A GLANCE AT THE TRENDS OF FUNCTIONING OF AGRI-CLINICS AND AGRI-BUSINESS CENTRES IN INDIA: A REVIEW IN RESTROSPEC AND PROSPECT

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ABSTRACT:

"Innovation in the specific instrument of entrepreneurship. The act endows resources with new capacity to create wealthy" according to Peter Dudar.

Taking Cue from the above statement, the present review is attempted on the basis of data from 50 agri-clinic and agri-Business centres spread over 30% of the Indian States. Majority of the agri-preneurs are in the age range of 35-60 years and possess work experience. The agricultural professionals after duly receiving the two-month long training at the Nodal Training Institutions functioning under the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management(MANAGE) took to set up agri-clinics.

Most agre-preneurs recommend mixed farming rather than the traditional one. Most in the centres also took to other types of activities duly recommending them to the farming community horticulture, dairy, fishing, honey (apiary) and apitherapy, bamboo (Green Gold) cultivation and so on.

Some entre-preneurs manage their activities from their own resources while majority of them depended on banks, NABARD. Different methods Consultancy, Counselling and training of farmers – are also followed by majority of centres.

Key Words: Agri Clinics, AgriPreneurs, Entre-Preneurs.

Introduction-The Reality:

Gone are the days when the products of agricultural and veterinary sciences used to clamour for government jobs. The advent of 20th century made the disciplines realise that the graduates from their respective institutions can go beyond this level by applying their theoretical findings for the welfare and upliftment of the farming communities, hats off to the "Startups" introduced by the government. Besides Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres started by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management. This phenomenal

change, conceived for good, played a significant role in the progress in the life of the agricultural and veterinary specialists. Of course these changes assured a comfortable life to the farming communities to a considerable extent.

In this effort, the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (an organization of Ministry of Agriculture, Govt.of India), Hyderabad played a pivotal role when the central sector scheme of Agri-clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC &ABC) were established on 9th April 2002 (Srinivas 2014) with the aim of supplementing the efforts of Public extension with a two-pronged approach to enable agricultural professionals to set up Agri-Ventures to provide Value-added extension advisory services to farmers at their doorstep, and toprovide self-employment opportunities to Agripreneurs. The agricultural professional aspired to start agriventures in association with the Nodal Training Institutions (NTIs)numbering 108 do receive the required training under the aegis of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE). Such training entitles the professionals to obtain startup loans from scheduled banks along with necessary subsidy from NABARD. All the established Agripreneurs do provide value-added extension services to farmers under the made of Public Private Partnership duly directed by the Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs).

The Present Work:

Over 2000 Agriventures functioning in different states speak of their importance and necessary role in agricultural development. Based on data from 50 agri-clinics and agribusiness centres from over 30% of the states extension services. A brief account is presented in their functioning in different states of the country to understand their development trends. For our purposes, the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres considered for our purposes are not exhaust but only act as examples indicating how they are functioning in different states of the Country. Finally, the narrative as presented by places and states is discussed in alphabetical order indicating their nature and functioning, finally followed by concluding remarks.

AGRI-CENTRES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO FARMING COMMUNITY:

In Andhra Pradesh, the HaritamHortiAgri-clinic started in Vijayawada (Suresh Kumar :13-14 aims to offer technical support to farmers of Krishna, Guntur and West Godavari District. The support includes soil and water testing and agricultural practices besides

promoting biopesticides. Development of aerobic fermentation of poultry litter in another aspect of this clinic. The professional also developed a technology for extraction of Keratin protein from human hair and birth feathers.

The "Information and Inputs for sustainable Aquaculture (IIFSA)" opened at Akiveedu village in West Godavari District provides advisory and laboratory services on all aquacultural activities for sustainable <u>fish farming</u>: (26-27 Akbar Ali). The services provided include pond to lab to pond to collect aqua samples test in lab and render service to farmers maintenance of farmer wise record books, IT based services; emergency management information (EMI) sale and procurement all types of fish pond inputs and outputs; evaluation of ongoing aquaculture projects; Consultancy services and so on.

In Assam, a veterinarian (Nilbahar Begum :38) along with her husband started a veterinary clinic named "Vet Clinic" in Bongaigaon to provide indoor and outdoor services to animals, pets and birds. At the same place the couple started a Dairy Farm, which is managed well in all respects, including selling of milk, and curd and paneer. The farm provided employment to people besides extending advisory to scores of farmers.

