

CEASTES

19th August 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

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

TNAU PARTNERS WITH INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE SMALL FARM MECHANIZATION



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. to promote awareness, training, and research in small farm mechanization across Tamil Nadu.

The collaboration focuses on frontier research in small farm machinery, student training in modern agricultural technologies, and awareness programs for farmers and students. It also includes testing and evaluation of machinery under local conditions, providing project opportunities and internships for TNAU students, and supporting future research on

technological advancements. Officials stated that the partnership aims to bridge the gap between academic research and practical agricultural solutions, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Through this initiative, students will gain practical exposure, while farmers will benefit from access to efficient and affordable mechanization technologies.

The programme is expected to strengthen innovation, education, and field-ready applications in farm mechanization, supporting both sustainable food production and skill development in the agricultural sector.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MAJOR REFORMS TO DOUBLE FARMERS' INCOME



The Government of India has adopted an integrated strategy to enhance farmers' income and promote sustainable agricultural growth. The focus areas include increasing crop production, reducing cultivation costs, ensuring remunerative returns, promoting diversification, strengthening post-harvest value addition, and adapting to climate change for resilient farming.

To support these objectives, the budget allocation of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has risen from ₹21,933.50 crores in 2013-14 to ₹1,27,290.16 crore in

2025-26. While agriculture is a State subject, the central government supports states through policies, schemes, and financial assistance. Major schemes under implementation include PM-Kisan, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Per Drop More Crop, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization, PM-AASHA, National Mission on Natural Farming, Namo Drone Didi, and initiatives for crop diversification, soil health, horticulture, edible oils, and digital agriculture.

These reforms are expected to improve productivity, create opportunities, and strengthen the livelihoods of farmers nationwide.

J&K REVIEWS PROGRESS OF HOLISTIC AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Srinagar, Aug 12: The Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir reviewed the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), covering 29 schemes across the Union Territory. The review focused on district-wise progress, farmer participation, and annual targets. Departments and Deputy Commissioners were urged to sustain momentum and avoid delays, while the HADP management was asked to maintain close coordination with field officials to ensure timely achievement of goals.

The five-year HADP is designed to transform agriculture and horticulture into sustainable, profitable sectors, enhancing farmer incomes, generating youth employment, and unlocking the region's agri-horti potential.

Since January 2025, farmer registrations have increased by 35% to over 3.01 lakh, while total applications reached 4.92 lakh, marking a 33% rise. Of these, 3.48 lakh applications have been approved, up by 24%. The Farm Mechanization and Automation scheme has received the highest response with 74,448 approvals, followed by Fodder Resource Development (36,129) and Vegetable/Exotic Vegetable Promotion (33,202).

TAMIL NADU LAUNCHES ₹500 CR AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PLAN FOR 2025



TAMIL NADU'S ₹500 CR AGRICULTURE BOOST PLAN FOR 2025

Tamil Nadu has announced a ₹500 crore agriculture support scheme for 2025, aimed at strengthening farming communities, modernizing practices, and building resilience to climate and market challenges. The initiative is expected to benefit lakhs of farmers across the state, covering traditional crops as well as emerging agri-sectors.

The scheme focuses on providing quality seeds and inputs at subsidized rates, expanding irrigation through micro-irrigation systems and canal repair, promoting mechanization with subsidies for tractors, harvesters, and drones,

and improving market linkages through farmer markets, storage facilities, and e-trading platforms. Training programmes on sustainable practices and climate adaptation will also be conducted.

Key goals include distribution of subsidized seeds to over 20 lakh farmers, bringing 1.5 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation, supplying 10,000 modern farm equipment units at reduced cost, and establishing 50 new farmer-producer organizations to enhance collective strength.

Funded entirely by the state budget, the scheme emphasizes farmer participation in planning and implementation, ensuring practical and widely adopted interventions.

