

AGRICULTURE FORUM FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF FARMING SOCIETY

Kota, Rajasthan



Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC)

Authors

**Shardinjay Singh¹, Yash Pateriya², Anurag Dixit³
Sandeep Chauhan⁴, Agantika Gupta⁵**

^{1,2,4}Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya Uttar Pradesh, India

³Assistant Professor, Agricultural Extension Education Lords University, Chikani, Alwar, Rajasthan, 301028

⁵Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram, Meerut Uttar Pradesh, India

Leaflet History

Received : 26.09.2026

Revised : 01.10.2026

Accepted : 05.10.2026

INTRODUCTION

“From Agricultural Knowledge to Rural Enterprise”

Agriculture is becoming increasingly knowledge-intensive, technology-oriented and market-driven. Farmers need timely advice on crop production, soil health, plant protection, farm machinery, irrigation, input management, marketing and government schemes. At the same time, educated agricultural graduates need opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

The Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) Scheme is an important initiative of the Government of India designed to address both these needs. The scheme encourages agricultural graduates and other eligible professionals to establish their own agriculture-related enterprises and provide professional services to farmers.

An Agri-Clinic primarily provides agricultural technical and advisory services to farmers, while an Agri-Business Centre provides agriculture-related commercial services and enterprises. These centres help farmers access modern technologies, quality inputs, farm machinery, scientific advice and market-oriented services at the local level.

2. What are Agri-Clinics?

Agri-Clinics are agricultural advisory and service centres established by trained agricultural professionals. They provide scientific guidance to farmers according to their local farming conditions.

Major services may include:

- Soil and water testing and interpretation
- Crop planning and production advice

- Plant protection and pest-management guidance
- Integrated nutrient management
- Seed and planting-material guidance
- Horticultural advisory services
- Dairy and livestock management advice
- Fisheries and poultry-related guidance
- Farm machinery and equipment advice
- Irrigation and water-management guidance
- Post-harvest management
- Market and price-related information
- Support in accessing government schemes

The main purpose is to make professional agricultural knowledge available near the farmer's field.

3. What are Agri-Business Centres?

Agri-Business Centres are agricultural enterprises established by trained agricultural professionals. These centres may provide inputs, services, machinery, processing, marketing and other facilities required by farmers.

Examples include:

1. Custom Hiring Centres for farm machinery
2. Seed and planting-material enterprises
3. Nursery and horticultural enterprises
4. Soil and water testing laboratories
5. Vermicompost and organic-input units
6. Biofertilizer and biopesticide enterprises
7. Agricultural drone and precision-farming services
8. Dairy and livestock service centres
9. Mushroom production units
10. Protected cultivation services

Thus, an Agri-Business Centre can convert agricultural knowledge into a viable rural enterprise.

4. Main Objectives of the Scheme

The major objectives of the AC&ABC Scheme are:

- To create self-employment opportunities for agricultural graduates.
- To promote entrepreneurship in the agriculture and allied sectors.
- To provide professional extension and advisory services to farmers.
- To improve access to modern agricultural technologies.
- To strengthen agricultural input and service delivery.
- To reduce dependence on government extension personnel alone.
- To encourage value addition and post-harvest management.
- To create employment opportunities in rural areas.
- To improve farm productivity and profitability.
- To promote technology-based and market-oriented agriculture.

The scheme therefore creates a link between agricultural education, entrepreneurship and farmer services.

5. Who Can Establish an Agri-Clinic or Agri-Business Centre?

The scheme primarily targets agricultural graduates and eligible professionals who want to establish agriculture-related ventures.

Eligible candidates generally include graduates in agriculture and allied subjects such as:

- Agriculture
- Horticulture

- Animal husbandry
- Dairy technology
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Agricultural engineering
- Veterinary science
- Food technology and related agricultural disciplines

The exact eligibility conditions, approved courses and categories should be checked according to the latest scheme guidelines before applying.

6. Training under AC&ABC

Training is an important component of the programme. Eligible candidates receive entrepreneurship-oriented training through approved training institutions.

The training generally develops knowledge and skills related to:

Agricultural Knowledge → Business Idea → Project Preparation → Financial Planning → Enterprise Establishment → Management → Farmer Service

Training helps candidates understand business planning, project preparation, accounting, marketing, risk management, customer services and agricultural enterprise management.

