

## Research

# Strengthening Agricultural Extension through Agripreneurship: Evidence from the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme in Rajasthan

Ajaz Ahmad Ganaie\*<sup>1</sup>, Mandeep Kaur<sup>2</sup>, Sonia Kundra<sup>3</sup>, Aqueel Ahmad Pandith<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor (Economics) ITEP Programme, Department of Education, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab.

<sup>2,3</sup>Assistant Professor (Economics) Guru Nanak Dev University College, Ladowali, Jalandhar, Punjab.

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education, North Campus, University of Kashmir.

## Corresponding Author:

Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Ganaie

## Email:

[ajazganaie430@gmail.com](mailto:ajazganaie430@gmail.com),  
[mandeepbhatia456@gmail.com](mailto:mandeepbhatia456@gmail.com),  
[Sonia.kundra87@gmail.com](mailto:Sonia.kundra87@gmail.com),  
[aaqueel@uok.edu.in](mailto:aaqueel@uok.edu.in)

DOI: 10.62896/ijhsbm.2.2.01

Conflict of interest: NIL

## Article History

Received: 15/02/2026

Accepted: 20/03/2026

Published: 11/04/2026

## Abstract:

The Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) scheme was introduced by the Government of India to promote agri-entrepreneurship and strengthen agricultural extension services through private sector participation. The present study examines the growth, distribution and performance of the ACABC scheme in India with special reference to Rajasthan. The study is based on secondary data extracted from the ACABC database covering the period from 2002 to 2025. Descriptive statistical techniques such as percentages, ranking analysis and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) were employed to analyze trends in training and venture establishment. The results indicate that Rajasthan represents only 5.50% of the number of trained candidates and 4.88% of total ventures in India, with a strong concentration in livestock-based enterprises. The study highlights regional disparities and emphasizes the need for improved institutional support, credit access and diversification of agribusiness ventures to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme.

**Keywords:** Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres, Agripreneurship, Agricultural Extension Services, Rajasthan.

This is an Open Access article that uses a funding model which does not charge readers or their institutions for access and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>) and the Budapest Open Access Initiative (<http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>), which permit unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided original work is properly credited.

## 1. Introduction

Agriculture is one of the cornerstones of India's economy and society, providing a livelihood to nearly fifty- five percent of the populace. India has the second largest area of agricultural land in the world, making it one of the biggest outputs of farms in the world. It is also the country with the largest populations cattle herd (buffaloes) as well as having the largest areas growing wheat, rice and cotton. If we take all of those products combined, India plays a major role in supplying food globally (India Brand Equity Foundation, 2025). However, despite all of these benefits to the country, the agricultural sector in India faces several challenges, including limited access to

modern technologies, inadequate extension services, and insufficient entrepreneurial opportunities for agricultural graduates. The existing agricultural extension system in India faces limitations in terms of both the availability and quality of skilled personnel, which constrains effective technology dissemination and farmer support (Ganaie et al., 2026). In order to address these problems with regards to developing sustainable agricultural development, the Government of India (GoI) initiated an initiative called the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2002 within the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with support from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The ACABC scheme is intended with the dual objective of improving agricultural extension services as well as provide self-employment opportunities for agricultural graduates and other rural youth. This initiative allows trained agricultural graduates to create Agri-Clinics to provide expert advisory and agricultural extension services to farmers and Agri-Business Centres to provide commercialized agricultural inputs and services and assist with market related support (Government of India, 2025). In the context of the ACABC framework, Agri-Clinics can be thought of as advisory centres where trained graduates offer professional advice on several issues affecting farmers, including soil health management; crop production practices; disease and pest control; animal health; crop insurance; post-harvest technology; and access to relevant market information. Through the use of new technologies and improved farming practices, producers can increase agricultural production and farm income as a result of the use of these advisory services. Conversely, Agri-Business Centres are entrepreneurial enterprises established by trained agricultural professionals to provide a variety of services to agricultural producers including access to lease farm equipment, a place to purchase farm inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers), value-addition and other support services related to marketing agricultural produce.

