CEASI

11th August 2025

Skill India
कौशल भारत-कुशल भारत

ASCI
Agriculture Skill Council of India

CEASI
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA

CEDSI
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAIRY 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

ABOUT CEASI

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

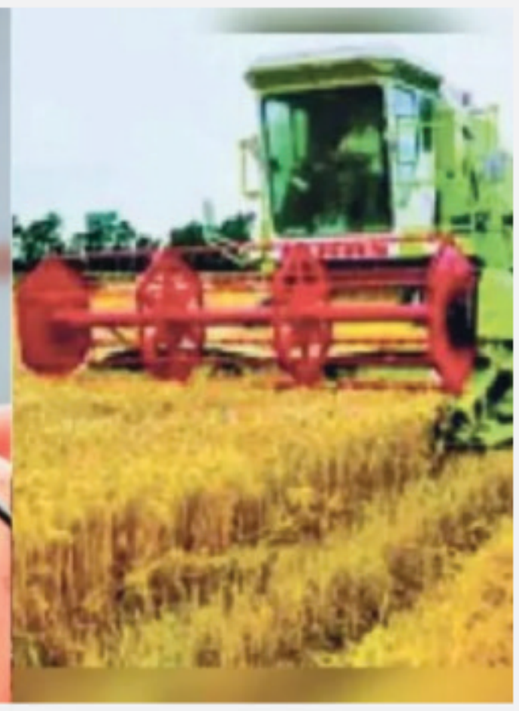
To emerge as the leading organization for skill development in cutting-edge agricultural practices, both nationally and globally, fostering holistic sector growth through sustainability, profitability, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, policy advocacy, and innovative research.

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

UP TO DISTRIBUTE SUBSIDISED FARM EQUIPMENT VIA E-LOTTERY IN ALL DISTRICTS



The Uttar Pradesh government is set to distribute subsidised agricultural equipment to farmers through an e-lottery system on August 7 and 8. The initiative, aimed at supporting farmers and promoting farm mechanisation, will be carried out under the supervision of District Magistrates in all 75 districts of the state.

According to an official statement, farmers had earlier booked equipment through the Agriculture Department's online portal under several schemes. These include the Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-situ Management of Crop Residue and the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation, both designed to improve efficiency and reduce post-harvest challenges.

In addition, bookings have been made for Mini Oil Mill Extraction Units and tarpaulins under the National Mission on Edible Oils (Oilseeds) scheme. The distribution process aims to ensure transparency through the e-lottery method, giving all eligible applicants an equal opportunity. Officials said the programme reflects efforts to make modern tools more accessible, helping farmers reduce manual labour and increase productivity.

INDIA ADVANCES DEEP-TECH INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

India's deep-tech sector is rapidly evolving, driven by collaborative platforms like the K Tech MeitY Nasscom Centre of Excellence for IoT and AI in Bengaluru. Recognised as one of the country's largest innovation hubs, it connects startups, enterprises, academia, and government to develop advanced solutions in artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, robotics, machine learning, AR/VR, and big data. These technologies are being applied across manufacturing, logistics, and smart infrastructure, helping industries improve efficiency and competitiveness.

In parallel, industrial infrastructure projects such as the Tumakuru Industrial Area under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme are nearing completion. Spanning 1,736 acres, the site will offer ready-to-use plots supported by internal roads, drainage systems, and integrated utility corridors, enabling investment in sectors like electronics, green energy, and mobility.

With strong policy support, state-central coordination, and integration of digital infrastructure, India is positioning itself as a global leader in innovation-driven manufacturing and exports, strengthening its role in international supply chains.

ICAR-CIAE MARKS 44 YEARS OF ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION

The ICAR–Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal, celebrated its 44th Foundation Day with a two-day programme highlighting innovations in farm mechanization. Experts emphasised the growing role of advanced technologies such as robotics, precision farming, artificial intelligence, space applications, and nanotechnology in shaping the future of Indian agriculture, especially for small and marginal farmers.