After successful completion of training, candidates can proceed towards establishing their proposed enterprise according to the applicable scheme procedures.

7. Financial Assistance and Subsidy

The AC&ABC scheme provides financial support through credit-linked subsidy for eligible projects.

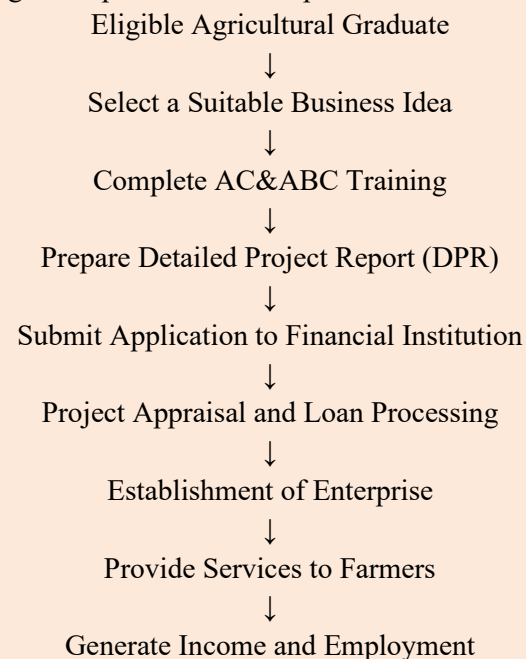
size of the proposed project and the applicable government guidelines.

In general, the entrepreneur prepares a project proposal and approaches a participating financial institution for credit. The project is evaluated for technical and financial feasibility. Eligible projects may receive subsidy support according to the prescribed scheme norms.

The subsidy is intended to reduce the financial burden on eligible entrepreneurs and encourage the establishment of agriculture-related enterprises.

8. How to Establish an Agri-Business Centre

The general process can be represented as:



The entrepreneur should select an enterprise according to local demand, available resources, technical skills and market opportunities.

9. Benefits to Farmers

Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) provide farmers with professional services, modern technology and market support. They help improve farm productivity, reduce production risks and increase farm income.

Timely Technical Advice: Farmers can receive expert guidance on crop production, livestock management, pest control and other agricultural activities near their villages.

Access to Modern Technology: Farmers can learn about improved varieties, farm machinery, precision farming, protected cultivation, drones and digital agricultural services.

Better Input Management: Scientific recommendations help farmers use seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and water efficiently, reducing unnecessary expenditure.

Machinery Services: Custom hiring services make costly agricultural machinery available to small and marginal farmers at affordable rental rates.

Reduced Production Risk: Timely advice on weather, pests, diseases and crop management can reduce avoidable crop losses.

Better Marketing: Business centres can support aggregation, grading, packaging, storage and market linkages, helping farmers obtain better prices for their produce.

10. Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities

AC&ABC can transform agricultural graduates from **job seekers into job creators**. An entrepreneur can establish a small service centre and gradually expand it according to local demand. For example:

Agricultural Graduate → Soil Testing + Advisory → Input Services → Machinery Rental → Produce Aggregation → Value Addition

Such an enterprise can generate direct employment for the entrepreneur and indirect employment for rural youth, technicians, operators and farm workers. Women and youth can also participate in enterprises such as nursery production, mushroom cultivation, food processing, digital agricultural services, custom hiring, livestock services and value addition.

11. Role in Modern Agricultural Extension

AC&ABC complements the work of government extension agencies, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Farmer Producer Organisations and private agricultural service providers. The model promotes a shift from only “technology transfer” towards “professional agricultural services and problem-solving.” An Agri-Clinic can act as a local knowledge centre where farmers receive advice based on their specific crop, soil, resources and market conditions.

CONCLUSION

The Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) scheme provides an important opportunity to connect agricultural education with rural entrepreneurship. It encourages trained agricultural professionals to establish enterprises while providing farmers with local access to technical advice, inputs, machinery and modern agricultural services.

The scheme can contribute to employment generation, technology adoption, farm productivity, value addition and higher farm income. With

increasing demand for precision agriculture, drones, soil testing, farm mechanization, digital advisory services, post-harvest management and agricultural marketing, the scope for Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres is expanding.

Key Message

“Agricultural Knowledge + Entrepreneurship + Farmer Services = Stronger Rural Economy”