

CEAS FETES

24th June 2025

CEASI

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



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

AP GIVES FARM EQUIPMENT TO OVER 25,000 SMALL FARMERS ON SUBSIDY



The Andhra Pradesh government has given farm equipment worth ₹60.53 crore to 25,192 small and marginal farmers under the 2024-25 Farm Mechanisation Scheme. Farmers received a 50% subsidy on the tools to help improve farming efficiency and reduce manual labour.

The distribution was launched in Amaravati by Agriculture Director Dilli Rao. Equipment was given as per the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) guidelines. Farmers were selected through the Karshak portal, with land and crop details verified using digital platforms. Tribal farmers were verified through the Giri Bhoomi portal.

were handed over at local Rythu Seva Kendras. Lists of beneficiaries were displayed publicly to ensure transparency.

Director Rao appreciated officials' efforts and said that the scheme will help small farmers adopt modern tools and increase their income. The move supports the state's vision to modernise agriculture and empower rural communities.

INDIA AIMS TO EXPORT FARM MACHINERY WORLDWIDE, FOCUS ON INNOVATION AND SMALL FARMERS



India is moving towards becoming a global hub for agricultural machinery manufacturing. During his visit to Punjab under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that India will not only make machines for its own farmers but also export them to other countries.

He visited a modern agricultural equipment factory in Amargarh and reviewed local crop conditions. He praised the progress in designing tools like multipurpose harvesters, transplanters, and low-cost machines made especially for small and marginal farmers.

Chouhan said these tools should be affordable and adapted to Indian farming needs. He stressed that subsidies should reach the right farmers, and tools must reduce labour, cut costs, and improve productivity.

The Minister also encouraged scientists to develop climate-resilient seeds that can grow well despite rising temperatures.

He added that India is now creating technology, not just using it. A national roadmap for farm mechanisation—with support from states and industry—is expected soon, focusing on farmer needs and innovation.

INDIA-UKRAINE HOLD FIRST AGRICULTURE MEET, FOCUS ON FARM MECHANIZATION AND DIGITAL SOLUTIONS



India and Ukraine held their first Joint Working Group meeting on agriculture through a virtual platform on June 18. The discussion focused on sharing technology and knowledge to modernize farming in both countries.

Key areas included farm mechanization, digital agriculture, climate-resilient practices, and soil health management. Both sides agreed to work together in developing smart solutions for farmers, like digital tools for crop planning, weather forecasting, and market access.

India shared its progress in promoting electronic platforms like e-NAM, and the use of modern machines to improve productivity and reduce labour. Ukraine also showed interest in collaborating on agricultural equipment, food processing, and plant breeding technologies.

Officials from both countries said this meeting marks the beginning of long-term cooperation in innovation-led farming. They agreed to continue talks and launch joint efforts to support farmers through technology, training, and knowledge exchange. This partnership aims to make farming more efficient, climate-ready, and future-focused.

DRONE TECHNOLOGY BOOSTS FARMING IN UTTAR PRADESH



In a major step toward modern farming, Uttar Pradesh has started using drones to spray nano urea and pesticides across six districts. This new method saves time, reduces labour, and ensures better care of crops.

Under a pilot project in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Bahraich, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, and Kanpur Nagar, drones are now covering up to 12 acres of farmland in just one hour. This initiative is part of the Atmanirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojana and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

So far, nine drone projects have been launched, and farmers are being trained to use this technology. The goal is to improve productivity

and reduce crop losses through timely and accurate spraying.

This move is expected to strengthen precision farming in the state. By using science-backed methods, agriculture in UP is becoming smarter and more efficient. Plans are already in place to expand this project to more districts, giving farmers better tools and technology for future-ready farming.

TELANGANA HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH KANSAS STATE FOR STUDENT EXCHANGE AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION



In a significant step toward strengthening horticultural education and research, the Telangana Horticultural University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kansas State University, USA. The collaboration aims to enhance the skill development of undergraduate and postgraduate students through academic exchange programs and joint research initiatives. This partnership will allow students from both institutions to gain global exposure and access advanced horticultural practices and innovations.

