

GOE HARVEST

6th September 2025



ASCI
Agriculture Skill Council of India

CEASI
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



CEFMI
Centre of Excellence for
Farm Mechanization Skills in India

CEHSI
Centre of Excellence for
Horticulture Skills in India

www.ceasi.in



Dear Readers,

It is a privilege to reach you through our weekly newsletter, which reflects the pulse of CEASI working under the aegis of ASCI, our collective journey toward skill development and sustainable agriculture. Every story we share here is a testament to the dedication of our teams, partners, and farming communities.

Our mission remains clear: to empower farmers and agri-professionals with the skills, knowledge, and technology they need to thrive in a changing world. By combining innovation with grassroots engagement, we are laying the foundation for a more productive, resilient, and inclusive agricultural sector.

I invite you to read, learn, and actively participate in the opportunities this newsletter presents. Your involvement is what transforms ideas into impact.

Dr. Satender Singh Arya
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Readers,

CEASI weekly newsletter is not only a summary of activities. Rather it is a platform to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen our shared vision for the future of Indian agriculture and its allied sectors like Dairy, Horticulture, Farm Mechanisation, Climate resilience, to name a few. Each edition carries stories of innovation, collaboration, and progress from across the agriculture domain and across geographies.

As we move forward, our focus will continue to be on sharing knowledge, latest developments, building capacity, and sharing success stories at every level from the farmer's field to the policymaker, ensuring that modern tools, techniques, and best practices reach those who need them most.

I agree that this newsletter is at its nascent stage. I encourage the readers and stakeholders to stay engaged with the initiatives, trainings, and updates featured here, and to share the salient achievements and developments that can be published herein. Your ideas for improvement of coverage, publication frequency, new sections to be included and feedback will be of immense importance to make it a model periodical that will provide opportunities to grow stronger and together.

Jaswant Singh Kalsi
Chief Operating Officer

Who We Are:

“Centre of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI)” is an autonomous organization working under the aegis of “Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)”, which is working under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for skilling and capacity building of farmers, wage workers, self-employed professionals, extension workers etc. engaged in organized and unorganized segments of Agriculture & Allied sectors.

CEASI is an apex organization of Centres of Excellence in various sub-sectors of agriculture viz.

- Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India (CEHSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India (CEFMI)
- Centre of Excellence for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CoECRA)
- Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture (CoE-AI)

What We Do:

Skilling & Capacity Building:

Building capacity based on stakeholder needs in agriculture and allied sectors.

Knowledge Management:

Developing QPs, NOS, skill gap reports, and newsletters to support workforce standards.

Research:

Conducting industry research to identify needs and bridge skill gaps as per industry demands.

Advocacy & Advisory Services:

Creating networks to share innovations and address sectoral challenges.

Our Vision

An autonomous institution of excellence committed to developing a highly skilled workforce in agriculture, driving innovation, technological advancement, and sustainable practices to enhance the prosperity and resilience of Indian agriculture.

Our Mission

To emerge as the leading organization for skill development in cutting-edge agricultural practices, both nationally and globally, fostering holistic sector growth through sustainability, profitability, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, policy advocacy, and innovative research.

CEASI's Impact:

CEASI is driving transformative change in Indian agriculture by empowering individuals, enhancing skills, and uplifting communities across the country.

- ▶ 15+ States
- ▶ 15 FPOs Trained & Supported
- ▶ 20,000 Agri / Dairy Professionals Upskilled
- ▶ 5000+ Entrepreneurs Skilled
- ▶ 3000+ Women Empowered
- ▶ 30,000+ Lives Impacted

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR KRUSHI ODISHA 2025-26



Bhubaneswar: A preparatory meeting for Krushi Odisha 2025-26 was held in Bhubaneswar to plan the three-day agricultural event scheduled from January 22 to 24, 2026. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, was attended by Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Director of Agriculture Shubham Saxena, Director of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Subrat Kumar Panda, and other senior officials.

Officials reviewed ongoing preparations and discussed strategies to ensure the event's smooth organisation. Beginning this year, Krushi Odisha will be held annually in January, providing a common platform for scientists, progressive farmers, FPOs, and agricultural entrepreneurs to share innovations and best practices.

The 2025-26 edition will feature over 250 stalls showcasing farm technologies, products from self-help groups, and modern equipment, including a special section on farm mechanisation. The event is expected to attract over 10,000 farmers from across the state and other regions.

NEW SUBSIDY SCHEME AND CUSTOM HIRING CENTRES TO PROMOTE FARM MECHANISATION IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS



The Department of Agriculture in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has launched a new initiative to promote farm mechanisation through subsidy support and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) under the PM-RKVY Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme. The programme aims to make modern agricultural machinery more accessible to farmers, particularly small and marginal cultivators.