The ACABC initiative prioritizes the creation of agri-entrepreneurs as a key aspect of its design. Through this program, potential candidates undergo specialized training at Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) arranged by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) in Hyderabad. Upon completion of this training, candidates can apply for institutional credit and receive back-ended subsidies to help them establish successful agri entrepreneurial businesses. This initiative helps to improve professional agricultural services available to rural populations while at the same time creating jobs for educated youth within those same rural communities. Over the years, the scheme has been instrumental in increasing private extension services and reinforcing the agricultural innovation system in India through the ACABC initiative. By linking research and development institutions to farmers, this program assists with the dissemination of technology, develops agribusiness entrepreneurs, and enhances farm

productivity in rural India (Glendenning et al., 2010). In addition, this initiative contributes to achieving other national goals, such as increasing farmers' income, creating agribusinesses, and encouraging sustainable agricultural development in rural areas of India. Previous studies have highlighted that the effectiveness of the scheme varies across regions depending on institutional support, awareness, and access to financial resources (Ganaie et al., 2026).

Through this lens, the relevance of the ACABC scheme becomes particularly significant for states such as Rajasthan, where agriculture is often constrained by arid climatic conditions, limited water resources, and other structural challenges. In such a context, the promotion of agripreneurship and strengthening of extension services through ACABC can play a vital role in improving agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. Therefore, the present study focuses on analyzing the status and performance of the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

- To examine the status and growth of the ACABC scheme in India with special reference to Rajasthan.
- To analyse the district-wise and activity-wise distribution of ventures established under the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan.

## 3. Database and Methodology

The study is based on secondary data obtained from the ACABC database available on the official website of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and related reports regarding the scheme. The data set covers the period from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and includes details about candidates who have been trained, ventures established, the number of training programs carried out, bank sanctioned projects, as well as activity wise distribution of ventures at both the national and Rajasthan state level. Data were compiled and processed using descriptive statistical tools such as percentiles, rankings and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR), which enabled the examination of growth trends and regional variations.

## 4. Results and Discussions

### 4.1 Status of ACABC Scheme in India

The state-wise data on the implementation of the ACABC scheme reveals significant inter-state variations in terms of trained candidates, ventures

established, training programmes conducted and bank-sanctioned projects. At the national level, a total of 95,493 candidates were trained, out of which 41,866 ventures were established, along with 3,123 training programmes and 1,131 bank-sanctioned projects, indicating a moderate conversion of training into entrepreneurial ventures.

In reference to the performance of the state of Rajasthan, the state demonstrates a significant contribution to the ACABC programme. Rajasthan accounts for 5,254 trained candidates (5.50%), which places it among the leading states in terms of capacity building under the scheme. Out of these trained candidates, 2,044 ventures (4.88%) have been established, suggesting a relatively strong entrepreneurial response among trained agri-graduates in the state. Additionally, Rajasthan conducted 163 training programs which accounted for 5.22% of the

total number of training programs conducted nationally. However, the number of bank-sanctioned projects stands at only 18 (1.59%), which is comparatively low in proportion to the number of ventures established and may indicate some degree of limited access to formal credit or other financial mechanisms. Overall, the data suggest that while Rajasthan has performed reasonably well in training and venture establishment, there remains scope for strengthening financial linkages and institutional credit support to further enhance the effectiveness of the ACABC scheme in the state. Strengthening banking support and policy facilitation could significantly improve the sustainability and expansion of agri-entrepreneurial ventures throughout the state of Rajasthan. In order to gain deeper insights into the regional dynamics of the scheme, a detailed analysis of Rajasthan is presented in the following section.

