



## Unlocking agripreneurial potential: Insights from Maharashtra's performance in the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme

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### Abstract

Agriculture continues to play a crucial role in India's economy, however, the sector faces persistent challenges related to inadequate extension services, limited access to technology, and unemployment among agricultural graduates. The Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC & ABC) scheme, launched in 2002, aims to address these challenges by promoting agripreneurship and strengthening extension services. The present study examines the performance of the AC & ABC scheme in Maharashtra, a leading state in its implementation, using secondary data for the period 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The analysis highlights Maharashtra's dominant contribution, accounting for 27.66% of trained candidates and 31.73% of ventures established at the national level. The study further explores district-wise disparities, activity-wise distribution of ventures and institutional participation in training programmes. The findings reveal that while Maharashtra performs exceptionally well overall, significant intra-state disparities and limited diversification into high-value activities persist. The study concludes with policy suggestions to enhance balanced regional development, promote diversification, and strengthen institutional support for sustainable agripreneurship development.

**Keywords:** Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme, agripreneurship, agricultural extension, Maharashtra

### Introduction

The agriculture sector is critical to the Indian economy as it provides jobs for a significant portion of the population as well as supports economic development and helps achieve food security. While there has been substantial growth in the production of agricultural products, farmers in India remain unable to access modern technologies, inadequate extension services, and insufficient technical assistance. This demonstrates that policy makers must strengthen agricultural extension systems in order to improve productivity and achieve sustainable agricultural growth (Ganaie *et al.*, 2026; Parihar & Boyal, 2018) <sup>[4, 6]</sup>. In order to address these challenges, the Indian government established the Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC & ABC) program in 2002 to provide additional support to public extension services while generating self-employment opportunities for agricultural graduates. Through this program, trained agricultural graduates will be encouraged to start agri-ventures that will provide advisory, input, and farm-related assistance to farmers. It also seeks to bridge the gap between research, extension, and farmers by facilitating technology transfer at the grassroots level (Chaitra *et al.*, 2020; Gagana *et al.*, 2024) <sup>[1, 3]</sup>.

Since its inception, the program has made significant progress in training agricultural graduates and setting up agri-businesses across the Country. However, the overall success rate of establishing new ventures is moderate, hovering around 43-44 percent, indicating the need for improved implementation strategies and institutional

support (Chaitra *et al.*, 2020; Patel *et al.*, 2020) <sup>[1, 7]</sup>. Moreover, the performance of the scheme varies significantly across states, reflecting differences in awareness levels, infrastructure, financial access, and policy support leading to significant regional disparities in outcomes.

Among all states, Maharashtra state has demonstrated the highest level of success in implementing the AC & ABC program in terms of the number of trained agricultural graduates who have established successful agri-businesses both regionally as well as nationally, indicating not just a strong institutional base within the state but also a successful use of methodologies to execute the AC & ABC program within the state (Ganaie *et al.*, 2026) <sup>[4]</sup>. Additionally, Maharashtra has shown notable progress in promoting women agripreneurs, although their participation remains relatively low, suggesting the need for targeted interventions to enhance gender inclusion (Deshmukh *et al.*, 2024) <sup>[2]</sup>. The success of Maharashtra can be attributed to several factors, including better awareness among agricultural graduates, the existence of well-functioning training institutes, increased access to institutional credit, and the presence of an enabling policy environment. Furthermore, diversified agricultural practices and higher adoption of agribusiness models have strengthened the state's performance under the scheme. In this context, the present study aims to examine the performance of the AC & ABC scheme in Maharashtra with a focus on its contribution to agripreneurship development, creation of

jobs and strengthening of agricultural extension services. The study also seeks to identify key factors responsible for the state's leading position and provide policy insights for improving the effectiveness of the scheme in other regions.

### Objectives of the Study

- To analyse the performance of the AC & ABC scheme in Maharashtra in terms of trained candidates and agri-ventures established.
- To examine the contribution and dominance of Maharashtra in the national implementation of the AC & ABC scheme.