The MoU also emphasizes collaborative farm-level research tailored to the needs of Telangana's

farmers. By integrating international expertise with local agricultural challenges, the agreement is expected to accelerate the development of sustainable, science-based solutions. The partnership lays a strong foundation for knowledge transfer, capacity building, and practical innovations that can directly benefit horticulture in the state. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of equipping future professionals with cutting-edge skills while fostering impactful research for field-level implementation.

KARNATAKA EXPORTS FRESH JAMUN TO UK FOR THE FIRST TIME, MARKING MILESTONE IN INDIAN HORTICULTURE



In a landmark development, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever export of fresh Jamun fruit (Kundana variety) from Karnataka to the United Kingdom. Sourced directly from a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), the export has significantly increased farmer income—fetching Rs 110 per kg against the local market price of Rs 50-60. This move highlights the growing potential of Indian indigenous fruits in international markets while ensuring direct benefits to farmers through FPO linkages.

The fruits were processed and packed at a modern

facility approved by APEDA and the Plant Quarantine department, established by Karnataka's Department of Horticulture. Unlike earlier exports in processed or seed powder form, this marks India's first export of whole fresh Jamun. Karnataka, a major Jamun-producing state, is poised to become a hub for fresh fruit exports. APEDA continues to drive such initiatives through product promotion, capacity-building, and global outreach under schemes like GI and ODOP, strengthening India's horticultural footprint worldwide.

NATURAL FARMING MISSION TO COVER 49,500 HECTARES IN KARNATAKA UNDER NATIONAL INITIATIVE



As part of the National Mission on Natural Farming, the Central Government has launched a major initiative to promote traditional, chemical-free farming practices across India. In Karnataka, 49,500 hectares of land will be brought under natural farming this year, supported through a 60:40 cost-sharing model between the Centre and the State. The mission promotes an ecosystem-based approach involving soil, water, microbes, plants, and animals, encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable methods using only locally available inputs.

Around 900 clusters have been identified in Karnataka, each comprising approximately 125 farmers, with a maximum of one acre per farmer under natural farming. Two Krishi Sakhis will

support each cluster, and Bio-Input Resource Centres will be established in every three clusters. In coastal Karnataka, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts will implement the initiative across 1,550 hectares. Select Krishi Vigyan Kendras and agricultural universities across the state will facilitate training and monitoring. The scheme is applicable to a wide range of crops under agriculture and horticulture departments, including paddy and fruits.

GARDENING SKILLS TRAINING LAUNCHED FOR EWS YOUTH IN AMARAVATI REGION



A three-week Gardeners Training Programme was launched at the APCRDA Nursery near the Secretariat in Velagapudi to enhance employability and skills among economically weaker sections (EWS), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and unemployed youth from Amaravati capital city villages. The initiative, jointly organized by APCRDA, the Department of Horticulture, and ADCL, aims to train 30 selected individuals aged between 18 and 40 years. The training is being conducted by expert horticulture professionals, with APCRDA providing the necessary infrastructure and funding support.

Participants will gain hands-on skills in gardening, landscaping, and green maintenance, and upon

completion, they will be considered for deployment in various greenery projects managed by ADCL, based on merit and project requirements. The programme also announced plans for establishing a Permanent Horticulture Nursery and Training Centre (HNTC) at Uddandarayunipalem, which will function as a regional hub for continuous capacity-building in horticulture. The initiative reflects a focused effort to create livelihood opportunities through skill development in urban and peri-urban landscape management.

