

Agriculture Graduates' Aptitude towards Entrepreneurship Development

Agriculture being the mainstay of our economy, modernisation in agriculture production system is imperative. Modern agriculture practices are increasingly turning out to be knowledge-based and hence, require education at all levels to meet the challenges of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization. In this direction, availability of educated quality human resource is important for the development of agriculture sector. Agriculture sector is not only about scientific research and development, but also it provides an opportunity for students to develop as an entrepreneur. The knowledge on agriculture is gained through various sources. In the present era of ICT, the role of hard copy i.e., books cannot be undermined. The efforts have been made to provide rich source of knowledge through publication in the form of book. The present book discusses the multifaceted aspects of entrepreneurship development among agricultural graduates. The book primarily looks into the state-wise and gender-wise growth in number of agriculture and allied subject graduates and the status of entrepreneurship development among these graduates. The book also gives the picture of socio-economic profile of graduates and graduating students, which is important in understanding their influence on entrepreneurship development. It also explains the entrepreneurial profile of agriculture and allied graduates and the results of measurement of aptitude among graduating students and graduates of agriculture and allied subjects. A modest attempt has also been made in the book to assess the impact of practical oriented courses like experiential learning, RAWE, State/All India Tours and field visits to entrepreneurial farms that already exist in the present curriculum on entrepreneurship development. The information on the missing of entrepreneurial orientation in the present curriculum and type of orientation required to become an entrepreneur is incorporated with dimensions of entrepreneurship. At the end, the book identifies some of the areas which are important to enhance the entrepreneurship development among agriculture and allied graduates in the form of recommendations. The recommendations would be of immense interest and help to policy-makers, educationists and the teachers in enhancing the quality of agricultural education to foster the entrepreneurship development among agriculture and allied graduates to translate thing gained and into actions and continued behaviour on entrepreneurial mode.

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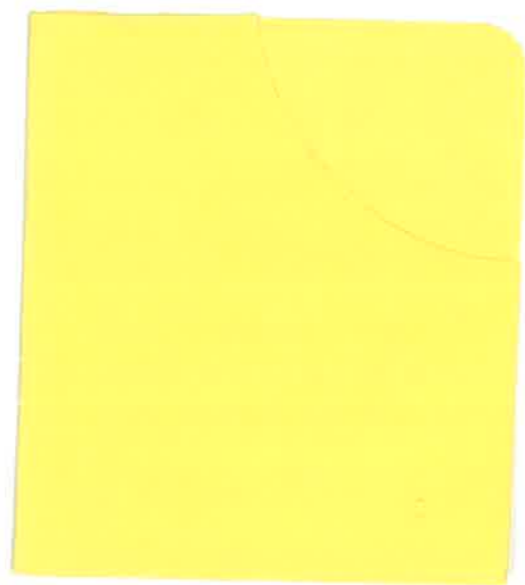
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Preface

There is an increasing evidence and recognition that Human Capital matters more for development than natural resources and man-made physical capital. Human capital is the capability of people to be effective and productive economic agents. Hence, the development of Human capital and their involvement is imperative for the development of agriculture sector and the economy. The youth especially educated in agriculture related fields could be one of the main resources in changing the shape of agriculture. In agriculture, most of the studies have revealed the fact that education and skills of agricultural people are significant factors in explaining the inter-farm and inter-country differences in agricultural performance, along with the more conventional factors, such as availability of land and water resources, inputs, credit, etc. A number of studies on diversification of agriculture directly link to employment generation, income enhancement and sustainability of agriculture. Diversification towards agriculture, thus, would contribute to agricultural growth and would facilitate for entrepreneurship development and encourage youth in agriculture to take up startups.

In this direction, a study was conducted to assess the aptitude of entrepreneurship development among graduating students and graduates of agriculture and allied subjects. The necessary data were collected from both primary and secondary sources with questionnaire developed inline with the objectives set in. The secondary data were collected from the academic units of selected SAUs and colleges of south India. The primary data were elicited from graduating students and graduates to measure the aptitude, entrepreneurial skills acquired, entrepreneurial courses required, etc.

The book mainly focuses on the personal/psychological characteristics of the graduates and students; however, the importance of the different variables that are related to entrepreneurial choice and success are also included. Further, it is important to measure whether students and graduates have the entrepreneurial characteristics and aptitude towards entrepreneurship development. The assessment of entrepreneurial aptitude, competencies, entrepreneurial orientation required and modifications required in the current curriculum to develop entrepreneurship among agriculture and allied graduates would throw light on ways and means to design suitable programmes and policies to educationists and policy makers.

The book has been organized in 15 chapters in the following ways. Chapter-I-Discusses the scope for entrepreneurship and self-employment in agriculture and allied sectors and the need for the study. Chapter-II-Methodology - Outlines nature and sources of data, sampling and details of specific methods followed in measuring entrepreneurial aptitude, competency and type of orientation required to become an entrepreneur. Chapter III to XIII present results and discussion relating to growth in number of graduates, entrepreneurship development, aptitude, entrepreneurial competencies, type of orientation missing among

agriculture and allied graduates and the type of orientation required to promote entrepreneurship development among agriculture and other graduates. Chapter XIV presents summary and conclusions. The other relevant issues there of that emanated from the various sectors are summarized into recommendations and action issues. Specific emphasis is laid on educational strategies for entrepreneurship development. Chapter XV Bibliography deals with references made for the study.

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