PAU BAGS ₹24 LAKH MIDH PROJECT TO BOOST BIOCONTROL IN CITRUS CROPS



Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has secured a ₹24 lakh project under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), aimed at promoting biocontrol-based disease management in citrus crops. The three-year project, awarded to the Department of Plant Pathology, will focus on frontline demonstrations for managing foot rot and gummosis in citrus using the biocontrol agent *Trichoderma asperellum*.

The efforts are expected to provide sustainable and eco-friendly disease management solutions to citrus growers, reducing dependence on chemical pesticides.

PAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal congratulated the scientists, noting that the project highlights the university's research excellence and commitment to advancing environmentally sound agricultural practices. The initiative marks another milestone in PAU's contribution to horticultural innovation.

HARYANA BRINGS HONEY UNDER BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA TO BOOST BEEKEEPING



In a major step to support farmers and beekeepers, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that honey will now be covered under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana (BBY), similar to horticultural crops. The move aims to ensure fair prices for honey producers while promoting scientific beekeeping as a profitable venture across the state.

Speaking at a state-level workshop at the Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC), Ramnagar, CM Saini also declared that a honey sales and storage facility with quality testing will be established at the centre. A

Quality Control Laboratory worth ₹20 crore will further strengthen the initiative.

Highlighting the importance of beekeeping in boosting rural incomes and crop productivity through pollination, the CM urged youth and women to launch their own honey brands. With subsidies of up to 85% on equipment and a vision for a "Sweet Revolution," Haryana is positioning itself as a leader in apiculture.

GOA HORTICULTURAL CORPORATION TO SELL 25,000 COCONUTS AT SUBSIDISED RATES FOR GANESH CHATURTHI



To ease the festive burden on consumers, the Goa State Horticultural Corporation Limited (GSHCL) has announced the sale of 25,000 coconuts at a subsidised rate of ₹40 each starting Friday. The coconuts will be made available through 1,250 horticultural outlets across the state.

GSHCL Chairman Premendra Shet said the initiative aims to stabilize prices and ensure affordability during Ganesh Chaturthi, when demand for coconuts peaks. The corporation is procuring 15 tonnes of coconuts from Shivamogga, Karnataka, to meet the state's requirements.

Managing Director Chandrahas Desai added that the corporation will continue weekly procurement of at least 25,000 coconuts until the eleventh day of the festival.

With coconuts currently selling between ₹37-40 for regular sizes and ₹58-60 for larger ones, the subsidised rate is expected to provide significant relief to households. The move highlights GSHCL's role in ensuring essential festive supplies at fair prices.

ARUNACHAL WOMEN'S SHG TURNS BANANA FARMING INTO MODEL OF EMPOWERMENT



A women's self-help group (SHG) from Jungmaisung village in Changlang district has scripted a remarkable success story through the Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana. The Longrok SHG, which ventured into banana farming two years ago under the state horticulture scheme, has now established a thriving plantation that is generating steady income and financial independence.

The revenue from banana sales has strengthened the group's corpus fund, ensuring long-term sustainability and economic empowerment for its members. Local officials,

who recently visited the plantation, lauded the initiative as a shining example of women's collective effort and effective implementation of government schemes.

Led by Minister Gabriel D Wangsu, the Agriculture and Horticulture Department has been instrumental in promoting such farmer welfare programs across Arunachal Pradesh, benefiting thousands of cultivators.

The Longrok SHG's journey underscores how women-led farming enterprises can drive rural prosperity and inspire communities toward self-reliance.

RAJASTHAN'S FIRST SEX-SORTED SEMEN LAB OPENS IN BASSI



A state-of-the-art sex-sorted semen laboratory for cattle has been established in Bassi, on the outskirts of Jaipur. The facility marks a significant step in advancing livestock breeding and dairy productivity in the region.

The lab has been set up through collaboration between the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF), Rajasthan Livestock Development Board (RLDB), and NDDB Dairy Services. With an annual production capacity of 10 lakh doses, it aims to provide farmers with access to high-quality and affordable semen doses.

The pricing structure has been fixed at ₹239 per

dose for sex-sorted semen, ₹22 for conventional indigenous semen, and ₹30 for imported breed semen. Surplus doses will also be made available at market rates.

