

Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centres

AC&ABC Scheme of Govt. of India

- ☞ The Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare, Government of India, in association with NABARD has launched a unique programme to take better methods of farming to each and every farmer across the country. This programme aims to tap the expertise available in the large pool of Agriculture Graduates. Irrespective of whether you are a fresh graduate or not, or whether you are currently employed or not, you can set up your own Agri Clinic or Agri Business Centre and offer professional extension services to innumerable farmers.
- ☞ This **Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centres Scheme**, popularly abbreviated as **AC&ABC Scheme**, is a flagship policy initiative of Government of India and it is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, with NABARD acting as subsidy channelizing agency.
- ☞ Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centres 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.
- ☞ Let's understand each of them:

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.*

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.

Objectives:

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.*

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

Peculiar Features of the Scheme:

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 Agri Clinic or Agri Business Centre

As an integral part of this nationwide initiative, specialized 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 coordinated 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 Agri Clinics and Agri Business 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, Agri Clinics and Agri Business 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.

👉 **NOTE: The training course mentioned above is not a guarantee for availing of the loan. Sanctioning of the loan would be on the basis of the techno-economic viability of your project.**

***In the case of a group of five individuals, one can be a Management Graduate.**

- ☞ As a pioneering Agribusiness Management Institute, our *ASPEE Agribusiness Management Institute (AABMI)* has been conferred the status of the “**Nodal Training Institute - NTI**” under the “**Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centre (AC&ABC) Scheme**” since 2021 by the **National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad** - *an apex level autonomous organization under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India.*
- ☞ The TOP TRIO of our **Principal Dr. Jayesh J. Pastagia** as the *Training Co-Convener*, **Professor & Head of HRM Dr. Mehul G. Thakkar** as the *University Nodal Officer & Training Director* and **Professor & Head of ABM Dr. Swati S. Sharma** as the *Training Coordinator*; have been serving as the AC&ABC NTI Officials on the part of AABMI.
- ☞ Presently, the following stalwarts are serving as the Officials of this “**Nodal Training Institute - NTI**” under the “**Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centre (AC&ABC) Scheme**”.

Sr. No.	Name & Designation of the Official	Role in the AC&ABC Scheme @ NTI
1)	Dr. Timur R. Ahlawat <i>Director of Research & Dean-PG Studies</i> NAU, Navsari	Chairman & Training Convener
2)	Dr. Jayesh J. Pastagia <i>Principal</i> AABMI, NAU, Navsari	Training Co-Convener
3)	Dr. Mehul G. Thakkar <i>Professor & Head in HRM</i> AABMI, NAU, Navsari	Nodal Officer & Training Director
4)	Dr. Swati S. Sharma <i>Professor & Head in ABM</i> AABMI, NAU, Navsari	Training Coordinator
5)	Dr. Mahantappa S. Sankanur <i>Asso. Professor in FBTI</i> CoF, NAU, Navsari	Training Coordinator