The Institute showcased achievements including the development of farm machinery custom hiring centres, soy processing units, advanced farm machinery testing facilities, and extensive farmer training programmes. An 'Agri-Tech-Expo' on the theme Farmers' Prosperity through Agricultural Mechanization featured 40 exhibitors from across India, presenting modern tractors, implements, and processing machinery.

The Academia–Industry Interaction Meet brought together over 100 industry representatives to discuss quality standards, testing mechanisms, advanced manufacturing, and technology transfer from research to field use. The event reinforced CIAE's role as a hub for innovation, collaboration, and capacity building to make modern agricultural tools more accessible, efficient, and farmer-friendly.

PAU TRAINS AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS TO PROMOTE ECO-FRIENDLY PADDY STRAW MANAGEMENT

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has launched a "Training of Trainers on Paddy Straw Management" to strengthen efforts against stubble burning in the state. Agricultural officers from 11 districts, including Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Moga, Sangrur, and Patiala, attended the programme.

The training covered both in-situ and ex-situ methods of managing paddy residue. Officers learned to operate and promote equipment such as the Happy Seeder, Super SMS, PAU Smart Seeder, Super Seeder, surface seeders, balers, and straw incorporation machinery. Sustainable options like bio-CNG production, use of slurry, and bio-decomposers for faster straw breakdown were also discussed.

Experts highlighted the importance of community engagement, encouraging officers to involve farmers, local leaders, and women in spreading awareness about cost-effective and environment-friendly practices.

The initiative aims to reduce air pollution, improve soil health, and encourage adoption of cleaner farming techniques. A second training session will be held on August 11 to include officers from the remaining districts of Punjab.

HORTICULTURE TO BE INTRODUCED AS VOCATIONAL SUBJECT IN HIMACHAL SCHOOLS

The Education Department of Himachal Pradesh has announced the introduction of horticulture as a vocational subject in schools, aiming to enhance students' career-oriented learning opportunities. A suitable curriculum will be developed and proposed within two weeks, with efforts also underway to revive key academic subjects in colleges to offer a wider choice of disciplines. Reviews of major initiatives, including Rajiv Gandhi Model Day Boarding Schools and Atal Adarsh Vidyalayas, highlighted the need for faster recruitment to fill vacancies and improve access to quality education.

The department is prioritising the establishment of well-equipped libraries, early completion of NAAC assessments for colleges, and the recognition of teachers serving in remote and tribal areas. Recent natural calamities have damaged around 510 educational institutions, causing losses of approximately ₹30 crore. Funds from the Post Disaster Needs Assessment will be used judiciously, with priority given to severely damaged schools. Regular physical monitoring will ensure timely and quality completion of restoration works.

₹77.17 LAKH SANCTIONED FOR HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN VIRUDHUNAGAR

The Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops has sanctioned ₹77.17 lakh to Virudhunagar district under the State Horticulture Development Scheme to boost the cultivation of key horticultural crops. The initiative aims to expand the cultivation area of traditional vegetables, chilli, coconut, and flowers. For traditional vegetables, a subsidy of ₹24,000 per hectare will be provided, covering 45 hectares with an allocation of ₹10.80 lakh.

Similarly, chilli and coconut cultivation will each receive a subsidy of ₹12,000 per hectare, extending to 10 hectares each, with a combined allocation of ₹24 lakh. For flowers, cultivation will be expanded by 75 acres, with a subsidy amounting to ₹9 lakh. In total, ₹43.80 lakh of the sanctioned amount will be disbursed as subsidies to farmers for crop expansion. The scheme is expected to enhance agricultural income, improve crop diversity, and strengthen the district's horticulture sector through increased cultivation and better resource utilisation.