**Table 1: State Wise Status of ACABC Scheme in India as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Sr. No	Name of State/ Union Territory (UT)	Trained Candidates		Ventures Established		Training Programmes		Sanctioned Projects by Bank	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	1860	1.95	547	1.31	52	1.67	2	0.18
2	Arunachal Pradesh	48	0.05	3	0.01	2	0.06	1	0.09
3	Assam	845	0.88	281	0.67	29	0.93	3	0.27
4	Bihar	4602	4.82	1636	3.91	133	4.26	3	0.27
5	Chandigarh	4	0.00	2	0.00	2	0.06	0	0.00
6	Chhattisgarh	1058	1.11	425	1.02	38	1.22	2	0.18
7	Delhi	44	0.05	7	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00
8	Goa	43	0.05	10	0.02	4	0.13	0	0.00
9	Gujarat	2309	2.42	916	2.19	83	2.66	5	0.44
10	Haryana	755	0.79	251	0.60	29	0.93	31	2.74
11	Himachal Pradesh	432	0.45	112	0.27	13	0.42	6	0.53
12	Jammu and Kashmir	1556	1.63	191	0.46	52	1.67	3	0.27
13	Jharkhand	855	0.90	225	0.54	37	1.18	1	0.09
14	Karnataka	4905	5.14	1970	4.71	153	4.90	78	6.90
15	Kerala	344	0.36	87	0.21	16	0.51	3	0.27
16	Madhya Pradesh	5942	6.22	2764	6.60	202	6.47	33	2.92
17	Maharashtra	26418	27.66	13286	31.73	837	26.80	293	25.91
18	Manipur	522	0.55	135	0.32	19	0.61	2	0.18
19	Meghalaya	37	0.04	4	0.01	2	0.06	0	0.00
20	Mizoram	52	0.05	0	0.00	2	0.06	0	0.00
21	Nagaland	187	0.20	22	0.05	7	0.22	1	0.09
22	Orissa	643	0.67	116	0.28	25	0.80	1	0.09
23	Pondicherry	179	0.19	92	0.22	23	0.74	8	0.71
24	Punjab	671	0.70	225	0.54	23	0.74	1	0.09

25	Rajasthan	5254	5.50	2044	4.88	163	5.22	18	1.59
26	Sikkim	9	0.01	1	0.00	1	0.03	0	0.00
27	Tamil Nadu	10188	10.67	5099	12.18	317	10.15	184	16.27
28	Telangana	2466	2.58	677	1.62	108	3.46	62	5.48
29	Tripura	6	0.01	2	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.09
30	Uttar Pradesh	21350	22.36	10170	24.29	679	21.74	383	33.86
31	Uttaranchal	631	0.66	212	0.51	28	0.90	2	0.18
32	West Bengal	1278	1.34	354	0.85	44	1.41	4	0.35
Total		95493	100	41866	100	3123	100	1131	100

Source: MANAGE- ACABC Database.

## 4. 2 Status of ACABC Scheme in Rajasthan

### 4. 2.1 District Wise Status of ACABC Scheme

The district-wise analysis of the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan provides important insights into the spatial distribution of training and agri-entrepreneurship development across the state. A total of 5,254 candidates have completed their training via the ACABC scheme resulting in a total of 2,044 ventures established among the various districts within Rajasthan, indicating that the programme has played a notable role in promoting agri-based entrepreneurship. The ranking of districts according to the number of trained candidates as well as the number of ventures established under the ACABC scheme provides a clearer understanding of the relative performance of different districts in promoting agri-entrepreneurship in Rajasthan.

Specifically, Jaipur ranks highest in terms of both the number of trained candidates and ventures established under the ACABC scheme, indicating that it is the most active district in the implementation of the programme. With the highest number of trained candidates and ventures, Jaipur demonstrates strong institutional capacity, better training infrastructure, and higher awareness among agricultural graduates, which collectively contribute to the successful development of agri-based enterprises. Hanumangarh and Ganganagar occupy the next positions in the ranking, reflecting their significant contribution to agri-entrepreneurship development in the state. These districts are agriculturally prosperous regions of Rajasthan, characterized by better irrigation facilities, particularly through the Indira Gandhi Canal, along with relatively improved access to extension services and agricultural markets. These conditions provide a

conducive environment for the establishment and growth of agri-business ventures. Likewise, other districts such as Bharatpur, Bundi, Baran, and Kota are also high ranking on this list of top-performing districts, indicating a favourable environment for training and venture development under the scheme.