Beyond production, the laboratory will function as a training and resource center to support dairy farmers with knowledge, awareness, and technical assistance. The initiative is expected to enhance milk productivity, improve livestock genetics, and contribute to sustainable growth in the dairy sector.

DELHI MILK SCHEME LAUNCHES NEW DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BOOTH ALLOTMENTS



The Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has introduced a new range of cow milk and co-branded dairy products, focusing on improving quality, enhancing consumer trust, and supporting livestock farmers. The launch took place on August 13, 2025, at the NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.

Alongside the product launch, DMS distributed 22 booth allotment letters to selected applicants. This initiative is expected to generate employment opportunities while strengthening the rural-urban dairy linkages. By expanding its product portfolio, DMS aims to

reach a wider consumer base and ensure greater accessibility of safe, nutritious milk and dairy products in Delhi and the NCR.

The introduction of co-branded products in partnership with the Haryana Milk Federation also marks a step towards collaborative growth in the sector. With its renewed focus on product diversification and consumer engagement, DMS is positioning itself as a reliable brand while contributing to the larger dairy ecosystem.

The initiative highlights how innovation, market expansion, and farmer empowerment can go hand in hand in the dairy sector.

CHHATTISGARH TO LAUNCH GAUDHAM SCHEME FOR LIVESTOCK SAFETY AND RURAL GROWTH



Chhattisgarh is set to roll out the Gaudham Yojana, an initiative designed to strengthen livestock protection and boost the rural economy. The scheme will provide safe shelters for cattle, particularly those rescued from illegal transportation and stray animals, while creating new income opportunities in villages.

Under the programme, each Gaudham will be able to house around 200 cattle, with facilities such as secure fencing, sheds, water supply, and electricity. Cowherds will receive a monthly honorarium of ₹10,916, and cattle attendants ₹13,126, along with fixed daily allowances for cattle fodder. Outstanding Gaudhams will

receive per-animal incentive payments, starting at ₹10 in the first year and rising to ₹35 in the fourth year.

The scheme also promotes organic farming and fodder development, with financial support of ₹47,000 per acre for fodder cultivation and ₹2.85 lakh for five acres. Operated by registered committees or eligible voluntary organisations, the Gaudham Yojana aims to improve breed quality, ensure cattle welfare, and generate sustainable rural employment.

₹1,433 CRORE INVESTMENT TO TRANSFORM JAMMU & KASHMIR'S DAIRY SECTOR



The Jammu & Kashmir government has launched the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Scheme (JKDPIDS) with an investment of ₹1,433 crore to modernize the region's dairy sector and strengthen rural livelihoods.

The scheme aims to expand organized milk processing from the current 4% to 20% over the next seven years, directly benefiting more than 5 lakh dairy farmers. Managed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the initiative will establish 10 automated milk processing plants across 18 districts, enhance milk

collection systems, and set up 100 milk testing laboratories to ensure product quality and safety.

To empower farmers, the scheme will also promote 10,000 farmer-owned dairy collectives, supported by agreements on sexed semen production and fodder development to boost productivity. NABARD will facilitate funding with strict transparency measures.

Alongside infrastructure upgrades, the programme is expected to generate employment, increase cooperative turnover, and supply hygienic, export-quality milk—marking a significant step toward sustainable rural development and farmer prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir.

INDIA PRODUCES 239.30 MILLION TONNES OF MILK, UTTAR PRADESH LEADS



India's milk production for 2023-24 has reached 239.30 million tonnes, reaffirming the country's position as the world's largest milk producer. According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2024, cows contributed 1,27,105.15 thousand tonnes (53.12%), while buffaloes accounted for 1,04,388.29 thousand tonnes (43.62%).

Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 13.11 million tonnes of cow milk and 24.35 million tonnes of buffalo milk, making it the largest milk-producing state. Rajasthan follows with 14.81 million tonnes of cow milk and 16.79 million tonnes of buffalo milk. Other leading

contributors include Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, and Maharashtra.

