

Innovation and Agripreneurship Component of RKVY

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In order to contribute directly and indirectly to enhancing the income of farmers by providing opportunities to them and to provide employment to youth, start-ups are being encouraged. A component, **Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development programme has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana** in order to **promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem.**

Agripreneurship Component of RKVY

The following are the components of this scheme:

- **Agripreneurship Orientation** – 2 months duration with a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month. Mentorship is provided on financial, technical, IP issues etc.
- **Seed Stage Funding of R-ABI Incubatees** – Funding upto Rs. 25 lakhs (85% grant & 15% contribution from the incubatee).
- **Idea/ Pre-Seed Stage Funding of Agripreneurs** – Funding up to Rs. 5 lakhs (90% grant and 10% contribution from the incubatee).

The institutes issue calls for application for their programmes and based on a rigorous process of selection through various stages and a training of two months, the final list of start-ups that are to be funded through grants-in-aid are finalised. Training on technical, finance, intellectual property, statutory compliance issues etc. is provided. Mentoring of start-ups through monitoring of milestones and timelines is part of the programme. The start-ups are in

various categories such as agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries etc.

DAC&FW has selected 5 **Knowledge Partners (KPs) as Centres of Excellence.**

These are:

- National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad
- National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) Jaipur
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa, New Delhi
- University of Agriculture Science, Dharwad, Karnataka
- Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat, Assam

24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country have also been appointed.

Some **start-ups that are being incubated** offer the following solutions

- Activx Animal Health Technologies branded as Vetz, is a **network of veterinary doctors** which provides immediate connection with customers i.e animal owners via real time tele consultation and doorstep visits.
- SNL Innovations – InnoFarms provides **fruit and vegetable pulp processed directly at the farm using an in-house developed monoblock fruit processing platform** (on-wheels) to convert fruits to pulp with shelf life of up to 1 year with complete traceability from farm to customer.
- EF Polymer developed an **eco-friendly water retention polymer** with an aim to solve the water scarcity crisis for farmers. This startup made a super absorbent polymer designed to absorb water in the soil, retain it for a long time, and supply to the crops as required.

- Among the start-ups that have been selected are several start-ups led by women such as A2P Energy Solution that uses **AI to track waste biomass and then works with farmers to collect it.** On one side it generates additional income for farmers and on the other side A2P converts the collected biomass into next gen biofuels like energy pellets, green coal and bio oil.
- Kyari Innovations is working on **mitigating human wildlife conflict pan India and internationally.** They have created an innovative product called ANIDERS- Animal Intrusion Detection and Repellent System. This device works like a mechanized scarecrow that can protect farmlands from animal intrusions.
- Agsmartic Technologies, has a vision to **improve crop yield by precise irrigation and disease management through a data driven approach by using AI, IoT and computer vision.** Their product Croplytics is a combination of hardware and software solution that integrates ground sensor data and satellite imagery to translate data into actionable information for creating a precise model for irrigation.