The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has set up 22 Business Planning & Development (BPD) Units in its research institutes and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) across the country. The BPDs are primarily agri-business incubation centres which serve start-up entrepreneurs in agri-business, agri-business industry, small and medium enterprises, rural entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations, agro-tech innovators, etc. These BPDs promote agribusiness ventures through a vast pool of commercialisable agro-technologies from R&D institutes, provide access to infrastructure & facilities, provide capacity building and mentoring, facilitate funding, etc.

The BPDs cover the entire spectrum in agribusiness, covering agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, veterinary, agri-engineering, food processing and are located across the country.

NAIP has entrusted the Agri-Business Incubation program of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with the responsibility of handholding and mentoring the BPDs to build synergy and help commercialize innovative agro-technologies through agribusiness development. Together, these incubators have formed the Network of Indian Agri-Business Incubators (NIABI).

In a short span of four years, NIABI has incubated more than 1200 agribusiness ventures, commercialized 107 technologies, trained around 2200 entrepreneurs and created direct employment for more than 9000 people, thereby benefitting 131,600 farmers through products and services of the clients.

Creating agribusiness opportunities through innovative agro-technologies: Agri-Tech Investors Meet

NAIP in collaboration with ICRISAT organized a two day Agri-Tech Investors Meet at New Delhi during 18-19 July, 2013. The Meet was presided by Dr K Kasturirangan, Member (Science), Planning Commission, Government of India along with Dr S Ayyappan, DG, ICAR; Dr William Dar, DG, ICRISAT and Dr D Rama Rao, ND, NAIP. For the event, FICCI was the Industry Partner while ISB-Mohali was the Knowledge Partner.

The Meet was a unique technology commercialization platform that showcased more than 70 ready to commercialize agro-technologies from different sectors of agriculture along with promotion of the agribusiness incubation services. It featured agro-technology presentations, an agri-tech expo and Business-to-Business meet-ings. The event was attended by more than 400 participants representing industry, agri-scientists, entrepreneurs, investors and incubator professionals and had more than 100 B2B meetings between the scientists and industrialists. The first of its kind in the Indian agriculture research system, the Meet saw 58 agro-technologies commercialized and exchange of 80 MoUs in the presence of Dr K Kasturirangan and others.
WANT TO START AN AGribusiness?

NAIP BPDs opening the doors to agro-tech opportunities.

The BPDs are primarily agribusiness incubation centers, which serve entrepreneurs. They promote agribusiness with access to agro-technologies, provide access to infrastructure & facilities, do capacity building and mentoring and facilitate funding in order to establish a start-up venture or commercialize agro-technologies. These BPDs are promoted in 22 National Agricultural Research institutions by the NAIP of ICAR in collaboration with Agri-Business Incubation Program of ICRISAT.