Regional patterns vary: in southern states like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, cow milk production far outweighs buffalo milk, reflecting different dairy preferences. Meanwhile, smaller states and northeastern regions contribute modestly, often with minimal buffalo milk output.

Buffalo milk, known for its higher fat content, remains vital for producing ghee, paneer, and khoa, particularly in northern and western India. The expanding dairy sector continues to strengthen food security and rural livelihoods, with experts projecting further growth through technology and region-specific strategies.

UNION MINISTER LAUDS ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY ON 78TH FOUNDATION DAY



Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, commended Assam Agricultural University (AAU) for its transformative role in the state's agricultural development during its 78th foundation day celebrations on Saturday.

Speaking as the chief guest, Margherita highlighted AAU's immense contribution in reshaping the farming landscape of Assam and the northeast. He noted that as the first agricultural university in the region, AAU has empowered farmers, promoted agripreneurship, and strengthened food

security through innovation, education, and research.

"The contribution of AAU to the development of Assam's agricultural sector is immense. It must continue to bridge the gap between laboratory research and field application. The future of Assam's agriculture depends on sustainable practices and technological adoption, and this university is at the forefront of that mission," Margherita said, extending his greetings to students, faculty, and alumni of the institution.

PM MODI TO LAUNCH ₹2,481-CRORE NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL FARMING ON AUGUST 23



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally launch the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on August 23, a centrally sponsored programme worth ₹2,481 crore aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture across 7.5 lakh hectares and benefiting 1 crore farmers.

Conceived by NITI Aayog and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, the mission will be funded jointly by the Centre (₹1,584 crore) and states (₹897 crore). Farmer registrations for the scheme are already underway.

The two-year programme seeks to improve yields, enhance farmer incomes, reduce input costs, and ensure better soil health, while

generating rural employment. Implementation will cover 15,000 clusters in gram panchayats, prioritising states where natural farming practices are prevalent, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

The plan includes 10,000 bio-input resource centres, simplified certification, unified branding, and real-time geo-tagged monitoring to ensure transparency and promote natural produce.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: UNION MINISTER REAFFIRMS FARMERS' INTERESTS, ANNOUNCES VILLAGE VISITS FOR RABI CROP GUIDANCE



New Delhi, Aug 15: Union Agriculture Minister assured farmers invited as special guests for the Independence Day celebrations at Pusa Campus that no agreement will be signed against their interests. He announced that agricultural scientists will visit villages from October 3 to 18 to provide guidance for improving the Rabi crop, continuing efforts to strengthen the "lab to land" approach.

The Minister urged farmers to adopt the Swadeshi movement by supporting local products, noting that such choices strengthen the economy and create employment

opportunities. He emphasised that farmers, livestock rearers, and fishers would remain protected in all policy decisions, including trade agreements.

During the programme, the Minister underlined government accountability, citing action taken against companies whose herbicides damaged crops. He reiterated that farmers are central to India's economy and pledged continued support to safeguard their livelihoods.

The event was attended by Ministers of State, senior officials from the Agriculture Ministry, and representatives from ICAR.

CEASI ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON ROAD SAFETY SKILLS FOR NUZIVEEDU SEEDS LIMITED PROJECT TEAM

The Centre of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI) successfully organised a one-day workshop on Road Safety Skills for the project team of Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL) in Karnal, Haryana. The program aimed to enhance the awareness and preparedness of field teams on safe commuting practices, an important aspect for professionals regularly engaged in farmer outreach and rural extension activities.

A special highlight of the workshop was an interactive session conducted by Varhaa, focusing on the onboarding of farmers for

carbon credit registration. This session introduced participants to the significance of carbon markets and the role farmers can play in adopting climate-smart practices that ensure both sustainability and additional income streams.

The workshop not only strengthened the project team's skills but also marked the formal beginning of the NSL Project for FY 2025-26. It set the foundation for safer operations, farmer empowerment, and a stronger emphasis on sustainable agriculture.





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