### Database and Methodology

The study is based on secondary data collected from the AC & ABC database available on the official website of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), along with relevant reports and research studies. The data covers the period from 2002 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and includes variables such as number of trained candidates, agri-ventures established, training programmes conducted, and bank-sanctioned projects at both national and Maharashtra state levels. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools such as percentages, and rankings to assess relative performance across states and districts. In addition, Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) was used to examine growth trends over time. Comparative analysis was employed to highlight Maharashtra's position vis-a-vis other states, while district-wise and activity-wise analyses were conducted to understand intra-state variations and structural patterns in agripreneurship development.

### Results and Discussions

#### 1. State-wise Distribution and Performance of the AC & ABC Scheme in India

The AC & ABC Scheme initiative has become a major program to support agri-entrepreneurship and build agricultural extension services throughout India. The state wise analysis reveals regional variation between the number of trained individuals, the number of established businesses,

the number of training programs provided, and the number of bank-funded projects. At the nation level, a total of 95,493 candidates were trained, out of which 41,866 ventures were established, supported by 3,123 training programmes and 1,131 ventures received funding from a bank to create their own venture. The distribution indicates that the scheme has achieved nationwide outreach but remains uneven across states.

Significant regional variation is observed in terms of trained candidates, ventures established, training programmes and credit linkage. In particular, Uttar Pradesh contributes over twenty two percent of trained candidates and twenty four percent of total ventures, along with the highest share in bank-sanctioned projects (33.86%), highlighting its leading position in scheme implementation. Similarly, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka demonstrate robust institutional support, especially in terms of training programmes and credit linkage. In contrast, northeastern and smaller states such as Mizoram, Sikkim, and Meghalaya show minimal participation, indicating regional imbalance and possibly due to infrastructure or institutional constraints. Overall, the distribution of the scheme remains skewed, with a few states accounting for the majority of outcomes, reflecting disparities in awareness, institutional capacity, and access to finance across regions.

Against this backdrop, Maharashtra stands out as the leading state across all major indicators. The state has contributed 27.66% of all trained candidates and 31.73% of the total number of ventures established. The state is also responsible for the highest proportion of total training programs completed (26.80%), as well as the second highest percentage of bank-sanctioned projects (25.91%), demonstrating solid institutional support and effective linkage between training programs and credit sources in Maharashtra. This outstanding performance establishes Maharashtra as a key hub of agri-entrepreneurship in India. Its success can be attributed to a diversified agricultural base, well-established training and extension systems, effective coordination with financial institutions and a proactive entrepreneurial environment among youth.

**Table 1:** State-wise Status of AC & ABC 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- AC & ABC Database.

## 2. Status of AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra

### 2.1 District-wise Performance of AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra

While the overall performance of Maharashtra is impressive, a closer look at district-level data reveals significant internal disparities. The state has trained a total of 26,418 candidates and established 13,286 ventures, supported by 293 bank-sanctioned projects. Districts such as Kolhapur, Solapur, Pune, Ahmednagar, and Sangli emerge as top performers, contributing a substantial share in both trained candidates and ventures established, reflecting strong institutional support, better agricultural infrastructure, and higher entrepreneurial awareness. For instance, Solapur and Kolhapur alone account for a significant proportion of ventures, indicating effective conversion of training into

enterprise development. However, this strong performance is not uniformly distributed across all districts.

In contrast, several districts such as Gadchiroli, Hingoli, Nandurbar and Palghar show a markedly low rate of participation, which may be attributed to lack of agricultural infrastructure support, limited access to credit and limited levels of awareness. Furthermore, the distribution of bank-sanctioned projects is highly concentrated, with districts like Ahmednagar and Kolhapur receiving a larger share, highlighting disparities in financial linkage across regions. Overall, the findings suggest that while Maharashtra leads at the national level, its internal performance remains uneven, emphasizing the need for targeted policy interventions to promote balanced regional development and strengthen agri-entrepreneurship in underperforming districts.