On the other hand, Alwar, Jhalawar, Tonk, Bhilwara, Sikar, and Ajmer are currently ranked in the middle of all districts in terms of their participation in the ACABC program. Although these districts have a reasonable number of trained candidates and ventures established, their performance remains comparatively lower than the leading districts. This reflects that there is considerable scope to strengthen entrepreneurial support systems, financial assistance, and increasing awareness to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme in these regions. Districts that rank lower (like Jaisalmer, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Banswara, and Jalore) have considerably fewer numbers of trained candidates and established ventures. Low levels of participation in these districts may be as a result of geographical limitations, lack of institutional presence, low awareness of the scheme, or low access to financial support. Additionally, the analysis of ranking trends demonstrates a high concentration of ACABC activity in only a few districts, while most districts have limited training and venture development. Therefore, this kind of unequal distribution may require targeted policy interventions, increased networking with local stakeholders, and stronger institutions to promote equitable regional development and foster more agricultural entrepreneurship opportunities throughout all the districts of Rajasthan.

**Table 2: District-wise status of ACABC scheme in Rajasthan as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Sr. No	District	Trained Candidates		Ventures Established		Sr. No	District	Trained Candidates		Ventures Established	
		No.	%	No.	%			No.	%	No.	%
1	Ajmer	108	2.06	47	2.30	20	Jalore	7	0.13	1	0.05
2	Alwar	180	3.43	66	3.23	21	Jhalawar	189	3.60	77	3.77
3	Banswara	27	0.51	7	0.34	22	Jhunjhunu	156	2.97	44	2.15
4	Baran	237	4.51	101	4.94	23	Jind	1	0.02	0	0.00
5	Barmer	46	0.88	17	0.83	24	Jodhpur	64	1.22	26	1.27
6	Bharatpur	301	5.73	132	6.46	25	Karauli	91	1.73	34	1.66
7	Bhilwara	132	2.51	51	2.50	26	Kota	243	4.63	100	4.89
8	Bikaner	111	2.11	38	1.86	27	Nagaur	143	2.72	50	2.45
9	Bundi	238	4.53	106	5.19	28	Pali	57	1.08	26	1.27
10	Chittorgarh	103	1.96	46	2.25	29	Pratapgarh	13	0.25	7	0.34
11	Churu	47	0.89	18	0.88	30	Rajsamand	42	0.80	18	0.88
12	Dausa	108	2.06	40	1.96	31	Sawai Madhopur	110	2.09	41	2.01
13	Dholpur	73	1.39	23	1.13	32	Sikar	156	2.97	55	2.69
14	Dungarpur	33	0.63	12	0.59	33	Sirohi	24	0.46	11	0.54
15	Ganganagar	383	7.29	126	6.16	34	Sirsa	1	0.02	0	0.00
16	Hanumangarh	423	8.05	182	8.90	35	Sitapur	1	0.02	0	0.00
17	Jaipur	1049	19.97	405	19.81	36	Tonk	200	3.81	92	4.50
18	Jaisalmer	14	0.27	5	0.24	37	Udaipur	129	2.46	36	1.76
19	Jalor	14	0.27	4	0.20	Grand Total		5254	100	2044	100

Source: MANAGE- ACABC Database.

**Note:** 1. The ACABC database lists Jind, Sirsa, and Sitapur under Rajasthan. However, these districts do not administratively belong to the state and are likely included due to data entry or classification errors. 2. In the dataset, Jalor and Jalore appear as two separate districts may be due to spelling variation. However, they refer to the same district. For the purpose of analysis, both have been treated as a different district.

#### 4.2.2 Activity Wise Status of ACABC Scheme

Table 3 presents the activity-wise distribution of ventures established under the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. A total of 2,044 ventures have been established in the various agricultural and allied sectors, indicating the role of the scheme in promoting agri-entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities for agricultural graduates in Rajasthan. The data demonstrates that livestock-based enterprises dominate the venture distribution.

