

## **AGRI CLINICS AND AGRIBUSINESS CENTRES SCHEME (AC&ABC SCHEME)**

The ACABC scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, with NABARD acting as subsidy channelizing agency.

### **The objectives of the scheme are –**

- To supplement efforts of public extension by providing extension and other services to farmers either on payment basis or free of cost as per business model of agri-preneur, local needs and affordability of target group of farmers
- To support agricultural development
- To create gainful self-employment opportunities to unemployed agricultural graduates, agricultural diploma holders, intermediate in agriculture and biological science graduates with PG in agri-related courses.

### **Purpose**

Agri-clinics or Agri-business are envisaged to provide expert services and advice to farmers on cropping practices, technology dissemination, crop protection from pests and diseases, market trends and prices of various crops in the market and also clinical services for animal health etc. which would enhance productivity of crops/animals.

### **Agri-Clinics**

Agri-Clinics are envisaged to provide expert advice and services to farmers on various aspects to enhance productivity of crops/animals and increase the incomes of farmers. Agri-Clinics provide support in the following areas:

- Soil health
- Cropping practices
- Plant protection
- Crop insurance Clinical services for animals, feed and fodder management
- Post-harvest technology
- Clinical services for animals, feed and fodder management
- Prices of various crops in the market, etc.

### **What is Agri clinics and Agri business centres?**

#### **Agri-Business Centres**

Agri-Business Centres are commercial units of agri-ventures established by trained agriculture professionals. These 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.

The scheme covers full financial support for training and handholding, provision of loan and credit-linked back-end composite subsidy.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME**

- To supplement efforts of public extension by necessarily providing extension and other services to the farmers on payment basis or free of cost as per business model of agripreneur, local needs and affordability of target group of farmers;
- To support agricultural development; and
- To create gainful self-employment opportunities to unemployed agricultural graduates, agricultural diploma holders, intermediate in agriculture and biological science graduates with PG in agri-related courses.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES**

The scheme is open to following categories of candidates:

1. Graduates in agriculture and allied subjects from SAUs/ Central Agricultural Universities/ Universities recognized by ICAR/ UGC. Degree in Agriculture and allied subjects offered by other agencies are also considered subject to approval of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India on recommendation of the State Government.
2. Diploma (with at least 50% marks)/Post Graduate Diploma holders in Agriculture and allied subjects from State Agricultural Universities, State Agriculture and Allied Departments and State Department of Technical Education. Diploma in Agriculture and allied subjects offered by other agencies are also considered subject to approval of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India on recommendation of the State Government.
3. Biological Science Graduates with Post Graduation in Agriculture & allied subjects.
4. Degree courses recognized by UGC having more than 60 percent of the course content in Agriculture and allied subjects.
5. Diploma/Post-graduate Diploma courses (minimum two years) in Agriculture and allied subjects, after B.Sc. with Biological Sciences, from recognized colleges and universities.
6. Agriculture related courses at Intermediate (i.e. plus two) level, with at least 55% marks.

### **Earn money and prestige by becoming a consultant to farmers**

Agribusiness Centres would provide paid services for enhancement of agriculture production and income of farmers. Centres would need to advice farmers on crop selection, best farm practices, post-harvest value-added options, key agricultural information (including perhaps even Internet-based weather forecast), price trends, market news, risk mitigation and crop

insurance, credit and input access, as well as critical sanitary and phyto-sanitary considerations, which the farmers have to keep in mind.

### **Free Training to set up your Agriclinc or Agribusiness Centre**

As an integral part of this nationwide initiative, specialised training will be provided to Agriculture Graduates interested in setting up such a centre. Being provided free of cost, 45 days training course will be offered by select institutes across the country. Initiated by SFAC, and co-ordinated by MANAGE, the course comprises Entrepreneurship and Business Management, as well as skill improvement modules in your chosen areas of activity.

### **Bank loans available for Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centres**

Ceiling of project cost for subsidy has been enhanced to Rs.20 lakhs for an individual project (25 lakhs in case of extremely successful individual projects) and to Rs.100 lakhs for a group project.

Depending on the type of venture you want to set up, and with a moratorium of up to 2 years, Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centre Loans can be repaid within 5 to 10 years as per easy installment plans. The rate of interest, margin and security on loans will be decided by the respective bank, as per RBI norms. Depending on your entitlement, you can even apply for margin money assistance.

#### **Features**

- **Loan Limit:** As per the scheme, 20 lakhs are available to individuals and 100 lakhs are provided to a group of five trained persons.
- **Margin:**
  - Up to Rs.5.00 Lakh: Nil
  - Above Rs.5.00 lakh: As per bank guidelines. However, concessions would be made in respect of SCs/STs, women and beneficiaries of North-eastern states, Hill areas. In such cases, a maximum of 50% of the margin money prescribed by the banks could be given by NABARD to meet the shortfall in borrower's contribution, if the bank is satisfied that the borrower is unable to meet the margin money requirements.
- **Type of facility:** Agri Term loan.
- **Moratorium:** 24 Months Maximum (Should be decided because of activity Financed)
- **Loan Term:** Maximum up to 10 Years (inclusive of the moratorium)
- **Interest rate:**
  - Loan up to Rs.50 lakh: One-year MCLR+ 2.00%.
  - Loan Above Rs. 50 lakh :-As per Bank Guidelines.

- **Fees & Charges:**
  - **Processing charges:** Up to Rs.2.00 Lakh -NIL Above Rs.2.00 Lakh 1.40% of Loan amount +GST
- **Primary:** Mortgage of Land & Building (wherever applicable). Hypothecation of assets created out of Bank Finance.
- **Collateral:**
  - **For loan up to Rs. 10 lakhs:** No collateral required. To be covered under PM MUDRA Yojana.
  - **Above 10 lakhs Other Category:** - As per Banks Norms.
  - **For loans up to 1 Cr:** - No Collateral required for all Proposals eligible Under **Stand-Up India** Scheme.
- **Subsidy:** Agri Clinic & Agri Business Centres Schemes are eligible for subsidy from NABARD subject to terms and conditions.