The establishment of "Fish Fingerling production Unit" at<u>Guwahati</u>, Assam by an agriculturist –turned veterinarian (Ranjan Shan:52) The fingerling-rearing ponds covering a 2-hectare land at Pacharia provided employment to dozens of persons besides meeting the needs of fish-growing farmers.

In the Chattisgarh state, Raipur city made a mark with the "blending of social cause with pro-nature agri-preneurship" under the "Om Sai Agri-clinic and Agri Business Centre" (DilipBisen :25) creating awareness among farmers on non-chemical techniques of plan protection and organic methods of fertilising the soil. Cattle dung and Urine with rich medicinal and pesticidal properties is being used in organic farming to yield good results. The Agri-Extension work undertakes teaching on the organic farming techniques to the farmers about control of insect pests by light traps, organic manure and fertilisers making method, conservation and culturing of beneficial bacteria and fungi in the soil, and vermin-composting to enrich soil micro-nutrients. Direct and indirect employment to dozens of skilled and unskilled workers through Gram Panchayats, etc., is another important aspect of the clinic's mission.

Representing <u>Gujarat</u> is a veterinary doctor (GK Bamania) starting an Xcell Dairy named "Xcell Breeding and Livestock Services Pvt.Ltd.," in Ahmedabad. The Software developed by him monitors the breeding services provided to dairies. He maintains a database for villages with dairy farmers and cattle. Also the required infrastructure for livestock breeding services has been developed together with a full-fledged labour to any over two dozen professionals are employed to carry on the above tasks. 3000 villages with 30,000 dairy farmers are provided extension services through 300 artificial insemination technicians.

A resident of <u>Gandhi Nagar</u>, <u>Gujarat</u> (Jagadish Dhanani:17-18) has come up with what is called "Green Journalism in Rural Areas" to produce video films on agriculture with his first documentary film on organic farming and pest management becoming a succars. His "Digital Agri Media" concept facilitated to educate the farming community on Agri Media Films, and mass media support to organisations working with the agriculture sector. Over 200 agricultural companies became regular clients of Digital Agri Media. Thus both professional services and farmer services are the key activities of Digital Agri-Media. Thousands of villages with lacs of farmers benefited from Digital Agri Media.

The concept of "Ambulance for Animals" became important in the context of pet clinic called "Krishna Veterinary Hospital" started at <u>GujarathRajkoty</u>fulfilling the dream of a veterinarian (UkaniJenish R:40). The availability of ultra sonography and radiography is best utilized for diagnosis and treatment of equines and dogs. Major surgeries are also performed here on cattle and buffaloes, together with transport facility for them. There is a mobile clinic facility in places without doctors.

The Gandhi Nayar, Gujarat based Agro House established in 2008 by any agriculture graduate (Mehta:34) offers pioneering services in matters relating to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and foresty through exhibitions seminars, workshops, video films and books. Its customer base includes about a lakh farmers and 500 organisations with agriculture.

Another <u>Gujarat –based cattle</u> feed supply unit and veterinary clinic was started in <u>Rajkot area</u> underthe caption "Hindustan Trading" due to the efforts of a Veterinarian (Savsani:53) Both Veterinary and artificial insemination services are provided by the Centre to lakhs of farmers spreading in about 50 villages.

The Junagadh based agricultural scientist (Lungaria:62-63) of Gujarat. This agripreneur founded his own agriventure with three more Agri-Companies added later. These companies are engaged in cotton-ginning and pressing with cotton seed oil exploration and cotton seeds cake. The Vimax crop science Limited organised over 50,000 AGriproducts demonstrated in over seven Indian states. About two dozen contract employees work in this venture. About 30 Market Development trainees are under apprenticeship in this company.

In Karnal district of Haryana, a venture called "Ocean Foods" was founded for honey processing (Rana:8) with different brand names – Mustard honey, Litchi honey, Neem honey, Sunflower honeyand so on. The Unit has storage facility and skilled labour for honey bottling, packing, labelling etc., Door to door delivery of honey is the key marketing strategy and carried out through sales executives. The honey in sold allover the country.

Haryana witnessed another venture named "Beekeeping to Apitherapy" which was ventured by an agricultural scientist (Parashar:12) from Barna district of <u>Kurukshetra</u>. Bee keeping is pursued with commitment knowing its medicinal value in curing ulcers and diabetes – The associated farmers are trained on apiary and bee keeping venture.