The activity Dairy/Poultry/Piggary/Goatary comprises of a total of 1,253 ventures, representing 61.30 % of the total ventures, making it the most preferred enterprise under the ACABC scheme. The dominance of livestock-related ventures may be attributed to relatively lower investment risk, continuous income generation, strong

local demand for dairy and poultry products, and rural entrepreneurs are generally more familiar with livestock management practices. This pattern aligns with previous studies in Rajasthan, which observed that livestock-based activities such as dairy and poultry dominate due to their relatively stable income and strong market demand (Parihar & Boyal, 2018).

Among other activities, Agri-Clinics (233 ventures, 11.40%) and Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centres (196 ventures, 9.59%) constitute the next major categories of enterprises. These activities reflect the role of trained agricultural professionals in providing advisory services, input supply, and technical support to farmers. Similarly, Veterinary Clinics (84 ventures, 4.11%) and Vermicomposting/Organic manure units (74 ventures, 3.62%) also account for a notable share of ventures, indicating growing interest in livestock

health services and organic farming practices. Moderate participation is observed in activities such as Crop Production (2.40%), Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (1.52%), Nursery (0.78%), Seed Processing and Marketing (0.78%), Value Addition (0.73%), and Farm Machinery Units (0.68%). These ventures contribute to agricultural diversification and value chain development, although their share remains relatively limited compared to livestock enterprises.

On the other hand, most categories of agricultural activity show almost no participation by businesses, e.g. Contract farming, soil testing laboratories, rural storage, agricultural journalism, mushroom cultivation, horticultural clinics, and landscaping with a nursery represent 0.05 % of total ventures. A lack of participation in these activities likely indicates either the necessity of high investment in capital for operation, the relatively low level of technical

knowledge, uncertain market conditions or a lack of awareness among new businesses about the activity (Ganaie et al., 2026). Overall, the data highlights a high concentration of ACABC ventures in livestock-based enterprises, while many other agricultural activities remain underrepresented. This pattern highlights that although the scheme has successfully promoted agri-entrepreneurship, there is considerable scope to encourage diversification into other high-value agricultural activities such as horticulture services, value addition, seed processing, and soil testing laboratories. Strengthening awareness programmes, improving access to credit, and providing specialized training could help broaden the scope of agri-enterprises and ensure more balanced sectoral development under the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan.

**Table 3: Activity Wise Number of Ventures Established under the ACABC Scheme in Rajasthan from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Sr.No	Project Description	No.	%
1	Agri-Clinics	233	11.40
2	Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centres	196	9.59
3	Agriculture Journalism	1	0.05
4	Apiary	2	0.10
5	Bio-fertilizer production and Marketing	11	0.54
6	Contract Farming	1	0.05
7	Crop Production	49	2.40
8	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants	31	1.52
9	Dairy/Poultry/Piggary/Goatary	1253	61.30
10	Direct Mkt.	5	0.24
11	Farm Machinery Unit	14	0.68
12	Fisheries Development	6	0.29
13	Floriculture	3	0.15
14	Horticulture Clinic	1	0.05
15	Landscaping + Nursery	1	0.05
16	Mushroom Cultivation	1	0.05
17	Nursery	16	0.78
18	Organic Production/ Food Chain	10	0.49
19	Pesticides Production and Marketing	5	0.24
20	Rural Godown	1	0.05
21	Seed Processing and Marketing	16	0.78
22	Soil Testing Laboratory	1	0.05
23	Value Addition	15	0.73
24	Vegetable Production and Marketing	14	0.68
25	Vermicomposting / Organic manure	74	3.62

26	Veterinary Clinics	84	4.11
Total		2044	100

Source: MANAGE- ACABC Database.

#### 4.2.3 Training Programmes Status of ACABC Scheme

Table 4 presents the distribution of training programmes conducted by various institutions under the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The data reflects that a total of 162 training programmes have been conducted by different institutions throughout the state. The institution with the highest number of training programs is the Shashwat Sheti Vikas Pratishtan (SSVP), Udaipur with forty three training programs (26.38%) of all training programs conducted followed by the Jaipur School of Business and Finance Management, Jaipur with thirty six programmes (22.09%). A substantial number of training programs have also been conducted by the Download Project Report, Kota, totaling twenty seven programs (16.56%), further establishing their commitment to training agri-entrepreneurs. Other

