



## RESEARCH NOTE

### Constraints and Suggestions Perceived by Post Graduate Students to Start Agri-Entrepreneurship

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#### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted for finding out the constraints perceived by post graduate students to start agri-entrepreneurship and suggestions to eliminate them. One hundred and twenty post graduate students were selected through proportionate random sampling method. Investigation was conducted in five colleges of Junagadh Agricultural University. Interview method was used for data collection. The all constraints were tabulated on the basis of frequency and percentage scores and further ranking of different constraints was made with the help of its percentage scores. The result of the study revealed that the major constraints faced by post graduate students were; Less practical knowledge about entrepreneurship (40.00%), Lack of positive mind set to have own agricultural enterprise, (35.83%) and Lengthy procedures for getting a bank loan (30.83%) got first, second and third rank respectively. Whereas, major suggestions offered by post graduate students were; Practical oriented and skill based entrepreneurial activity should be imparted (46.66%), Training and demonstrations related to modern technology should be conducted (33.33%) and Visits to various enterprises should be undertaken from time to time (23.33%) got first, second and third rank respectively.

**Keywords:** Constraints; Suggestions; Agri-entrepreneurship; Post graduate students;

India is a young nation, out of 121 crore population, there are 60 crore youth in the country at present. By 2020, the average age of the Indian population will be 20 years (Yadav, 2016). The interest of youngsters in agriculture is reducing day by day. Therefore, attracting and retaining youth in agriculture is very important for future food security. Their interest needs to be rejuvenated to take up agriculture as profession, business and way of earning for better livelihood. Rural youth are playing significant role in agriculture by performing some farm activities and helping their families in farm

operations (Dhakre, 2014). There is a tremendous scope for empowerment of agricultural graduates through establishment of dairy, poultry, fishery, food processing and value addition, floriculture, green house, poly house enterprises etc. and thus they can even become employment generator.

The quality of the agricultural graduates and their efficiency depend on the type and method of education imparted to them. Actually, universities are playing an increasingly important role in entrepreneurship development (Menziez, 2000). Many governments and

policy-makers around the world consider the entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial drives as primary for economic growth and development (Zeffane, 2012).

Interest in agri-entrepreneurship is increasing rapidly. While rural communities believe, economic growth can come for entrepreneurship; little is being done within colleges of agriculture to prepare students to become entrepreneurs. Underlying this situation is the fact that the training which graduate students receive has not been fully successful in equipping them with desirable skills and competencies required for job creation and self-employment (Sridevi, 2013).

With this objective, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, in association with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) and the National Institute of Agricultural extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad launched a programme called “*Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centers Scheme*”. The training of agricultural graduates to instill the spirit of entrepreneurship is an integral part of this. Government of India on April 9, 2002 launched Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centers scheme to give the way to the agricultural graduates who are deprived from unemployment. The objectives

of the study are as follows : i. Identify the constraints perceived by post graduate students to start Agri-entrepreneurship. ii. To seek suggestions from post graduate students to overcome the constraints to start Agri-entrepreneurship.

## METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in Junagadh Agricultural University of Gujarat state. Ex-post facto research design was followed for carrying out the study. One hundred and twenty post graduate students were selected through proportionate random sampling method. The five Colleges under Junagadh Agricultural University viz, College of Agriculture, College of Agricultural Engineering, College of Agri-Business Management, College of Veterinary and College of Horticulture were selected.

Data were collected through personal interview schedule from these respondents. The data pertaining to constraints has been collected through statements of the structured schedule and tabulated on the basis of frequency and percentage scores and further ranking was made with help of its percentage scores. Respondents were free to express their suggestions in order to eliminate the constraints encountered by them

**Table 1. Constraints perceived by the post graduate students to start agri-entrepreneurship (N=120)**

Constraints	No.	%	Rank
Less practical knowledge about entrepreneurship	48	40.00	I
Lengthy procedures for getting a bank loan	37	30.83	III
Lack of positive mind set to have own agricultural enterprise	43	35.83	II
Lack of confidence to succeed in agricultural enterprise.	27	22.50	VI
Limited extracurricular activities related to entrepreneurship	31	25.83	V
Lack of assurance against uncertainty of risk found in establishment of an enterprises	18	15.00	VII
Less no. of visits / tours to various enterprises	34	28.30	IV
Courses not completed within 2 years	15	12.50	VIII

**Table 2. Suggestions obtained from the post graduate students to overcome constraints to start the agri-entrepreneurship (N=120)**

Suggestions	No.	%	Rank
Practical oriented education should be imparted.	56	46.66	I
Training and demonstrations related to modern technology should be conducted.	40	33.33	II
Visits to various enterprises should be undertaken from time to time.	28	23.33	III
More practical knowledge related to entrepreneurship should be given.	22	18.33	IV
Procedures for obtaining loan should be shortened.	16	13.33	V
Extracurricular activities related to entrepreneurship should be conducted.	10	08.33	VI
Knowledge about policy of government about agri-business should be given	08	06.66	VII

to start Agri-entrepreneurship. All the suggestions borne out through systematic observation had been recorded by the researcher.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The respondents were requested to express the constraints faced by them to start Agri-business. The data presented in Table 1 revealed that among the different constraints faced by the post graduate students in starting agribusiness Less practical knowledge about entrepreneurship was perceived as the most severe constraint (40.00%) and Lack of positive mind set to have own agricultural enterprise is the second most constraint (35.83%) followed by the finding is in accordance with Vani (2009).

The constraint Lengthy procedures for getting a bank loan was given third rank (30.83%) and Less number of visits / tours to various enterprises was perceived as the fourth severe constraint (28.30%) followed by the limited extracurricular activities related to entrepreneurship (25.83%), lack of confidence to succeed in agricultural enterprise (22.50%), lack of assurance against uncertainty of risk found in establishment of an enterprises (15.00%) and courses not completed within 2 years (12.50%). The findings were in accordance with the studies conducted by Aher (2010) and Ajit (2004).

It is evident from the Table 2 that the important

suggestions suggested by post graduate students were Practical oriented education should be imparted (46.66%) followed by training and demonstrations related to modern technology should be conducted. (33.33%), Visits to various enterprises should be undertaken from time to time (23.33%), More practical knowledge related to entrepreneurship should be given (18.33%), procedures for obtaining loan should be shortened (13.33%), extracurricular activities related to entrepreneurship should be conducted. (8.33%), knowledge about policy of government about agri-business should be given (6.66%). The findings were in accordance with the studies conducted by Aher (2010) and Ajit (2004).

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the major important constraints faced by post graduate students were; less practical knowledge about entrepreneurship, lack of positive mind set to have own agricultural enterprise and lengthy procedures for getting a bank loan got first, second and third rank respectively. Whereas, major suggestions were; practical oriented and skill based entrepreneurial activity should be imparted, training and demonstrations related to modern technology should be conducted and Visits to various enterprises should be undertaken from time to time got first, second and third rank respectively.

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