The Kashmir valley witnessed the production of fruit crops like apple besides legumes instead of maize in apple orchard. To help the farming community besides creating a good business opportunity (Bukhari:1), an association named "Apple Planet Agri clinics" was opened at <u>Srinagar</u>. This organisation with about 500 farmer members recommends right doses of pesticides, fertilizers, seeds and other inputs needed. Crop planning activities are also recommend by this venture to farmers.

In Karnataka, the Bengaluru based agricultural scientist (KVV Sharma:9-10) has his own concern "Bhakti Agri Services" which under took contract farming of Gherkin crop in about 1000 acres located in about 80-100 villages of AP, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. About 500 skilled staff are associated with the Agriventure besides labourers to work in the harvesting period. The firm intends to undertake cultivation of cherry tomoto, red and yellow chilli and other exotic crops.

Karnataka contributed to farm mechanisation for mart farming with the establishment of "VARSHA ASSOCIATES" as Agri Business centre in <u>Kelgote Industrial Area of</u>

Chitradurga district. 9 Raju and Naik: 23-24). The centre is also engaged in manufacturing and trading of exclusive range of farm machineries ramping from tractor-drawn bullock-drawn equipment as a mark of hi-tech agriculture. The equipment consists of wide range for cultivation, irrigation, plant protection, harvesting including post-harvesting and generalpurpose. This concern has business contacts with other states too. The centre provides consultancy to farmers besides training to unemployed youth from different economic classes. 60 permanent employees are on the parp rolls of the centre.

The Bijapur based <u>Karnataka</u> agricultural scientist (Somapur:29) started an agri unit "Maxima Seeds – seeds for Better Future". He believes in the concept of "Sow Good seed, Reap Good Harvest". The seed production unit started in a 10-acre farm at Shadnagar of Mahaboobnagar district of Telangana State is equipped with sophisticated research facilities along with processing and packing facilities like grader, gravity separator, de-stoner, treats, automatic weighing and bagging unit with a 9000 sft storage facility. The unity also offers advisory services to farmers on market linkages, plant protection measures, field visits to technical advice, demonstration on new-varieties and cultural practices and said production vegetables and field crops.

A visionary entrepreneur from Bengaluru, Karnataka with his Laiming in agricultural science (Chandrabanu:31) started his enterprises called "Poly-House Construction". His technological knowledge in farming paved the way for the development of his concern besides drawing inputs from National Horticulture Mission, National Horticulture Board and State Horticulture Development. He not only supported the establishment of several business enterprises besides the construction of Poly-Houses and shade nets. Gerbera Anthaxium carnation and coloured capsicum are the high value crops of poly Houses. Moist chambers, shade-net house, supply of green house cultivation cops, supply of green house materials like poly-film, shade-net and Aluminium springs besides consultancy are the other activities of the venture. About 60 persons are employed and developed market drink ages with farmers.

Another Karnataka –based agricultural scientist (Hegde:35) started his own "venture on Integrated Farming consultancy services" at Bangalore. This Agri-ventreadopted intercropping of arecanut, coconut, vegetables, Paddy and a Vermi-compost unit developed in his 5 acre land. The services offered by the venture are agricultural implements like Paddy transplomter power weeder and high-powered sprayers. Several other services include quality searching's quality tissue culture banana plants, organic and integrated farming,

training to farmers on various aspects of farming, and motivating youth to take up agriculture etc., About 350 farmers from 25-30 villages are motivated. About 10 persons have been offered jobs to extend service to farmers. He has received the following awards for his work – Taluka best farmer, Progressive farmer, Dwarakanath award for extension work.

The <u>Karnataka state</u> took the "Make in India" concept in a practical sense with the establishment of an "Agriclinic" namely "AgriMaa Biosciences" by an agricultural scientist (Subramani:b1) at <u>BommanuruAgraharaSrirangapatna taluka</u>, <u>Mandya district</u>. It provides scientific package of practices on commercial and horticultural crops. The F1 Red Dwarf Papaya variety was developed by the clinic in the place of the Tainwan variety. The Agriventure associated about 300 farmers from 60 villages as regular customers. Recording a high turnover, the venture has been able to provide jobs to 15 science graduates.