institutions that contributed a moderate number of training programs include the Rajasthan Institute of Co-operative Education and Management, Jaipur (10.43%), the Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals, Jaipur (5.52%) and the M.R. Moraraka GDC Rural Research Foundation, Jaipur (5.52%). In contrast, several institutions including Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar, Career Point University, Kota, Institute of Agri Business Management, Bikaner and SRS Industrial Training Institute have conducted only a small number of programmes. Overall, the data highlights that training activities under the ACABC scheme in Rajasthan are concentrated in a few leading institutions, suggesting the need to expand institutional participation to ensure wider outreach and balanced regional development (Bairwa et al., 2017).

**Table 4: Number of Training Programmes Completed and Ongoing under ACABC Scheme in Rajasthan from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Sr. No	Name of the Insitute	No.	%
1	Shashwat Sheti Vikas Pratishtan (SSVP) Udaipur, Rajasthan	43	26.38
2	Jaipur School of Business & Finance Management , Jaipur	36	22.09
3	Download Project Report, Kota, Rajasthan	27	16.56
4	Rajasthan Institute of Co-operative Education & Management Jaipur	17	10.43
5	Indian Society of Agribusiness Professional, Jaipur	9	5.52
6	M.R.Moraraka GDC Rural Research Foundation , Jaipur	9	5.52
7	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology ,Udaipur	8	4.91
8	State Institute of Agriculture of Management ,Durgapur	4	2.45
9	Mitcon Consultancy Services Ltd.(MCSL), Udaipur	2	1.23
10	Suratgarh Gurukul Sansthan, Rajasthan	2	1.23
11	Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Rajasthan	2	1.23
12	Agricultural Research Station, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	1	0.61
13	Career Point Univeristy, Kota, Rajasthan	1	0.61
14	Institute of Agri Business Management, Bikaner	1	0.61
15	SRS Industrial Training Institute	1	0.61
Total		163	100

Source: MANAGE- ACABC Database.

#### 4.3. Share of Rajasthan to India under ACABC Scheme

Table 5 presents the year-wise data on the number of trained candidates and ventures established under the ACABC scheme in India and Rajasthan from 2002 to

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, highlighting the growth and contribution of Rajasthan to the national programme. Over the study period, a total of 95,493 candidates were trained in India, out of which 5,254 candidates (5.50%) belonged to Rajasthan. Similarly, 41,866

ventures were established at the national level, while 2,044 ventures (4.88%) were established in Rajasthan, indicating a moderate but consistent contribution of the state to the overall implementation of the scheme. CAGR was calculated to better understand the growth pattern of the programme over time. The CAGR of trained candidates throughout India is approximately 4.42%, indicating a gradual expansion of training activities over the years. The CAGR for trained candidates in Rajasthan is comparatively low at approximately 0.59%, suggesting that the number of participants trained by the ACABC scheme has varied from year to year. However, the growth pattern for venture establishment shows a stronger trend, with a CAGR of 10.94 % at the national level and 8.56% in Rajasthan. This indicates that although the growth of training programmes has been moderate, the conversion of trained candidates into agri-entrepreneurial ventures has increased considerably over time. The year-wise data also reveal certain

fluctuations in both training and venture establishment, particularly during some years when participation declined. For instance, the year 2020 shows a sharp decline in ventures established in Rajasthan, which may be attributed to external economic disruptions and institutional constraints during that period. However, the subsequent years show signs of recovery, with a noticeable increase in both trained candidates and ventures. Overall, the CAGR results indicate that the ACABC scheme has experienced steady long-term growth, particularly in terms of venture creation, demonstrating its effectiveness in promoting agri-entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities. Despite this progress, the relatively lower growth rate of training in Rajasthan suggests the need for strengthening training outreach, institutional support and awareness programmes to enhance participation and further expand the impact of the scheme in the state.