CENTRE LAUNCHES 'CLEAN PLANT PROGRAMME' FOR GRAPES, ORANGES, AND POMEGRANATES FROM MAHARASHTRA

Clean Plant Program



The Central Government has launched the 'Clean Plant Programme' to provide disease-free planting material for grapes, oranges, and pomegranates, with initial implementation from Maharashtra. This national-level initiative was announced during India's first international Agri Hackathon held in Pune. The programme addresses a key challenge in horticulture—ensuring the availability of high-quality, disease-free plants to boost productivity. Three of the nine planned Clean Plant Centres across India will be set up in Maharashtra, located in Pune (grapes), Nagpur (oranges), and Solapur (pomegranates), with an overall investment of ₹300 crore.

Alongside, modern nurseries will be established to support advanced horticultural practices. Funding support includes ₹3 crore for large nurseries and

₹1.5 crore for medium-sized ones, enabling the annual production of eight crore disease-free saplings. The initiative also promotes collaboration with countries like Israel and the Netherlands. To bridge the gap between research and field application, over 16,000 agricultural scientists will directly engage with farmers under the 'Lab to Land' strategy, aiming to strengthen innovation-led growth in the horticulture sector.

ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO SUPPORT HORTICULTURE FARMERS:



The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated several strategic steps to address procurement and pricing challenges in key crops like tobacco, mango, and cocoa. Emphasizing a farmer-centric approach, officials have been directed to ensure global standards in production and conduct field-level assessments to address crop-specific concerns. A dedicated cocoa policy will be introduced to improve quality and farmer awareness, while support will be extended to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and MSMEs for strengthening agro-processing.

For tobacco, Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) cultivation will be regulated, while White Burley will be grown

under contract farming. Procurement efforts will focus on 25 million kg through seven designated market yards. In the mango sector, facing low demand and surplus stock, traders are encouraged to pay ₹12/kg, with the government offering ₹4 compensation if paid at ₹8. For cocoa, a subsidy of ₹50/kg will ensure a minimum price of ₹500. Additionally, the expansion of Rythu Bazaars, mobile markets, and a farmer database linked to PM-Kisan are planned to enhance marketing and transparency.

AHD AND FAO HOST 'ONE HEALTH' WORKSHOP TO BOOST ANIMAL HEALTH COMMUNICATION



the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized a One Health Communication Strategy Workshop in New Delhi. The workshop aimed to support India's animal health and pandemic preparedness efforts through a people-centric communication approach under the Pandemic Fund-supported project "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India."

The event brought together stakeholders from government, academia, research, international agencies, and the media to discuss the development of a strategic, science-based communication roadmap. Key discussions focused on zoonotic disease awareness, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and biosecurity, with an emphasis on grassroots messaging.

Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Abhijit Mitra highlighted the importance of clear, locally tailored messaging for effective outreach and behavior change. FAO's Dr. Konda Chavva stressed that communication bridges knowledge and action. A media panel featuring BBC News and others explored the role of the media in building public trust. Technical sessions addressed risk communication and intersectoral coordination.

SEMINAR PROMOTES MODERN MILK PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES IN SALEM



An awareness seminar on modern technologies in milk production was held at the cooperative bank community hall in Alagapuram, Salem, focusing on improving dairy productivity and supporting milk producers. Welfare assistance amounting to ₹5.34 crore was distributed to 1,787 beneficiaries during the event.

The seminar highlighted the achievements of the Salem District Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited (Aavin), which began in 1978. Currently, it has 2.24 lakh members across 784 cooperative societies, with 46,947 milk producers

supplying an average of 6.35 lakh litres of milk daily. The Aavin plant in Salem operates with a capacity of five lakh litres, and additional facilities include a 1.30 lakh-litre chilling centre in Attur and 104 bulk milk coolers across the district.

Aavin also operates an ice cream manufacturing unit with a daily capacity of 6,000 litres, catering to Salem and nearby areas. There are 224 Aavin parlours in educational and government institutions. The seminar featured expert sessions on increasing milk yield through advanced dairy technologies. Officials also inspected an automated milk processing plant with a seven-lakh-litre capacity.