**Table 2:** District-wise status of AC & ABC scheme in Maharashtra (As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

Sr.No	District	Trained Candidates		Ventures Established		Projects Sectioned by Banks	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Ahmednagar	2361	8.94	1240	9.33	95	32.42
2	Akola	450	1.70	199	1.50	1	0.34
3	Amravati	751	2.84	308	2.32	16	5.46
4	Aurangabad	529	2.00	276	2.08	2	0.68
5	Bandra Suburban	6	0.02	2	0.02	0	0.00
6	Beed	684	2.59	306	2.30	1	0.34
7	Bhandara	218	0.83	122	0.92	3	1.02
8	Buldhana	672	2.54	341	2.57	0	0.00
9	Chandrapur	200	0.76	94	0.71	4	1.37
10	Dhenkanal	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
11	Dhule	303	1.15	162	1.22	3	1.02
12	Gadchiroli	64	0.24	32	0.24	0	0.00
13	Gondia	176	0.67	109	0.82	0	0.00
14	Hingoli	204	0.77	84	0.63	0	0.00
15	Jalgaon	670	2.54	343	2.58	3	1.02
16	Jalna	315	1.19	160	1.20	0	0.00
17	Jawali	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
18	Kolhapur	2972	11.25	1680	12.64	58	19.80
19	Latur	266	1.01	105	0.79	1	0.34
20	Mumbai	109	0.41	56	0.42	0	0.00
21	Mumbai Suburban	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
22	Nagpur	654	2.48	342	2.57	6	2.05
23	Nanded	394	1.49	167	1.26	0	0.00

24	Nandurbar	121	0.46	46	0.35	1	0.34
25	Nashik	712	2.70	331	2.49	8	2.73
26	Osmanabad	734	2.78	350	2.63	1	0.34
27	Palghar	26	0.10	6	0.05	0	0.00
28	Parbhani	366	1.39	153	1.15	0	0.00
29	Phaltan	3	0.01	1	0.01	0	0.00
30	Pune	2716	10.28	1371	10.32	17	5.80
31	Raigad	13	0.05	5	0.04	0	0.00
32	Raigarh	106	0.40	62	0.47	0	0.00
33	Ratnagiri	561	2.12	274	2.06	7	2.39
34	Sangli	2290	8.67	1208	9.09	23	7.85
35	Satara	1625	6.15	773	5.82	10	3.41
36	Select	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
37	Sindhudurg	589	2.23	297	2.24	4	1.37
38	Solapur	3499	13.24	1814	13.65	21	7.17
39	Thane	151	0.57	53	0.40	1	0.34
40	Wardha	206	0.78	90	0.68	0	0.00
41	Washim	394	1.49	189	1.42	3	1.02
42	Yavatmal	304	1.15	135	1.02	4	1.37
Total		26418	100	13286	100	293	100

**Source:** MANAGE- AC & ABC Database.

**Note:** The dataset includes Select listed as a district in Maharashtra; however, no such district exists. This appears to be a typographical or data entry error. For the purpose of analysis, it has been treated as a district entry.

## 2.2 Activity-wise Distribution of Ventures under the AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra

The activity-wise distribution of ventures under the AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra reveals a clear concentration of entrepreneurial activities in a few dominant sectors, indicating both opportunities and structural imbalances in agri-business development. A total of 13,286 ventures have been established in the state, with the majority concentrated in livestock-based and advisory services. The highest share is observed in Dairy/Poultry/Piggery/Goatary activities (40.74%), highlighting the strong preference for allied agricultural activities due to their relatively lower risk, regular income generation, and established market demand. This is followed by Agri-Clinics (24.56%) and Agri-Clinics combined with Agribusiness Centres (18.61%), which together account for a substantial portion of total ventures, reflecting the importance of extension services and input-based advisory roles in the agricultural sector. However, despite this concentration in dominant sectors, several other activities show relatively low participation.