DRAGON FRUIT FROM BALANGIR EXPORTED TO DUBAI FOR THE SECOND YEAR

For the second consecutive year, dragon fruit from Odisha's Balangir district has entered the international market, with a fresh consignment shipped to Dubai. The 330 kg batch, cultivated in Patnagarh, was sold at ₹300 per kg—marking a 20% increase from last year's price—indicating rising demand and improved quality. This achievement highlights Odisha's growing footprint in high-value, market-driven horticulture and its readiness to compete in global markets with a focus on quality and sustainability.

The dragon fruit was organically grown and sourced through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which have been actively supported by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment under various schemes. These initiatives aim to boost farmers' competitiveness, enhance crop quality, and open new market opportunities. The repeated success of such exports not only benefits the farming community economically but also strengthens the state's reputation as a reliable supplier of premium horticulture produce to international buyers.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR HOLDS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR PROGRESSIVE FARMERS

The Horticulture Department in Srinagar organised a Capacity Building Programme (CBP) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at the Horticulture Complex, Lalmandi. Over 50 progressive orchardists from various horticulture zones of the district participated in the event, which focused on enhancing skills and knowledge in modern horticultural techniques. Participants were briefed on newly launched departmental schemes aimed at boosting productivity, improving crop quality, and increasing farmers' income.

The programme encouraged farmers to adopt innovative practices to strengthen their livelihoods and ensure sustainable orchard management. Training sessions were conducted to provide hands-on learning, and participants were given vermicompost and horticulture toolkits to support field-level activities. The initiative reflects the department's commitment to equipping farmers with the necessary resources, technical know-how, and modern tools for advancing horticulture in the region, ultimately contributing to improved yields, quality produce, and better market competitiveness.

NAMAKKAL'S ₹90-CRORE HIGH-TECH DAIRY PLANT NEARS COMPLETION

In Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, construction of a modern dairy processing facility worth ₹90 crore is progressing rapidly, with completion expected by the end of 2025. Supported by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the plant is 80% complete and will undergo trial runs in November 2025 before full-scale operations begin in January 2026. Designed with advanced automation, the facility will process up to 2 lakh litres of milk daily, significantly strengthening the region's dairy supply chain. It is projected to benefit more than 15,000 farmers, generate around 1,000 indirect jobs, and improve product availability for over four lakh consumers. The plant is expected to enhance processing efficiency, reduce milk wastage, and ensure timely payments to farmers. Officials say it could serve as a benchmark for future dairy infrastructure projects in India, demonstrating how technology and capacity expansion can modernise the sector while improving livelihoods. The initiative is part of Tamil Nadu's broader efforts to upgrade its agricultural processing facilities.

AHIDF-FUNDED PROJECTS STRENGTHEN LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) has approved 402 projects across India worth ₹14,413.88 crore to boost the livestock sector. The funding scheme offers a 3% interest subvention for up to eight years, with a two-year moratorium, and can finance up to 90% of project costs. Additionally, 37 projects under the merged Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) worth ₹6,776.80 crore have been sanctioned. These initiatives span dairy and meat processing plants, animal feed manufacturing units, vaccine and pharmaceutical facilities, waste-to-wealth projects, and breed improvement farms. Collectively, they aim to add over 214 lakh litres per day to national dairy capacity, create more than 43,000 jobs, and benefit 25 lakh farmers. Budget allocations from 2020 to 2026 amount to ₹679.5 crore. Officials highlight that such investments will improve value addition, enhance supply chain efficiency, and promote sustainable livestock management practices, contributing to both farmer incomes and the availability of quality animal products across India.

BIHAR APPROVES FIVE NEW DAIRY PLANTS TO EXPAND PROCESSING CAPACITY

2.The Bihar state cabinet has approved the establishment of five dairy processing plants at a total cost of ₹316 crore, aiming to strengthen rural dairy infrastructure and boost milk production. Funded through the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund, the project includes two large plants in Darbhanga and Wazirganj (Gaya) with capacities of 2 lakh litres per day each, a 1 lakh litre per day plant in Gopalganj, and two milk powder units in Dehri-on-Sone (Rohtas) and Sitamarhi with daily capacities of 30 metric tonnes each. Officials say the investment will enhance processing capabilities, improve storage, and expand market access for dairy farmers. The new facilities are expected to provide a steady supply of quality milk and milk products to consumers while creating rural employment opportunities. The initiative aligns with Bihar's strategy to leverage its dairy production potential by expanding cooperative networks and upgrading infrastructure to meet growing demand in both urban and rural markets.