Under the scheme, women and SC/ST farmers receive a 50% subsidy, while other farmers are eligible for 40% support on the cost of equipment. Subsidies cover a wide range of

machinery, including tractors, power tillers, seeders, harvesters, paddy threshers, and horticultural tools, as well as post-harvest equipment such as driers, boilers, and extractors.

The introduction of Custom Hiring Centres will allow farmers to rent farm machinery, making mechanisation viable even for those unable to purchase equipment individually. Beneficiaries such as rural youth, self-help groups, cooperatives, and FPOs can establish CHCs with up to 40% financial assistance.

Officials noted that these efforts will reduce costs, improve efficiency, and strengthen sustainable farming across the islands.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON SUGARCANE STRESSES NEED FOR NEW VARIETIES AND SMALL-FARM MECHANISATION



A national consultation on India's sugarcane economy, held in New Delhi, brought together farmers, policymakers, and experts to discuss pressing issues such as declining productivity, pest attacks, and the suitability of existing machinery for smallholder farmers. Organised jointly by Rural Voice, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCFS), and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the event aimed to develop a roadmap for a national sugarcane policy based on farmer feedback.

Farmers from across major sugarcane-growing states highlighted challenges including rising

input costs, pest infestations, and limited access to affordable mechanisation. Experts and industry representatives suggested developing new high-yield, pest-resistant varieties to replace the widely used CO-0238, and urged faster varietal release processes.

Speakers, including ICAR officials and sugar industry leaders, called for small-scale harvesters, enhanced tissue culture facilities, and greater use of AI and intercropping to boost productivity and sustainability. The consultation emphasised that policies and technologies must reflect ground realities and support small and marginal farmers.

TELANGANA TO LAUNCH DRONE-BASED SPRAYING AND MONITORING FOR COTTON AND CHILLI CROPS



The Telangana government will soon begin drone spraying and monitoring of cotton and chilli crops as part of a pilot project designed to demonstrate the potential of technology in agriculture. The initiative is a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, the Department of Information Technology, and the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad.

The project will cover 25 acres each of cotton and chilli, with selected startups implementing solutions using drones integrated with AI and IoT for high-precision spraying and crop health

monitoring. Drones are expected to cover six to ten acres per hour with 95% spraying accuracy.

Beyond automation, the project aims to help farmers reduce costs, optimise pesticide use, and increase profitability. Startups will also develop mobile apps and dashboards for farmers and officials to track spraying schedules, irrigation, and crop health in real time.

If successful, the initiative could reduce reliance on manual labour, improve irrigation and fertiliser management, and support sustainable farming practices under the National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture.

GUJARAT'S CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE PROPEL HORTICULTURE GROWTH WITH GLOBAL COLLABORATION



Gandhinagar: Gujarat is emerging as a frontrunner in modern horticulture through innovation, technology adoption, and farmer empowerment. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has established 58 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across India, including four in Gujarat. These centres act as technology hubs promoting advanced cultivation practices, high-quality planting material, and skill development, supported by collaborations with countries such as Israel, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, alongside Indian research institutions.

The Centre of Excellence for Protected Cultivation and Precision Farming on Vegetables at Vadrav, Sabarkantha, established in 2015, has emerged as a model for sustainable horticulture. It has produced and distributed over 14 million high-quality vegetable seedlings with up to 90% germination success. More than 1.13 lakh farmers and officers have been trained through workshops and exposure visits, bridging the gap between research and field application across the horticulture value chain.

TRAINING ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE BEGINS AT HORTICULTURE INSTITUTE, UCHANI



Karnal: A two-day training programme on Women Empowerment in Agriculture under the Indo-Israel project conducted at the Horticulture Training Institute, Uchani. Organised by the State Horticulture Department, the programme brought together over 70 women officials from across India to enhance their knowledge and leadership in the agriculture sector. The sessions focused on adopting modern farming technologies, sustainable resource management, and promoting active participation of women in agriculture.

Participants attended technical sessions and field visits to the Centre of Excellence for Vegetables at Gharaunda, the Sub-tropical Fruit Centre at Ladwa, and the Integrated Beekeeping Centre at Ramnagar, Kurukshetra. They received practical exposure to protected cultivation, nursery management, modern irrigation, and value addition practices. Experts shared insights on gender-inclusive agricultural development and highlighted how women's increasing involvement is shaping the future of farming. The programme aimed to inspire innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill enhancement among women in agriculture.

HIMACHAL EXPLORES COLLABORATION WITH NEW ZEALAND TO BOOST APPLE AND PEAR CULTIVATION



Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh government is exploring a partnership with New Zealand to enhance apple and pear cultivation through technology transfer, training, and improved horticultural practices. The initiative aims to leverage New Zealand's global expertise in orchard management, pest control, and post-harvest handling to improve productivity and quality. Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in high-density plantation systems, climate-resilient farming, and modern storage and marketing strategies to align Himachal's produce with international quality standards.