In contrast, activities such as value addition (1.86%), farm machinery units (2.21%), and nursery development (2.09%)

have relatively lower shares, indicating limited diversification towards high-value and technology-driven agri-enterprises. Similarly, emerging and specialized sectors such as agro-eco tourism, contract farming, tissue culture, and apiary show negligible participation, suggesting lack of awareness, technical knowledge, or financial support in these areas. This uneven distribution highlights important structural implications for agri-business development in the state.

The moderate presence of veterinary clinics (2.86%) and vermicomposting (0.84%) indicates some diversification, but overall, the distribution remains skewed towards traditional and low-risk activities. This pattern suggests that while Maharashtra has achieved significant success in promoting agri-entrepreneurship, the focus remains largely on conventional sectors, with limited expansion into innovative and value-added activities. Therefore, there is a need for policy interventions aimed at promoting diversification, enhancing technical training, and improving access to finance in emerging sectors to ensure balanced and sustainable growth of agri-business ventures in the State.

**Table 3:** Activity-wise Distribution of Ventures Established under the AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra (2002-31<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

Sr. No	Project Description	No.	%
1	Agri-Clinics	3263	24.56
2	Agri-Clinics and Agribusiness Centres	2473	18.61
3	Agriculture Journalism	9	0.07
4	Agro-Eco Tourism	15	0.11
5	Animal Feed Unit	20	0.15
6	Apiary	1	0.01
7	Bio-fertilizer production and Marketing	60	0.45
8	Contract Farming	7	0.05
9	Crop Production	95	0.72
10	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants	7	0.05
11	Dairy/Poultry/Piggery/Goatary	5413	40.74
12	Direct Mkt.	67	0.50

13	Farm Machinery Unit	293	2.21
14	Fisheries Development	57	0.43
15	Fishery clinic	4	0.03
16	Floriculture	35	0.26
17	Horticulture Clinic	68	0.51
18	Landscaping + Nursery	48	0.36
19	Mushroom Cultivation	24	0.18
20	Nursery	278	2.09
21	Organic Production/ Food Chain	43	0.32
22	Pesticides Production and Marketing	52	0.39
23	Production & Marketing of Bio-Control Agents	13	0.10
24	Rural Godown	9	0.07
25	Seed Processing and Marketing	78	0.59
26	Sericulture	22	0.17
27	Soil Testing Laboratory	22	0.17
28	Tissue Culture Unit	8	0.06
29	Value Addition	247	1.86
30	Vegetable Production and Marketing	63	0.47
31	Vermicomposting / Organic manure	112	0.84
32	Veterinary Clinics	380	2.86
	Total	13286	100

Source: MANAGE- AC & ABC Database.

### 2.3 Institution-wise Status of Training Programmes under the AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra

Table 4 presents the institution-wise distribution of training programmes conducted under the AC & ABC scheme in Maharashtra from 2002 to December 2025, showing a total of 833 programmes and reflecting strong institutional participation in promoting agripreneurship. The data reveals a highly skewed distribution, with a few institutions contributing a significant share of the total programmes. Notably, Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation (KVAAF), Sangli emerges as the leading institution, accounting for 12.66% (106 programmes), followed by its branches in Uttur (6.57%), Nagpur (5.97%), and Sindhudurg (4.06%), indicating a strong institutional network and effective outreach. Other major contributors include Mitcon Consultancy Services Ltd., Pune (5.97%), Shashwat Sheti

Vikas Pratishthan, Pune (5.85%), and Baramati Agricultural Development Trust's KVK (5.73%), highlighting the importance of well-established institutions with better infrastructure and expertise.

However, the distribution of training programmes is not uniform across institutions. In contrast, several institutions such as Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Parbhani (0.12%), Maha Farmers Producer Company Ltd. (0.24%), and Vasantdada Sugar Institute (0.24%) show minimal participation, suggesting disparities in institutional capacity and performance. Overall, the data indicates that while Maharashtra has made significant progress under the AC & ABC scheme, its success is largely driven by a few dominant institutions, emphasizing the need to strengthen weaker institutions and promote a more balanced distribution of training efforts across the state.