The <u>Kerala Aquapreneur (Ms.Akhalamole)</u> is a fisheries expert the started a "Fish Hatchery venture" along with inputs such as aquarium units (aquarium tanks, aquatic ornamental plants, different breeds of ornamental fishes etc.,) The venture provides consultancy on fisheries, hatchery operations of fish water and brackish water, marine fishes, shrimps and crabs. A number of other aspects also attended to are water analysis, Pond preparation, Weed eradication and predatory fishes, fish finger rings supply, fish feed, disease checking, production aspects and market linkages. 650 farmers receive consultancy from this venture. Imported fish breeds are also produced. The venture is the largest fish production in Kerala (Pearl spot-Etroplussuratersis). Integrated farming is another highlight of the venture besides Home-stay for convicts and stands as a role model for women.

The "Geen Gold" Bamboo cultivation found its way to the tropical Kolhapur district of Maharashtra through the Ishwar Agri-Business and Energy Solutions" centre at Kolhapur started by an agricultural expert (Wandrej:21-22). Known for its low ash content and alkali index with higher heating value it i found favourable for gasification and synthesis of gasoline and diesel. This scientific agriculture with market-led enterprise found favour with waste lands as sugarcane, jowar, chillies etc., became expensive. The 10 acre plot of the bamboo the entrepreneur acts as a demonstration plot finding favour with farmers. This Agri-Business Centre provides not only consultancy to farmers but also to have a buy-back arrangement for their yield. Over 100 farmer are now customers of the venture.

Manipur State in the northeast India is represented by a fishery science man from Imphal (SS:Singh -2-3) as a successful entrepreneur for his pioneering work in conserving the endangered fish species Pengba, a state fish. He has integrated fish farming with Piggery and Dairy farming. He has cultured five composite fish farming of fresh water species of Rohu, Catla, Pengba, Nagton and Ngakra. In this venture have associated the rural fish farmers by providing them disease free and healthy fish fingerings of Pengba. This pioneering, leading producer of Pengba (O.belangari) besides providing healthy fish seed of Pengba species impacts short term training to fish farmers, offers consultancy, provides technical knowledge for stocking management; creators awareness about fish diseases and their control, reaching out to remote farmers through TV, Radio and articles. One thousand farmers from 15 villages are benefited through this venture. Direct and indirect employment was provided by the initiative to about 500 persons. The centre hopes in future to established for multiplication of Pengba fish for conservation, by creating awareness among fish farmers on integrated fish farming with cattle, duck and pig farming, constituting storage godowns for staring inputs and outputs of fish farming.

The <u>Punjab state –based</u>entrepreneur (Sandhu :43-44) started his "Agri Care" for seed business. As an agricultural postgraduate undertook the highly technical and risky business together with extension services to farmers. He selected seed production business to overcome the mismatch between the need for quality seed for small and marginal farmers and its timey availability. His "Agri Care" enterprise managed to procure breeder or foundation seed of high yielding wheat varieties from well known organisations. He managed to help 50 farmers from 12 villages by engaging them for growing commercial seed on about 400 acres and produced the same for processing in his plant at Jalandhar. His "Agri Care" helped in popularising the seed for his business. The centre has provided directemployment to four people besides employing 25 agricultural labourers. It has become a role model for other agri-preneurs.

In <u>Tamil Nadu</u>, an agricultural Diploma holder (Innasimuthy:11) from Madhurai launched his firm "Green Madhurai Nursery Garden" with 10 skilled workers to assist hm. After receiving training under AC &ABC scheme, he opened his own-Agri venture named "Green Madurai" under which were raised a wide variety of plant saplings besides selling bio manure. Other amenities provided include consultancy on land scaping and gardening a soil testing lab, providing attractive water fountains, ornamental services, etc., He has also created meadows on river banks transforming Madurai as a gardencity. About 100 persons

are directly employed and 450 persons indirectly 19 skilled workers offer Hoti/Agri sciences throughout Tamil Nadu.

In <u>Telangana State</u>, the <u>Hyderabad</u> ecopreneur with his Masters in both Entomology and Agri-Business Management (Appary:19-20) founded his Agri venture "Green Morning Horticulture Services Private Ltd.," and transformed traditional landscaping by unifying innovative ideas in the traditional methods of landscaping bringing modern agriculture into the corporate sector. By the AC & ABC Training received by him, he came out with his venture through which he transformed landscaping with less competition like tree plantation, vertical gardening, organic potted vegetable gardens and so on. The customers include Indian Army, Metro-Rail, Hyderabad, CMC Ltd., Mylan, NCC Ltd etc., The offered services are landscape designing and development, vertical and terrace gardens, tree transplantation, plant rentals, vermin-compost sale and agri-cum-horticulture consultancy- Indigenous, tropical, ornamental fruit trees, shrules and climbers are on priority in the place of chopped city trees and surrounding areas. Rajuvination of old trees to save ecology is also taken care of sale in made of tropical fruit trees and ornamental plants.

