service continuity, these service centers will provide a variety of equipment, consulting and other services. They will also provide opportunities for individuals to seek self-employment.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the status and effectiveness of the Agricultural Clinics and Agribusiness Centers program in India after ten years of operation.

Research Methodology

Secondary data used in this study was collected from various publications, surveys and websites until June 2023. An extensive literature review was also conducted to understand the many issues surrounding the idea of the farm clinic and farm. Other sources of information were collected from other research articles, studies,

and documents to increase the validity and accuracy of the study. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate various aspects, problems and development of ACABC education, including the work of the provinces, the main educational centers and projects. Secondary data may be affected by bias in the original data, lack of data quality control, etc. It was chosen because it has many advantages such as and can increase the depth and scope of the research.

Results and Discussions

Development of the Agricultural Clinics and Agribusiness Centers Program Agriculture graduates may now find the services of the Agricultural Clinic and Agricultural Business Center very popular and provide a foundation so that Agricultural Extension can continue to serve the public. Within the scope of the two-month Agricultural Clinics and Agricultural Business Centers (ACABC), 324,222 people have applied for training so far and 30,977 of them have been trained. During this period, approximately 11,641 agricultural companies were established and the success rate is approximately 37%. More importantly, MANAGE has selected 116 Nodal Training Institutions (NTIs) across the country for training. Global Agricultural Systems, Inc. According to a midterm evaluation of the Agricultural Clinical and Agribusiness Centers Program (ACABC) by , “the program is implemented in all 31 U.S. states.” It trained 4,152 agricultural business graduates and one more. 25,000 jobs were created in various sectors. Therefore, more than 100,000 farmers in more than 7,000 communities across the country will benefit (Global Agriculture system, 2010). Agricultural clinics and agricultural business centers were established in 31 states across the country, while 35 agricultural and business groups established agricultural enterprises. It is worth noting that the success of the program varies by state. Northeastern states performed well in the assessment, while northern and southern states had excellent records (Global Farming Systems, 2010). Table 2 details the progress of the Agricultural Clinic and Agribusiness Center program from inception to January 2023.

Table2: Overviews of Agri Clinics and Agribusiness Centre schemeas on January 2023

S.N.	Nameofthe State	No. of application received	No. of trained graduate	No. of Agri venture established	No. of Nodal Training Institutes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2872	2552	992	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34	28	2	2
3.	Assam	866	854	300	4
4.	Bihar	2814	2749	900	6
5.	Chandigarh	2	2	1	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	387	281	128	4
7.	Delhi	12	12	2	1
8.	Goa	5	3	1	0
9.	Gujarat	1063	1037	342	6
10.	Haryana	442	424	144	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	392	386	107	3
12.	Jammu&Kashmir	1174	1158	147	5
13.	Jharkhand	512	508	108	5
14.	Karnataka	2558	2442	982	4
15.	Kerala	181	174	34	1
16.	Madhya Pradesh	835	810	263	6
17.	Maharashtra	6470	6294	2682	14
18.	Manipur	355	354	109	1
19.	Meghalaya	9	9	3	1
20.	Mizoram	34	34	0	1
21.	Nagaland	150	147	13	1
22.	Orissa	549	507	103	6
23.	Pondicherry	86	86	48	1
24.	Punjab	398	395	134	4
25.	Rajasthan	2480	2367	829	6
26.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
27.	TamilNadu	2877	2739	1214	9
28.	Tripura	3	1	0	0
29.	Uttar Pradesh	5910	5735	2584	14
30.	Uttarakhand	293	273	63	2
31.	WestBengal	365	333	53	4
	Total	32242	30977	11641	114

Source:MANAGE,2023

Promotion of state agricultural clinics and agribusiness centers: Agricultural clinics and agribusinesses have been established in 31 states across the country, including states with shared higher education. In terms of overall performance of agricultural clinics and agribusiness centres, the list included Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka. These states have the most applicants for education, the largest universities, economic development, and education-

al achievement. The state with the highest number of applications is Maharashtra (6,904), followed by Rajasthan (2,377), Tamil Nadu (3,006), Bihar (2,815), Karnataka (2,587), Uttar Pradesh (6,055) and Bihar (2,815). There are 11,641 agricultural companies across the country. The state with the highest number of business establishments is Uttar Pradesh (3097), followed by Maharashtra (3034), Tamil Nadu (1592), Bihar (909) and Karnataka (1050). In contrast, seven sister states

and the National Association for Higher Education failed the program for many reasons, including lack of credit, lack of academic evaluation delays, and lack of agreement on agriculture and agricultural clinics. Table 3 shows progress per state for agricultural clinics and agribusiness centers in ten states.

Table 3: Progress of top(10) States having under ACABCs Scheme as on June 2023

S.N.	Name of the State	No. of Candidates Trained	No. of Ventures Established	No. of Trainings Completed (batch)
1	Maharashtra	6904	3034	214
2	Uttar Pradesh	6055	3097	194
3	Tamil Nadu	3006	1592	94
4	Bihar	2815	909	85
5	Karnataka	2587	1050	81
6	Rajasthan	2377	859	77
7	Andhra Pradesh	1363	501	52
8	Jammu and Kashmir	1195	158	39
9	Gujarat	1029	363	42
10	Madhya Pradesh	891	329	26

Source: Compiled by author from database available at ACABC Cell, MANAGE

Program-Based Development of Agricultural Clinics and Agricultural Business Centers:

MANAGE evaluates the business potential of 20 different agricultural enterprises for agricultural graduates within the scope of Agricultural Clinic and Agricultural Business Center services. The Agricultural Clinic Program is the most important program where agriculture graduates receive business training to start a business (18,561). Commercial and

agricultural clinics (5,237), dairy/poultry/pig farms (2,095), veterinary clinics (757), organic fertilizer and vermicompost production (434), and nurseries (310) rounded out the top five. Other activities of the program are not carried out by agriculture graduates due to harsh environmental conditions, low product quality, narrowness and lack of agricultural capacity. Table 4 shows the top ten projects that show the most promise to policymakers as of June 2023.