The collaboration is expected to boost farmer income and support the state's horticulture-driven economy. By adopting advanced and sustainable cultivation techniques, Himachal Pradesh seeks to establish itself as a global hub for premium apple and pear production. The proposed partnership emphasizes capacity building and innovation, ensuring better yield, reduced losses, and enhanced competitiveness of the state's horticultural produce in both domestic and international markets.

KARNATAKA LAUNCHES NEW SCHEME TO BOOST COCONUT PLANTATIONS



Mysuru: The Karnataka State Coconut Development Board has introduced a new scheme to promote coconut cultivation and rejuvenate existing gardens. The initiative, implemented through the local horticulture department, aims to expand coconut plantations by an additional 1,000 hectares this year, supplementing the existing 23,000 hectares. The Replanting and Rejuvenation Coconut Gardens programme offers a subsidy of Rs 28,000 per hectare for new plantations, supporting improved productivity, integrated farming, and the formation of coconut producers' societies.

The scheme addresses challenges faced by farmers due to pest infestations and natural factors that had reduced yields by 40%, causing price fluctuations for coconut and tender coconut. On a pilot basis, extension activities have been initiated in association with the local Coconut Producers and Processing Cooperative Society, targeting an additional 1,000 hectares and bringing total coverage in Chamarajanagar taluk to 8,301 hectares this year. The programme is expected to enhance farmer income and strengthen the district's coconut production sustainably.

₹325-CRORE SABAR DAIRY PLANT INAUGURATED IN ROHTAK TO BOOST INDIA'S DAIRY SECTOR



A new ₹325-crore Sabar Dairy (Amul) plant was inaugurated at the Industrial Model Township in Rohtak, Haryana. Established by the Gujarat-based Sabarkantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union, the facility aims to strengthen the cooperative dairy network and enhance milk supply in the National Capital Region.

The Rohtak plant is equipped with advanced technology and has a daily production capacity of 150 metric tonnes of curd, 3 metric tonnes of buttermilk, 10 metric tonnes of yogurt, and 10 metric tonnes of sweets. Haryana was chosen for its high milk and buttermilk consumption

rates.

India's dairy sector has witnessed remarkable growth, with national milk production increasing from 140 million tonnes in 2014 to 249 million tonnes in 2025. The country remains the world's largest milk producer, contributing significantly to rural livelihoods and employment generation. The new facility is expected to further boost processing efficiency, quality, and value addition in the dairy value chain.

INDIAN IMMUNOLOGICALS LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST DIVA MARKER VACCINE TO COMBAT IBR IN DAIRY CATTLE

(Vaccine against Bovine herd)



Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) has introduced Raksha-IBR, India's first indigenously developed glycoprotein E (gE) deleted DIVA marker vaccine against Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR). The vaccine, developed in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), aims to control infertility, abortions, and reduced milk yield caused by the disease.

IBR, caused by Bovine Herpes Virus (BHV-1), is endemic in India and transmitted through aerosols and infected semen. With incidence levels exceeding 32%, it leads to estimated annual economic losses of ₹18,000 crore. The

new DIVA vaccine enables differentiation between infected and vaccinated animals, supporting effective disease control and surveillance.

Launched during NDDB's diamond jubilee celebration in Anand, Gujarat, Raksha-IBR marks a significant milestone for India's dairy sector, enhancing animal health, productivity, and biosecurity. Systematic vaccination is expected to safeguard superior breeding herds and strengthen the nation's dairy ecosystem.

FOUNDATION LAID FOR ₹250-CRORE MOTHER DAIRY PLANT IN MUNGER TO BOOST BIHAR'S DAIRY SECTOR



A new milestone in Bihar's dairy development was marked as the foundation stone for a ₹250-crore Mother Dairy plant was laid in Jamalpur, Munger. Spread over 15 acres, the project aims to strengthen the state's dairy infrastructure and generate 250 direct employment opportunities.

The plant, a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), will initially collect 1 lakh litres of milk per day, with capacity expected to double to 2 lakh litres. Local milk collection and chilling units will be established in nearby villages, ensuring farmer participation and rural income enhancement.

In addition to the dairy project, mustard seed processing schemes worth ₹209 crore were also launched to support agri-based industries in the region. The new Mother Dairy facility is expected to play a crucial role in improving milk procurement, processing, and value addition, contributing to the overall growth of Bihar's dairy sector.

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP PROMOTES ETHNO-VETERINARY PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE DAIRY FARMING IN PUDUCHERRY



A two-day ethno-veterinary workshop was organised at AuroKrishi, Puducherry, on October 3 and 4 to promote the use of traditional remedies for livestock health management. The event, jointly organised by AuroKrishi and Svarnim Puducherry of Sri Aurobindo Society in collaboration with The University of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (Bengaluru) and supported by the Environment Information Awareness Capacity Building (EIACB) hub of the Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee, attracted over 30 dairy farmers and livestock keepers from the Bahour region.