**Table 5: Year Wise Number of Trained Candidates and Ventures Established under the ACABC Scheme from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Sr. No	Year	Number of Trained Candidates			Number of Ventures Established		
		India	Rajasthan	% Share of Rajasthan	India	Rajasthan	% Share of Rajasthan
1	2002	1521	226	14.86	138	13	9.42
2	2003	2595	324	12.49	675	135	20
3	2004	1946	251	12.90	448	57	12.72
4	2005	3399	489	14.39	1413	92	6.51
5	2006	2209	141	6.38	1101	183	16.62
6	2007	3309	252	7.62	1215	99	8.15
7	2008	2393	127	5.31	823	31	3.77
8	2009	2575	104	4.04	1176	37	3.15
9	2010	3184	177	5.56	1269	97	7.64
10	2011	4432	211	4.76	1498	43	2.87
11	2012	3146	69	2.19	1792	47	2.62
12	2013	5387	41	0.76	2399	34	1.42
13	2014	5669	70	1.23	2730	29	1.06
14	2015	4072	176	4.32	2713	77	2.84
15	2016	5611	242	4.31	1676	64	3.82
16	2017	5096	144	2.83	2451	80	3.26
17	2018	5478	212	3.87	2655	90	3.39
18	2019	7878	491	6.23	2340	179	7.65
19	2020	3331	88	2.64	2073	4	0.19
20	2021	5033	284	5.64	2051	203	9.90
21	2022	5542	430	7.76	3912	273	6.98
22	2023	4874	285	5.85	2380	41	1.72

23	2024	2701	161	5.96	1436	50	3.48
24	2025	4112	259	6.30	1502	86	5.73
Total		95493	5254	5.50	41866	2044	4.88
CAGR (%)		4.42%	0.59%		10.94%	8.56%	

Source: MANAGE- ACABC Database.

## 5. Conclusion

The ACABC scheme has emerged as an important initiative for promoting agri-entrepreneurship and strengthening agricultural extension services in India. The findings indicate that the scheme has contributed to the development of agri-based enterprises and has created self-employment opportunities for trained agricultural graduates. With respect to Rajasthan, the state shows a moderate yet notable contribution to the implementation of the programme in terms of trained candidates, ventures established, and training programmes conducted. The district-wise analysis reveals considerable variation in the performance of the scheme across the state. Districts such as Jaipur, Hanumangarh, Ganganagar, Bharatpur, and Bundi have emerged as leading centres of agri-entrepreneurship, whereas several other districts continue to show relatively low participation. The activity-wise distribution further indicates that most ventures are concentrated in livestock-based enterprises, particularly dairy and poultry activities. Overall, while the ACABC scheme has made a meaningful contribution to promoting agri-entrepreneurship and rural employment in Rajasthan, enhancing institutional support, improving access to credit, strengthening training outreach, and encouraging diversification of agribusiness activities are essential to maximize its long-term impact and ensure more balanced regional development.

## References

- Bairwa, S. L., Kushwaha, S., Sen, C., Singh, R., & Rai, D. C. (2017). Evaluation of various training aspects of agriclinics and agribusiness centres (ACABC's) scheme in Rajasthan, India. *International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences*, 6(5), 1363-1372. <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2017.605.147>
- Ganaie, A. A., Kaur, M., & Sharma, J. (2026). Agripreneurship in Punjab: Examining the status of the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres scheme. *International Journal of Management and Development Studies*, 15(2), 62-70. <https://doi.org/10.53983/ijmds.v15n02.009>
- Glendenning, C. J., Babu, S. C., & Asenso-Okyere, K. (2010). Review of agricultural extension in India: are farmers' information needs being met? IFPRI discussion papers 1048, *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, D.C.*
- Government of India. (2025). *Compendium of instructions for implementation of revised Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) programme-2025*. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- India Brand Equity Foundation. (2025, November). *Agriculture and allied industries*. India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)
- National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management. (2026). Database Available at Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Cell, MANAGE, Hyderabad, Retrieved from <http://www.agriclinics.net>.
- Parihar, T. B., & Boyal, V. K. (2018). Agricultural Extension Services by Agri-Clinic and Agri Business Centres (ACABCs) Scheme in Rajasthan. *International Journal of Advanced Scientific Research and Management*, 1, 188-193.

\*\*\*\*\*