DAIRY INDUSTRY SEEKS GST REDUCTION ON GHEE AND BUTTER

Industry stakeholders have urged the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council to reduce the tax rate on ghee and butter from 12% to 5%, citing their cultural, nutritional, and economic importance. Representatives from organisations such as the Indian Dairy Association and leading dairy companies argue that a lower tax rate could make these products more affordable, encourage formal market participation, and help curb adulteration. They also highlight that in many countries, including the European Union, United States, and New Zealand, dairy fats are either zero-rated or taxed at minimal rates. The proposed change, they suggest, would support rural livelihoods by improving farmer incomes, as dairy remains a critical source of earnings for millions of households. Additionally, lower taxation could stimulate consumption, benefiting the entire dairy supply chain. The appeal focuses on balancing revenue considerations with public health, market fairness, and the long-term sustainability of India's dairy sector.

KERALA LAUNCHES CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PLAN

Kerala has unveiled the Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Agriculture (CREEA) report to safeguard its farming sector from extreme weather impacts by fostering an inclusive, low-carbon agricultural economy with smallholders at its core. The plan outlines five strategies—Integration and Convergence Planning, Risk and Emergency Planning, Climate-Resilient Farming Systems, Net-Zero Agriculture and Energy Efficiency, and Capacity Building. A key initiative is the establishment of Kerala Climate-Resilient Agriculture Innovation Labs (K-CRAIL) at panchayat, block, and district levels to promote sustainable practices, micro-irrigation, and resilient crops, with the first labs planned in Alappuzha, Palakkad, and Wayanad by early 2026.

The plan also calls for farmer seed and bioresource networks, community seed banks, and an AI-powered risk-mapping platform to provide real-time weather, crop, and market data for informed decision-making. These measures aim to reduce agriculture's carbon footprint, enhance resilience to climate change, and strengthen food security while empowering farmers to adopt sustainable practices and compete in evolving market conditions.

HARYANA TO COLLABORATE WITH ISRAEL ON AGRICULTURE, AI, AND TECHNOLOGY

Haryana has announced plans to collaborate with Israel across multiple sectors, including agricultural technology, advanced irrigation systems, artificial intelligence, wastewater management, research, and healthcare. The discussions also focused on setting up a Centre of Excellence in the state, developing the Integrated Aviation Hub in Hisar, and enhancing overseas placement opportunities. The Department of Foreign Cooperation is actively working to expand international employment prospects for the state's youth and double exports. Over 180 youths from Haryana are already employed in Israel through such initiatives, and there is rising demand to recruit 5,000 nurses for Israel's healthcare sector.

Plans are also underway to establish a global artificial intelligence centre in Haryana to train youth in modern AI skills and foster innovation. Additionally, the state aims to collaborate with Israel on advanced technologies for reusing wastewater in irrigation and making it suitable for agriculture and drinking. These initiatives are expected to boost economic growth, technological advancement, and skill development in the state.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE MARKS M.S. SWAMINATHAN'S CENTENARY, FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference opened in New Delhi to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Professor M.S. Swaminathan, a pioneer of India's Green Revolution and a global leader in agricultural science.

Organised by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation along with national agricultural institutions, the three-day event focuses on the theme "Evergreen Revolution – The Pathway to Bio-happiness". The conference brings together scientists, policymakers, development experts, and stakeholders to discuss ways to make agriculture sustainable, climate-resilient, and nutrition-sensitive.

Key topics include conservation of biodiversity, efficient use of natural resources, technology-driven livelihood solutions, and greater participation of women and youth in farming.