The <u>Hyderabad-based</u> agri-business lady with post B.Sc. (Ag) (Sarita Reddy:25) in Telangana state made a mark by establishing her company namely "Navaratna Crop Science Pvt.Ltd.," with due knowledge of different business skills like operations management, franchisee management, and marketing management. She personally manages the field trials of the farmers. The plant probiotic "Bhoojeevan" Launched by her has become very popular among the ridge-gourd farmers with reduction in flower- dropping. The company's products range from biofertilizers to micro-nutrients. The company manages production to marketing by engaging 40 persons.

The agricultural graduate sun of the soil entrepreneur (Veera Reddy:47) hailing from a farmer family and backward village of Kanchireddypally of Karimnagar district of Telangana, feels that farmers have no access to basic inputs such as seeds and fertilizers. Inventing his own capital and experience, he decided to organise seed growers of chillies and later to oil seeds and pulses. Besides teaching the techniques of seed production, he facilitated supply of quality fertilizers and seeds. He become confident of Agri-Business after he underwent training in AC & ABC Scheme. He offered technical advice to 200 seed growers of chillies, pulses and oil seeds.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS:

- The central sector scheme of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC& ABC), under the auspices of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Played a laudable role in improving the life ways of not only agricultural-veterinary-sericultural scientists but also the farming community across the country.
- ➤ Data available for 50 agri-clinics and agri-business centres of 15 of the 29 states of the country is too meagre to speak for the entire country.
- ➤ Majority of the agri-preneurs are in the age range of about 35-60 years, excepting two senior citizens. Most of them possess work experience in Government or Private organisations, including banking sector.
- ➤ Of the two <u>AndhraPradeshagri-clinics Vijayawada</u> and <u>Akiveedu</u>— the former provides technical support such as soil and water testing as also agricultural practices and aerobic poultry litter fermentation. The latter centre provides laboratory and advisory services for fish farming.
- ➤ Of the <u>Assam two centres</u>, <u>Bongaogaoncentre</u> extends indoor and outdoor services to animals, pets and birds, besides managing a dairy farm. The <u>Guwahati Clinic</u> manages fish fingering production.
- The <u>Chattishgarh Centre at Rajpur</u> Creates awareness on non-Chemical techniques of plant protection and organic method of fertilising soil, besides organic farming by using cattle dung and urine. Teaching also is extended to farmers on organic farming techniques.
- The <u>Raipur –based Centre in ChattisgarhState</u> educate farmers on non-chemical techniques of plant protection and soil fertilisation by organic methods. Organic farming techniques, organic manure, fertiliser making methods and vermicomposting, besides bacteria and fungi culturing and conservation are also taught to farmers.
- There are six agri-clinics in Gujarat state two- one each at Ahmedabad and Junagad, two each at Gandhi Nagr and Rajkot respectively. While the Ahmedabad centre monitors the breeding services of dairies as through software, the Junagad centre is engaged in cotton-ginning and pressing. Of the two Gandhi Nagar Centres, one is engaged in producing video films on agriculture under the caption "green Journalism" and digital agrimedia concept to educate farmers; while the