**Table 4:** Institution-wise Number of Training Programmes under the AC & ABC Scheme in Maharashtra (2002–December 2025)

Sr. No	Name of the Institute	No.	%
1	Aakash Agri Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Sillod, Maharashtra	26	3.11
2	Baramati Agricultural Development Trusts Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Baramati, Maharashtra	48	5.73
3	D.Y.Patil education Society, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	14	1.67
4	Family Farming Producer Co. Ltd, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	27	3.23
5	GAINS Academy Foundation, Nashik, Maharashtra	22	2.63
6	Jaydatta Shikshan Krushi Jalvikas Pratishthan, Beed, Maharashtra	13	1.55
7	Krishi Vigyan Kendra , Babhaleshwar, Maharashtra	34	4.06
8	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Durgapur, Maharashtra	30	3.58
9	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Narayangaon, Maharashtra	18	2.15
10	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Washim, Maharashtra	7	0.84
11	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani	1	0.12
12	Krishna Valley Advanced Agricultural Foundation, Buldhana, Maharashtra	11	1.31
13	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation , Pune, Maharashtra	37	4.42
14	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Jalgaon, Maharashtra	18	2.15
15	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Nagpur, Maharashtra	50	5.97
16	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Sangli, Maharashtra	106	12.66
17	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra	34	4.06
18	Krishna Valley Advanced Agriculture Foundation, Uttur, Maharashtra	55	6.57

19	Maha Farmers Producer Company Limited, Beed, Maharashtra	2	0.24
20	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth , Pune	14	1.67
21	Manjara Charitable Trust's Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Latur, Maharashtra	3	0.36
22	Mitcon Consultancy Services Ltd., Pune	50	5.97
23	Mokashi Krishi Vikas Pratishthan, Satara, Maharashtra	7	0.84
24	Parvati Lad Education Society Agriculture Training Institute, Sangli, Maharashtra	5	0.60
25	Priyadarshani Magasvargiya Vikas Mahila Mandal's Nodal Training Institute, Kolha	4	0.48
26	Shashwat Sheti Vikas Pratishthan (SSVP), Pune, Maharashtra	49	5.85
27	Shriram Gramin Sanshodhan Va Vikas Pratishthan, Akola	15	1.79
28	Shriram Gramin Sanshodhan Va Vikas Pratishthan, Osmanabad, Maharashtra	38	4.54
29	Shriram Gramin Sanshodhan Va Vikas Pratishthan, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	27	3.23
30	Shriram Gramin Sanshodhan Va Vikas Pratishthan, Wadala, Maharashtra	55	6.57
31	Shriram Shikshan Sanstha, Paniv, Maharashtra	8	0.96
32	Vasant Prakash Vasakh Pratistan , Sangli	7	0.84
33	Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune, Maharashtra	2	0.24
Total		833	100

Source: MANAGE- AC & ABC Database.

### 3. Contribution of Maharashtra to National Performance under the AC & ABC Scheme

The analysis of AC & ABC scheme year-wise indicates that the contribution of Maharashtra to agri-entrepreneurial development has consistently increased at the national level from 2002 to 2025. There has been a consistent upward trend in terms of Maharashtra's percentage share among trained candidates and ventures established, with a marked increase over time, moving from a moderate percentage share early on to greater than or equal to 30 to 40 percent in recent periods. In some instances, such as in 2020, the share of ventures established by Maharashtra exceeded 50 percent, highlighting its growing dominance in the implementation of the scheme.

The overall contribution of Maharashtra, accounting for 27.66% of trained candidates and 31.73% of total ventures established, clearly demonstrates its leadership in agripreneurship development at the national level. Furthermore, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of ventures in Maharashtra (17.68%) is significantly higher than the national average (10.94%), indicating faster growth

and more effective implementation of the scheme within the state.