OVER 5,500 CATTLE VACCINATED IN ANDAMAN UNDER FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE DRIVE



The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, is conducting an intensive Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive across South Andaman. Launched on June 2, 2025, the campaign has vaccinated 5,506 cattle so far, aiming to reach a target of 9,000 by the end of the month.

To reduce stress on animals, vaccinations are administered during cooler parts of the day. Eleven veterinary teams from local hospitals and dispensaries—including VH Junglighat, VH Garacharma, VD Rangachang, VD Manglutan, and others—are actively involved, maintaining a pace

of 300–400 vaccinations daily, despite monsoon conditions.

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals, leading to fever, sores, lameness, and up to 30% drop in milk production. While rarely fatal, it causes significant economic loss and impacts rural livelihoods.

Vaccinated animals are tagged, and data is uploaded in real-time to the Bharat Pashudhan Portal for traceability. The department urges all livestock owners to cooperate with field teams to ensure timely vaccination and disease prevention.

MADHYA PRADESH BOOSTS DAIRY SECTOR WITH ₹90 CRORE SUPPORT TO GAUSHALAS



A state-level conference on Gaushalas was recently held in Madhya Pradesh, where key initiatives to strengthen the dairy sector and improve animal welfare were announced. During the event, ₹90 crore was transferred to Gaushalas across the state to support their functioning and enhance cattle care.

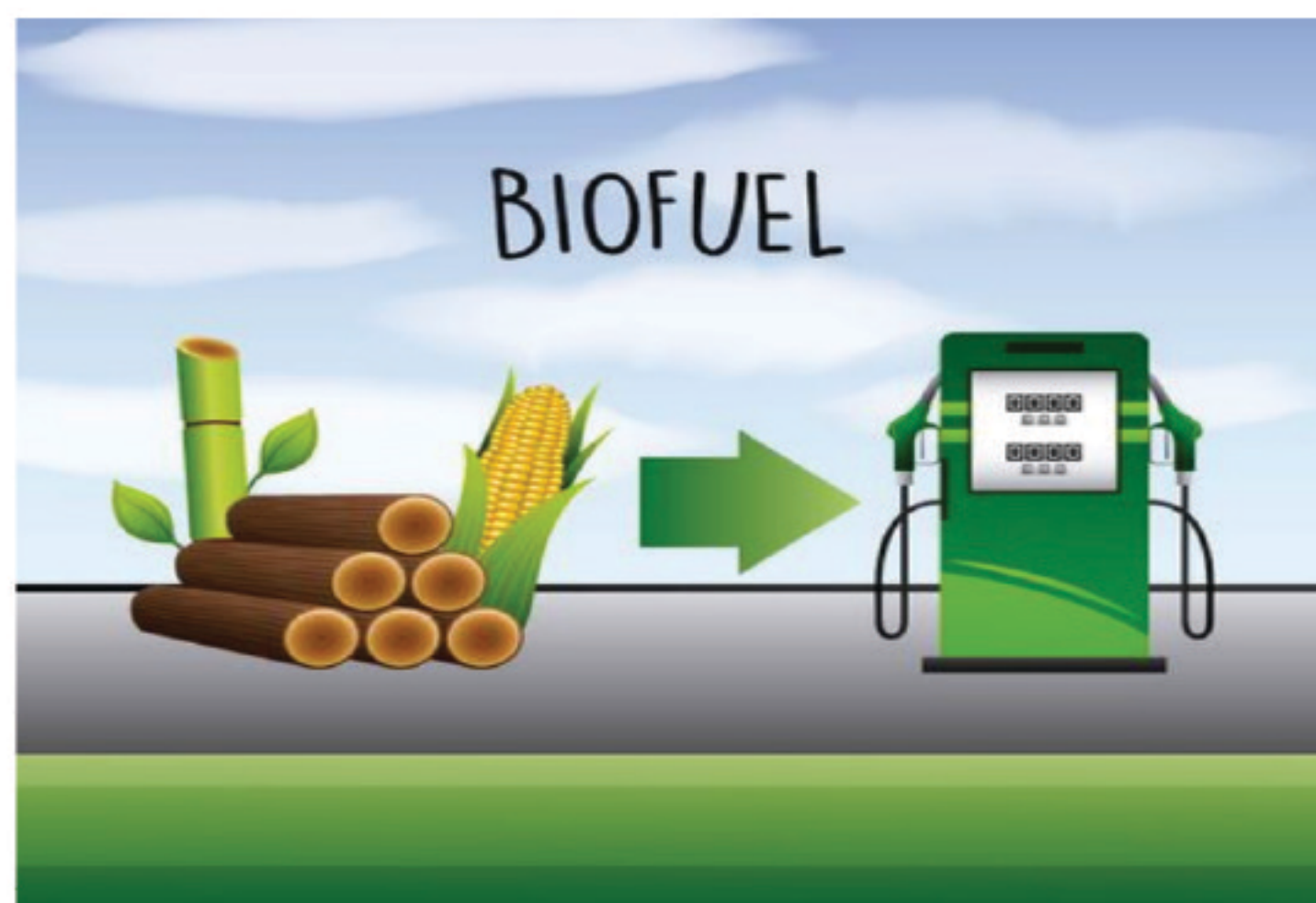
The financial aid for cowsheds has been increased from ₹20 to ₹40 per cow per day. In addition, the state plans to expand the number of milk cooperative societies (Samitis) from 9,000 to 26,000, aiming to streamline milk production and collection. A pact has also been signed with the National Dairy Development Board to boost milk