Speakers highlighted Professor Swaminathan's lifelong work in improving crop productivity, promoting biodiversity, and supporting rural communities. His vision of linking science with farmers' needs continues to inspire solutions for global food and nutritional security.

The event also features thematic sessions, knowledge sharing, and discussions on strategies to ensure a sustainable and hunger-free future.

NITI AAYOG WITHDRAWS GM CROP IMPORT PAPER EMPHASISES BIOSAFETY PRIORITIES

Niti Aayog has withdrawn a discussion paper that explored the possibility of importing genetically modified (GM) soybean and corn from the United States. The move comes amid ongoing concerns about the biosafety of transgenic food crops in India. Although the paper had suggested that such imports were unlikely to affect domestic production, the decision reflects a cautious approach towards GM foods. India has long maintained strict regulations on genetically modified food crops, citing the need for scientific evidence on their safety for human consumption, the environment, and biodiversity. The retraction also aligns with the government's broader emphasis on self-reliance in agriculture and the promotion of indigenous seed varieties. Experts note that while the debate on GM technology continues globally, India's regulatory stance aims to balance technological adoption with food safety and consumer confidence. This development reinforces the country's focus on careful policy consideration before introducing any agricultural technology with potential long-term ecological impacts.

CEHSI ROUNDTABLE ON SMART POST-HARVEST STRATEGIES

The Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India (CEHSI) successfully hosted a one-day roundtable on **"Smart Post-Harvest Strategies: Value Enhancement, Loss Reduction, and Supply Chain Efficiency"** on **5th August 2025** at the **India International Centre, New Delhi.**

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Country Delight** for sponsoring the event, and to our **Knowledge Partners – NIFTEM and Maharana Pratap Horticulture University (MHU)** – for their valuable support. We also express our sincere gratitude to our institutional partners, **NSFI** and **DeLaval**, for their ongoing support and collaboration.

We were honoured by the presence of dignitaries including **Dr. S.K. Malhotra**, Vice Chancellor, MHU (Chief Guest); **Dr. Naveen Patle**, Additional Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; **Dr. Tanweer Alam**, Additional Director, Indian Institute of Packaging; and **Dr. Joginder Singh**, JD cum Principal, HTI, **Dr. Satender Singh Arya**, CEO, ASCI, and **Dr. Sai Krishna**, CEO, NSFI.

Leading industry stakeholders such as **CII FACE, FICCI, UPL, Grant Thornton, Mother Dairy, ICAR, Agriculture Insurance Company, Tropical Agro, AyeKart, NAFPO, Northern Farmer Mega FPO**, and many others actively participated in the discussions.

The roundtable focused on key strategies to reduce post-harvest losses, strengthen cold chain infrastructure, promote value addition at the farm-gate level, and innovate sustainable packaging solutions to extend shelf life.

Together, we aim to build a smarter, more resilient horticulture ecosystem through skill development, technology, and collaboration.

EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE SUGARCANE FARMING IN AYODHYA THROUGH THE SASHWAT MITHAS INITIATIVE

As part of the Sashwat Mithas initiative, the Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India, in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, are promoting sustainable sugarcane cultivation in Ayodhya. To date, 431 farmers have been surveyed across 69 unorganized and 3 organized farmer groups to assess current practices and identify areas for improvement. Based on the insights gathered, village-level demonstration plots have been established to showcase best practices in efficient water usage, soil health management, and organic input application.

To foster community participation and peer learning, the team has conducted 73 retailer interactions, 8 field days, and engaged in 459 one-to-one farmer connect activities to extend outreach and knowledge dissemination. During these interactive platforms, participants discuss on-ground challenges with experts and observe climate-resilient techniques in action.

Through rigorous field research, hands-on demonstrations, and stakeholder engagement, the initiative empowers sugarcane growers to adopt eco-friendly, resource-conserving methods that enhance yields, preserve ecosystems, and promote climate-smart agriculture. The ultimate goal is to not only boost sugarcane productivity but also develop a scalable model for ecological balance and long-term sustainability in the Ayodhya region.

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