Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP)
Enhancing an inclusive and technology-based agribusiness
Outcomes/Achievements

Agribusiness & Innovation Platform (AIP)

AIP is a pioneering, public-private partnership initiative of ICRISAT that work towards furthering ICRISAT’s mission by upscaling its technology and research outcomes through agribusiness ventures and advocating sustainable interventions with partners so as to benefit smallholder farmers, youth and women in rural community. The Platform aims to connect with other stakeholders in the agri-innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem to foster growth of agribusiness ventures and sharing of knowledge and information, that will help in improving livelihood of the rural community and enhancing contribution of non-farm sector to local economic development.

AIP is part of the Research Program on Innovation Systems for Drylands (RP-ISD) of ICRISAT.

AIP comprises of four programs: Agri-Business Incubator (ABI), Innovation & Partnership (INP), Nutri-Plus Knowledge (NPK), and Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC).

Outcomes/Achievements

Agribusiness promotion

- Supported 89 agribusiness & ag-tech start-ups (in ag-bio, ag-mechanization, digital agriculture, food processing, farm business, ag-innovations, and farmer-led entrepreneurship initiatives)
- 56 ventures have graduated from the incubator
- Commercialized 10 agro-technologies developed by ICRISAT, and introduced over 80 agro-products into the market through its incubatees
- Mobilized funding of US$ 13.2 mn to its start-ups
- Generated 1789 jobs through start-ups
- Handholding and mentoring partner to 27 agribusiness incubators in India, and 11 in Africa
- Developed 2 agro-technology compendiums and 5 agribusiness incubation knowledge reports
- Trained more than 3500 entrepreneurs and agribusiness professionals (from India and Africa) on various aspects of agribusiness entrepreneurship and incubator management
- Undertaken value-chain studies and agribusiness promotion projects for national and international agencies
- Filed patent application for seven technologies and two agricultural GIs

Farming community

- Supporting 16 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in 3 states in India
- Resource Support Agency for FPO promoting agencies in Telangana
- Transitioning tribal farmers of Adilabad region of Telangana towards modern agriculture using improved varieties and installation of primary processing centers on pilot mode
- Training 500 tribal farmers from across Telangana on best practices in agriculture and allied sectors

Health & nutrition

- Pilot project with Government of Telangana to address hunger and malnutrition among disadvantaged communities through unique millet-based Nutri-Food Basket
- Lead agency for establishing 5 food testing labs in Africa

Awards & Recognitions

- Best Technology Business Incubator
  - Government of India 2005
  - Villgro 2009
- Asia Pacific Association of Business Incubation (AABI) Award 2008
- #18 of 100 Business Incubators in India Entrepreneur India 2017
Agri-Business Incubator (ABI)

Started in 2003 with support of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, with a mission to promote agribusiness ventures and agricultural innovations through incubation support services. ABI also facilitates in establishment of agribusiness incubators in new locations so as to reach out to more number of farmers and rural youth to help them become agribusiness entrepreneurs. ABI supports and promotes ag-tech start-ups, agri-entrepreneurs, grassroots innovators, incubators, rural youth and farmer groups, by offering following services:

▪ Scientific consultancy for technology development and standardization
▪ Infrastructure facilities: Lab and Office space
▪ Facilitate access to funds
▪ Business consultancy and business development support for start-up ventures
▪ Skill development and capacity building programs
▪ Start-up growth service packages

Nutri-Plus Knowledge (NPK) Program

Focus on value addition and post-harvest management in the agri-food sector through innovative processing and product development techniques. NPK promotes SME food processing companies, food testing units etc, with following services:

▪ Value added products and technologies based on ICRISAT’s mandate crops
▪ Laboratories: pilot product facility, food testing lab
▪ Capacity building and training on food processing
▪ Consultancy services for the agri-food industry

Innovation and Partnership (INP) Program

Develop strong, collaborative research-cum-development partnerships with public and private sectors, in the areas of plant breeding, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, knowledge sharing, training and value chain development, which ultimately benefits the smallholder farmers across the agricultural value chain. INP Program focuses on agro-seed companies, biotech companies seeking innovative partnerships with ICRISAT on technology development and advancement, and offers the following services:

▪ Market oriented contract research benefitting the farmers
▪ Scientific support and infrastructure of ICRISAT promoting AR4D (agricultural research for development)
▪ Public-Private Partnership projects enhancing ICRISAT’s IMOD approach
▪ Global agribusiness events and program management

Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC)

Established with support of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), GoI with the objective of supporting start-ups, entrepreneurs and technology developers in protecting their intellectual property and other legal services. These services extend from pre-protection to post-protection stage in the IP life-cycle. Other services include:

▪ IP due diligence reports, landscaping and technology mapping
▪ IP searches such as prior-art-search, novelty or patentability search, validity or enforcement readiness search, biotechnology sequence search
▪ Drafting and filing of IP applications for patents, trademarks, copyright, designs, geographical indication, plant varieties and farmers’ rights
▪ IP commercialization and monetization, technology transfer and licensing
▪ Advisory on business with IPRs
Gateway for Agribusiness Opportunities

Network in India

- Lead Center
  Agri-Business Incubator (ABI), ICRISAT, Telangana

Northern Region
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
- Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh
- Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar, Haryana
- Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Haryana
- Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHEIT), Ludhiana, Punjab
- Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Southern Region
- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin, Kerala
- Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, Kerala
- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, Karnataka
- Indian Institute of Spices Research (ISSR), Calicut, Kerala
- National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- The Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Central Region
- Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, (JNVKV), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Birsa Agricultural University, (BAU) Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Central Rice Research Institute (CRI), Cuttack, Odisha

Eastern Region
- Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAT), Kolkata, West Bengal

Western Region
- Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT), Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand, Gujarat

African Partners
- FARA - UniBRAIN (Universities, Business & Research in Agricultural Innovation Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) project - Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Mali
- MOFPI (Ministry of Food Processing Industries), Government of India - Food Processing Business Incubation Centers project - Ghana, Mali, Uganda, Cameroon, Angola
- MOFPI, Government of India (Food Testing Laboratories) project - Nigeria, Gambia, Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Rwanda

Key Partners

Dr Kiran Sharma
CEO, k.sharma@cgiar.org
Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP)
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, 502 324, Telangana, India
Tel: +91-40-3071 3417
www.aipicrisat.org
@aipicrisat