production fivefold.

To support infrastructure development, 125 acres of land have been earmarked for setting up new cowsheds. Awards were presented to seven Gaushalas across districts including Bhopal, Damoh, Anuppur, Raisen, Chhindwara, Harda, and Vidisha for their exemplary work.

Plans are also underway to establish Vrindavan Gaon in every village to promote milk consumption among children and ensure proper shelter for stray and injured cattle.

FUEL AT THE COST OF FOOD SECURITY IS NOT SUSTAINABLE: EXPERTS WARN OF BIOFUEL TRADE-OFFS



India's growing push for biofuels as part of its clean energy strategy has raised concerns over food security and resource allocation. With a target of producing 2.2 exajoules (EJ) of bioenergy by 2029-30 across seven fuels—bioethanol, compressed biogas, biodiesel, bio-pellets, green hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuel, and bio-methanol—the shift is ambitious but complex.

A major concern is the diversion of food crops and public grain stocks for fuel. Meeting ethanol targets by 2025-26 could require significant quantities of sugarcane, maize, and rice, using up to seven million hectares of cropland—impacting food supply and animal feed availability.

In ESY 2024-25, 5.2 million tonnes of rice were sold for ethanol at subsidised rates, far below production cost, raising questions about public food stocks being used for fuel. Additionally, ethanol by-product DDGS is disrupting feed markets by undercutting soybean meal prices.

Experts argue for a shift toward waste-based biofuels and a lifecycle-based policy approach to ensure India's energy goals do not compromise nutrition security, farm incomes, or rural livelihoods.

MAHARASHTRA APPROVES AI POLICY TO TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE WITH DATA INTEGRATION AND REAL-TIME SUPPORT



The Maharashtra cabinet has approved the MahaAgri — AI Policy 2025-29 to integrate Artificial Intelligence into agriculture for improved productivity, efficiency, and real-time decision-making. The policy focuses on creating agro data sets, geospatial intelligence, agro-food safety standardisation, and timely information dissemination to farmers. A dedicated Agro Data Exchange (A-DeX) will be established to integrate government platforms like Agristack, Maha AgriTech, Mahavedh, and storage data with private sources such as market intelligence, satellite data, climate analytics, and supply chains. Stakeholders including startups, industry, FPOs, research

institutes, and government bodies will also be connected under this system.