- other two one extends the ambulance facility for animals as also the ultra sonography and radiography for diagnosis and treatment of equires and dogs, the <u>other</u> organises through exhibitions, seminars, workshops, videofilms and books on matters relating to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and forestry.
- ➤ The Himachal Pradesh only <u>agri-horti-consultancy</u> at <u>YeshwantNagar</u> educates farmers on farming practices and new technologies, disease management, and Vermi composting techniques besides arranging marketing facility for vermin compost.
- The Two Ranchi-based Jharkhand Centres are respectively involved in providing agri services to farmers on modern methods of agriculture through MASS and production of Vermi compost and plantation of mango and papaya through NHM. The third-centre-at-SirikaColliery takes care of food security to challenge malnutrition through the concept of "Integrated Farming".
- The two Haryana centres from Karnal and Kurukshetra are respectively carming on honey processing with different brand names under "Ocean Foods" and "Bee Keeping to Apitherapy" by trained farmers.
- ➤ In <u>Kashmir valley</u>, the <u>Srinagar centre</u> under the association of "Apple planet Agri-Clinics" mainly encourages fruit crops like apples besides legumes along with recommendation of need-based inputs and crop planning activities.
- There are six agri-clinics reported functioning in Karnataka of the three Bangalore centres on through the "Bhakti Agri Services" devoted to "Green House Farming" technology by which poly-houses for high value crops and shade nets are set up for cultivation of vegetables and nurseries. The third one demonstrating profitable agriculture opened a Venture on Integrated Farming and consultancy services" offering intercropping, providing agricultural implements, supplying quality seedlings training to farmers and motivating youth etc., of the remaining two centres, the Kelgote Industrial Area contributes to farm mechanisation, farm machineries, business contacts with other states, farmers' consultancy, training unemployed youth and so on. The Bijapuragri-unit developed the concept of "Sow Good seed, Reap Good Harvest", advisory to farmers etc., The BommanuruAgrahara "AgriMaa Biosciences" offers a scientific package of practices on commercial horticultural crops.
- ➤ The <u>Kashmir venture</u> devotes to production of fruit crops like apple besides legumes along with crop planning and providing market opportunities to farmers.

- > There are two centres functioning in Kerala. The fish hatchery venture started at Calicut by a fisheries expert provides consultancy on hatchery operations apart from integrated farming and Home-Stay. The second one namely "Green Touch Farm Media and Support Service" at Vellayani intends to fill the gap between agriculture and mass media. The venture aims to educate the farmers engaged in agriculture and allied fields to have exposure on advancements in the six centres are functioning in Maharashtra -Kolhpur, Pune, Rahuri, Paratwada, Virgaon (Wihirgaon) Suburban Pune City and Phaltanrespectively. The Kolhapur centre favours bamboo cultivation in waste lands in the place of traditional crops and marketing facility. The Pune centre favours "green house" cultivation favouring Gerbera, Coloured capsicum and ginger. The Rahuri Centre guides entrepreneurs on maintenance, marketing, and marketing of agricultural inputs besides rendering marketing, library services and analysis of water and leaf samples. Paratwadacentre offers service as "KrishiDoot" to orange growers besides consultancy training and awareness services to farmers. The Centre at Virgaon(Whirgaon) Provided to farmers a package of practices with organic methods to eradicate the oily sport disease in pomegranate. Concept selling of any product through personal visits to farmer's field and offering solutions to their problems through digital tablet pays dividends. The Pune City Centre started concentrating on the cultivation of exotic vegetables rather than on the traditional ones like lettuces, broccoli, capsicum, red cabbage and cherry tomato besides mushrooms and baby corn. The centre at Phaltan village devoted to rearing the Gir cattle breed with potential for higher milk production by offering training cumconsultancy to farmers.
- Three centres, reported from Manipur state one located in Imphal Pioneered the Conservation of the endanged fish species Pengbabesides integrating fish farming with piggery and dairy farming. This is done along with cattle, duck and pig farming. The <a href="Second centre called "Sericulture Pottam" contributes the sericulture farmers, rulers and weavers of the state. This is done by converting raw silk thread into finished products. The third centre engages itself in collecting silk year/cocoons from farmers and supplying them to the weavers for production of silk cloth.

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> The only centre of Punjab state called "Agricare" mainly concentrates in the

procurement of foundation seed of high-yielding wheat varieties for supplying the

same to farmers.

> Four centres are functioning the Telangana State – two in Hyderabad city and one

each at Kanchireddypally and Gajwel respectively. The Hyderabad band agri-

cum-horticulture centre offers services on landscape designing and development,

vertical and terrace gardens, tree transplantation, plant rentals, Vermi compost sale

etc., AnotherHyderabad based centre with different business skills ranging from

production to marketing launched "Bhoojeevan" probiotic for the benefit of ridge

gourd farmers. The Centre at Kanchireddypally, owing to non-accessability to

basic inputs, organises seed growers of Chillies, oil seeds, pulses and oilseeds.

Hiring of farm machinery to farmers is another service rendered by the centre.

The GajwelTajiTajisubjocentre made a mark in high-tech farming and

consultancy besides supplying vegetables to Rythu Bazar and other big concerns.

The North Indian Hindi-speaking belt covering UP, MP and Rajasthan besides

West Bengal and Orissa is not represented in the matter of agri clinics agribusiness

centres.

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