Table 4: Top Ten(10) Projects under Agri Clinics and Agribusiness Centre Scheme as on June 2023

Sr. No.	Project Description	No. of Ventures Established
1	Agri-Clinics	18561
2	Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centers	5237
3	Seed Processing and Marketing	268
4	Dairy/Poultry/Piggery/Gortari	2095
5	Vermicomposting/Organic manure	434
6	Veterinary Clinics	757
7	Farm Machinery Unit	298
8	Fisheries Development	246
9	Nursery	310
10	Direct marketing	170

Source: Compiled by author from database available at ACABC Cell, MANAGE

Program for Smart Development of Training Center Agricultural Clinics and Agribusiness Centers

The Nodal Training Institute (NTI) of the National Agricultural Extension Management Institute (MANAGE) will train eligible candidates and encourage them to set

up agricultural clinics and farms. MANAGE has established 116 NTIs across the country to support the needs of agriculture graduates. With 14 schools, Uttar Pradesh is the state with the highest number of schools, followed by Maharashtra (12), Tamil Nadu (9), Andhra

Pradesh (7) and Latvia. Justan (6 schools). Arunachal Pradesh (0), Sikkim (0), Tripura (0), Manipur (1), Meghalaya (1), Nagaland (1) and Mizo Ram (1) are among the seven sister states with the smallest schools in India. . Similarly, nodal training centers are not sufficient in the third group states of Chandigarh (0), Kerala (1), Goa (0) and Delhi (1). Shree Maa Guru Mole Sans, Varanasi is the training hub of all (116) NTI in terms of number of candidates trained (3031), agricultural enterprise setup (1873) and overall training mechanism (90). Under Agriculture Clinic and Agribusiness Programme, Krishna Valley Advanced Agri-

culture Foundation, Mitcon Consulting Services Ltd., Pune, M/s. Next is TerraFerma Bio Technologies Ltd. there is. at Bangalore and Madurai Community Service Volunteers Association. However, the minimum number of applications for SardarVallabhBhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology and SRISTI Foundation in Ranchi is 1 and for ISAP in Gujarat it is 7. The biggest obstacle to the success of the idea is that the idea is not good. Graduated from agriculture to education. Table 5 shows the effectiveness of the training and products provided by the agricultural health center.

Table 5: Top Ten (10) Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) under Agri Clinics and Agribusiness Centers Scheme as on June 2023

Sr. No.	Name of the Institute	No. of Candidates Trained	No of Agri venture established	No.ofTrainings/batches completed
1	Shree Maa Guru Gramodhyog Sansthan , Varanasi,	3031	1873	90
2	KrishnaValley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Sangli	1825	826	55
3	Mitcon Consultancy Services Ltd., Pune	1763	754	51
4	M/s.Terra-Firma Bio Technologies Ltd, Bangalore	1743	716	52
5	Voluntary Association for People Service, Madurai	1355	793	40
6	Jaipur School of Business & Finance Management, Jaipur	1260	508	36
7	SRISTI foundation, Patna	996	353	29
8	Jubilant Agriculture Rural Development Society, Moradabad	754	381	27
9	CentreforAlternate Rural Employment, Namakkal	726	404	24
10	Participatory Rural Development Initiatives, Hyderabad	604	249	20

Source: Compiled by author from database available at www.Agri Clinics.net

Conclusions

All agribusinesses and international businesses have lower success rates compared to all competitors; however, agricultural clinics and agribusiness centers are popular with successful farmers because of specialized training, loans, grants, and support. Provide incentives for the establishment of agribusiness/agribusiness enterprises. There were 30,977 male and female applicants (18,317 males and 1,187 females as of 2009) and a success rate of 37%. For the program to be successful and effective, all its components including training, Nodal

Training Institute, loan services, grants and audit need to be reevaluated. Although some of the programmes objectives, such as technological change, job creation and strengthening of services, have been achieved, the involvement of technical experts, agriculture and extension workers is still essential for sustainable development. These states have the most applicants for education, the largest universities, economic development, and educational achievement. On the other hand, the performance levels of the country's seven sister states and universities are very low. According to the

ACABC, the largest number of entrepreneurs are organized in the healthcare sector, with 18,561 groups, followed by the healthcare sector and the agricultural sector, farming and dairy/chicken/pork products. The government should focus on the few northern states where agriculture clinics and agribusiness centers are not functioning well. In order to meet the necessary and effective results of ACABC projects, the government needs to create specific rules for these states. This will help the body achieve its goals effectively and efficiently. Considering this study, agribusiness graduates need continuous support and guidance from Ministry of Agriculture, industry and NABARD to improve the performance of ACABC projects. State Boards and Nodal Training Institutions should be established for effective management, monitoring and evaluation of training programs for Agriculture Clinics and Agribusiness Center services in India.

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