To implement this, AI-based agricultural projects will be evaluated by the AgriAI cell and reviewed by the State Level Scrutiny and Technical Committees for viability and financial support. An open platform named Maha VISTAAR AI will provide information access through chatbots, IVRS, and web portals. Competitions like hackathons will encourage innovative solutions. The government has allocated ₹500 crore for the first three years, with a review planned at the end of the period.

UN DECLARES 2026 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER



In a historic step, the United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer. This move honours the vital role women play in global agriculture and food security.

Women farmers produce nearly half of the world's food, and in many developing countries, their contribution is even higher. Yet, they often face challenges like limited access to land, credit, training, and technology.

The UN aims to use 2026 to raise awareness, promote equal opportunities, and support policies that empower women in farming. Key goals

include improving women's access to resources, promoting their leadership, and boosting women-led agricultural markets.

This initiative is also important for building climate-resilient farming systems and improving rural incomes.

Programs like India's Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana and mobile-based advisories in Assam are examples of how governments are already helping women farmers grow and adapt.

The year 2026 will focus on recognition, support, and inclusive development in agriculture.

NATIONAL SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN FARMER PROSPERITY



Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed a national seminar on "Prosperity through Cooperatives" in Mumbai, marking the UN's declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. He emphasized that cooperatives have long been rooted in India's farming culture and play a key role in rural development.

The Minister spoke about supporting small farmers through integrated farming models, modern practices, and fair market prices. He highlighted the importance of "Lab to Land" - where scientists regularly visit farmers to share research-based solutions.

He also discussed the use of drones, better seed quality, and marketing support for crops like tomato, onion, and potato under the new Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Strict action will be taken against those supplying low-quality seeds or pesticides.

The event also celebrated successful FPOs supported by NAFED, as awards and equity grants were distributed. The focus remained on practical solutions, technology, and cooperation to make farming more rewarding for smallholders.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE & CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN VIJAYAWADA RURAL

On 20th June 2025, CEASI, in collaboration with **Sompo General Insurance**, conducted a one-day awareness program on **Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Nunna Village, Vijayawada Rural, Andhra Pradesh**.

The event marked the first in a series of initiatives aimed at equipping farmers with practical knowledge on sustainable farming practices and building resilience against climate-related risks. Over 50 farmers participated in the session, which focused on topics such as soil health management, water conservation, climate-resilient crop varieties, and integrated pest control.

A highlight of the program was the emphasis on crop insurance as a vital risk mitigation tool. Representatives from Sompo General Insurance

guided farmers on how to protect their livelihoods from crop losses due to extreme weather events and provided details on available insurance schemes and enrollment processes.

The program was interactive, informative, and well-received by the farming community. It reflects the shared commitment of CEASI and Sompo General Insurance to support rural communities through awareness, education, and sustainable development.

To recognize participation and learning, certificates were distributed to all attendees at the conclusion of the event.

This initiative sets the tone for future collaborations focused on empowering farmers and ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability.



EMPOWERING FARMERS IN AYODHYA: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SUGARCANE CULTIVATION

As part of the Sashwat Mithas initiative, the Centers of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India, in partnership with UPL SAS Limited, is promoting sustainable sugarcane farming practices in Ayodhya. The project aims to build farmers' capacity in eco-friendly cultivation methods that enhance productivity while preserving environmental resources.

A dedicated team is conducting extensive field surveys to understand existing agricultural practices and identify opportunities for improvement. To support hands-on learning, demonstration plots are being established at the

grassroots level. These plots showcase best practices in sustainable sugarcane cultivation, such as efficient water management, soil health restoration, and the application of organic fertilizers.

By combining knowledge dissemination with practical demonstrations, the project seeks to inspire farmers to adopt climate-resilient and environmentally responsible approaches. The initiative not only aims to increase crop yields but also to ensure long-term sustainability and ecological balance in the region's agricultural landscape.





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