Many key factors contribute to Maharashtra's excellent performance under the AC & ABC scheme. The state has an agricultural system characterized by commercial development and a complementary set of agricultural service providers, resulting in a greater demand for all types of agri-business services. An extensive institutional framework is in place with training centres, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and various private agencies providing extensive programme outreach and a well-established delivery system for these types of support. In addition, better coordination with banking institutions ensures improved access to credit, which has contributed to an increase in the number of ventures started by farmers. The existence of progressive and aware farmers, as well as a strong sense of entrepreneurship through the youth in rural areas, has also played a role in the success of the scheme. Together, these factors have enabled Maharashtra to emerge as a leading contributor and model state in implementing the AC & ABC scheme throughout India.

**Table 5:** Year-wise Share of Maharashtra in Number of Trained Candidates and Ventures Established under the AC & ABC Scheme in India (2002- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

Sr. No	Year	Number of Trained Candidates			Number of Ventures Established		
		India	Maharashtra	Share of Maharashtra in India (%)	India	Maharashtra	Share of Maharashtra in India (%)
1	2002	1521	233	15.32	138	15	10.87
2	2003	2595	294	11.33	675	162	24.00
3	2004	1946	278	14.29	448	95	21.21
4	2005	3399	699	20.56	1413	360	25.48
5	2006	2209	416	18.83	1101	98	8.90
6	2007	3309	477	14.42	1215	199	16.38
7	2008	2393	423	17.68	823	173	21.02
8	2009	2575	388	15.07	1176	134	11.39
9	2010	3184	908	28.52	1269	319	25.14
10	2011	4432	1453	32.78	1498	556	37.12
11	2012	3146	707	22.47	1792	545	30.41
12	2013	5387	1384	25.69	2399	538	22.43
13	2014	5669	1501	26.48	2730	743	27.22
14	2015	4072	1309	32.15	2713	883	32.55
15	2016	5611	1380	24.59	1676	497	29.65
16	2017	5096	1518	29.79	2451	896	36.56
17	2018	5478	1386	25.30	2655	881	33.18

18	2019	7878	2514	31.91	2340	970	41.45
19	2020	3331	1086	32.60	2073	1087	52.44
20	2021	5033	1770	35.17	2051	559	27.25
21	2022	5542	2080	37.53	3912	1642	41.97
22	2023	4874	1689	34.65	2380	849	35.67
23	2024	2701	1091	40.39	1436	451	31.41
24	2025	4112	1434	34.87	1502	634	42.21
Total		95493	26418	27.66	41866	13286	31.73
CAGR (%)		4.42%	8.22%		10.94%	17.68%	

Source: MANAGE- AC & ABC Database.

### Conclusion

The study reveals that the AC & ABC scheme represents a key policy intervention supporting agripreneurship and enhancing agricultural extension services across India. Maharashtra emerged as the leading state in delivering the AC & ABC scheme, it has registered the most substantial number of trained beneficiaries and successful ventures at the national level. This strong performance can be attributed to a solid institutional framework, better access to credit, diversified agricultural base, and significantly awareness levels among agricultural graduates. However, the analysis also highlights important challenges, including considerable intra-state imbalances, with a few districts dominating the overall performance while several backward regions lag behind. In addition, the activity-wise distribution indicates a heavy concentration in traditional sectors such as livestock, with limited diversification into high-value and innovative agri-business enterprises.

In light of these findings, there is a need for targeted policy interventions to ensure balanced regional development, strengthen lower performing districts, and to promote diversification into emerging sectors such as agro-processing and value addition. Furthermore, enhancing accessibility to credit, improving institutional capacity, and increasing awareness among rural youth can further strengthen the effectiveness of the AC & ABC scheme. Overall, Maharashtra's experience provides valuable insights for replicating successful models in other states to achieve inclusive and sustainable agripreneurship development in India.

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