Participants discussed practical challenges in animal care, while experts demonstrated effective treatments using locally available herbs and natural ingredients. The workshop highlighted how ethno-veterinary practices can serve as sustainable, low-cost, and eco-friendly alternatives to chemical-based livestock treatments. Experts emphasised integrating traditional knowledge with modern science to enhance animal welfare, reduce treatment costs, and support environmentally responsible dairy farming.

GENERAL AGRICULTURE INSIGHTS

CENTRE LAUNCHES PM DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA, IDENTIFIES 100 ASPIRATIONAL AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS



The Central Government has identified 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts under the newly launched Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), covering 29 states and Union Territories. Uttar Pradesh leads with 12 districts, followed by Maharashtra with nine, and Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with eight each.

The initiative aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote balanced regional growth, and improve credit access in low-performing regions. Districts were selected based on three key parameters — low productivity, moderate crop intensity, and below-average access to credit.

The scheme will be implemented through the convergence of 36 schemes across 11 departments, with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare contributing the most (19). Each identified district will prepare a dedicated Agriculture Development Plan, with an estimated ₹24,000 crore worth of projects to be executed annually.

To ensure effective monitoring, the government has also appointed 100 Central Nodal Officers to oversee the implementation and progress of PMDDKY across the selected districts.

CABINET APPROVES ₹11,440 CRORE MISSION TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PULSES BY 2031



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, a six-year programme aimed at making India self-sufficient in pulse production by 2030-31. With a total outlay of ₹11,440 crore, the mission will focus on increasing productivity, expanding cultivation, and improving market linkages to enhance farmer incomes.

India, the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses, currently imports 15-20% of its domestic requirement. The new initiative seeks to bridge this gap by promoting high-yielding, pest-resistant varieties, with ICAR leading breeder seed development and state agencies managing

certified seed distribution via the SATHI portal.

The programme targets an expansion of 35 lakh hectares under pulses and the distribution of 126 lakh quintals of certified seeds by 2031. It will also establish 1,000 processing and packaging units and ensure price support and assured procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor through NAFED and NCCF.

By 2031, the mission aims to raise production to 350 lakh tonnes, boost yields, and strengthen India's food security while promoting climate-resilient, sustainable farming.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HORTICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA ADVANCES FARMER TRAINING UNDER MIDH IN HARYANA

The Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India, in collaboration with the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), has successfully conducted its training programs in Haryana.

The inaugural three-day training program for the Vegetable Grower job role was held in Village Rampura, Babain, District Kurukshetra. A total of 40 enthusiastic participants, primarily local vegetable growers, attended the sessions focused on enhancing practical skills and technical knowledge in modern vegetable cultivation. The program covered soil preparation, crop selection, integrated pest management, irrigation techniques, and post-harvest handling. Interactive demonstrations and field activities emphasized sustainable practices, efficient input use, and market-oriented production strategies. Trainers

also briefed participants on government schemes supporting small and marginal farmers under MIDH.

Following this, the second batch of training for the Master Gardener job role was successfully completed. Forty participants from the Department of Horticulture, Panchkula Municipal Corporation, and the Vigilance Department attended the three-day program, gaining hands-on expertise to strengthen horticulture practices in their respective areas.

Through these initiatives, the Centre of Excellence continues its commitment to empowering farmers and departmental personnel with practical knowledge, innovative techniques, and skills to enhance productivity, sustainability, and farm profitability across Haryana.



STRENGTHENING CLIMATE-SMART SUGARCANE CULTIVATION IN AYODHYA UNDER THE SASHWAT MITHAS INITIATIVE

Under the Sashwat Mithas initiative, the Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI), in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, is promoting climate-smart and sustainable sugarcane cultivation in Ayodhya. As part of the program, 500 farmers from 90 unorganized and 3 organized farmer groups were surveyed to assess existing practices and identify opportunities for improvement. Based on these insights, village-level demonstration plots were established to showcase best practices in water-use efficiency, soil health management, and organic input application, enabling farmers to adopt resource-efficient techniques.

To strengthen community engagement and peer-to-peer learning, the initiative facilitated 97 retailer visits, 9 field days, 4 organized meetings, and 94 unorganized farmer meetings, providing

farmers direct access to experts, practical demonstrations, and solutions to on-field challenges. Through these efforts, participants are equipped with eco-friendly practices that enhance yields, conserve natural resources, and build resilience against climate change.

The initiative not only aims to increase sugarcane productivity but also envisions creating a replicable model of sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth in the Ayodhya region. By combining field research, live demonstrations, and stakeholder collaboration, the Sashwat Mithas initiative is empowering farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate sugarcane in an environmentally responsible and economically viable manner.





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