

# GO FARMERS VESTS

25th August 2025



**ASCI**  
Agriculture Skill Council of India

**CEASI**  
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



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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



## FARM MECHANIZATION INSIGHTS

### TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU WITH VST TILLERS TRACTORS



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. to strengthen awareness and training on small farm mechanization in Tamil Nadu. The partnership will focus on frontier research, training students in modern agricultural technologies, testing and evaluating farm machinery in local conditions, and creating greater awareness among both students and farmers. It will also provide students with opportunities for research projects, internships, and practical exposure to new technologies,

bridging the gap between classroom learning and field applications.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Antony Cherukara, CEO of VST Tillers Tractors Ltd., and Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar of TNAU, in the presence of senior faculty and officials from both sides. Representatives noted that the collaboration will enhance student learning while promoting mechanization solutions suitable for small and marginal farmers. The initiative is expected to support sustainable food production and strengthen agricultural practices across Tamil Nadu.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AND TRADITION IN AGRICULTURE



The 28th foundation day of the Jyeshtha Pashuvaidya Pratishthan was observed with a focus on the role of both traditional knowledge and modern technology in strengthening Indian agriculture and animal husbandry. Speakers at the event underlined that blending modern tools with indigenous farming methods and rearing of native cattle could support greater self-reliance in the farm sector. The importance of veterinarians in animal care was also highlighted, with references to India's long-standing veterinary traditions.

As part of the celebrations, awards were presented to farmers, cattle rearers, veterinarians, and professors for their contributions to the field. Students who excelled in veterinary science and related disciplines were also recognised. A souvenir documenting the organisation's journey from its formative years to its present achievements was released on the occasion. The programme brought together farmers, experts, and veterinary graduates, reflecting the institution's continued efforts to promote sustainable practices in agriculture and livestock management.



## GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS MECHANIZATION TO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY



With 46.1% of India's workforce employed in agriculture and the sector contributing 17.8% to the GDP in FY 2023-24, the Government of India has prioritised mechanization as a key driver of farm productivity. Under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), financial support is being extended to farmers for the purchase of machinery and equipment, including tractors, and for the establishment of Custom Hiring Centres, High-Tech Hubs, and Farm Machinery Banks. These initiatives aim to make modern machines accessible to small and marginal farmers, address challenges of small landholdings, and reduce reliance on

manual labour.

Complementing these efforts, schemes such as the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) provide incentives for the adoption of improved farm implements, resource conservation tools, and water-saving devices. The Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) programme further supports mechanization through micro-irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler technologies, improving water-use efficiency while reducing input costs. Together, these initiatives reflect the government's push to modernise farming and improve farm-level efficiency across states.

## CALL FOR TECH-DRIVEN, SUSTAINABLE MEASURES IN MARINE FISHERIES



Grinson George, Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has called for the adoption of technology-driven and sustainable practices to address the growing impact of climate change on India's marine fisheries. Pointing to rising sea temperatures, erratic weather, and habitat loss, he emphasised the need to use tools such as satellite monitoring, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to provide real-time insights into fishing grounds. He also underlined the importance of conserving coral reefs and mangroves, which serve as natural buffers against climate-related damage.

George emphasized that stronger partnerships, achieved through joint initiatives, agreements, and knowledge-sharing platforms, are crucial for enhancing resilience in the sector. Involving local fishers and stakeholders in decision-making, he said, would help ensure effective implementation of policies. The need for an integrated approach that combines science, technology, and community participation was highlighted as key to sustaining marine fisheries and safeguarding coastal livelihoods. Recently, marine scientists at a seminar in Kochi also expressed concern over climate-driven changes in species distribution and marine ecosystems.



## OVER 250 FARMERS IN SOUTH GARO HILLS TRAINED ON ICAR-IIHR HORTICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES



In Tura, more than 250 farmers from South Garo Hills benefitted from a capacity-building programme on advanced ICAR-IIHR technologies aimed at strengthening horticultural crop production. The event, held at Chotto Bollanggre, Purakhasia, was jointly organised by the Department of Horticulture, NEHU Tura Campus, and the All Garo Hills Multipurpose Co-Operative Society (AGHMPCS). Farmers received ARKA vegetable seed kits developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, along with training on improved practices designed to enhance productivity, boost farm incomes, and

promote horticulture as a driver of economic growth in the region.

The programme highlighted the role of modern technologies in enabling farmers to diversify into high-value crops and tap into opportunities for horticultural exports. Organisers assured farmers of sustained support through continued supply of high-quality inputs, technical assistance, and further training programmes. A significant number of women farmers participated, reflecting growing community involvement in adopting innovative practices for sustainable livelihood

## PLANTERS URGED TO PROTECT BEES FOR ECOSYSTEM AND CROP YIELD



Coffee planters in Mudigere have been urged to prioritise the protection of honey bees to safeguard the ecosystem and enhance crop production. The call was made during a beekeeping training workshop organised by the Department of Horticulture at the Krishi Vigyana Kendra (KVK). Experts highlighted that the decline of bee populations poses a serious threat to ecological balance and stressed the need for greater awareness among farmers. Farmers were also encouraged to utilise government schemes that provide beehives and other benefits through subsidies to promote sustainable beekeeping practices in

rural areas.

Technical sessions during the programme underlined that beekeeping is a profitable venture with high market demand. By adopting scientific methods and proper care, farmers can increase yields, secure additional income, and strengthen pollination for crops such as coffee. Officials emphasised that bees play a crucial role in enhancing productivity, and horticulture and agricultural centres remain committed to supporting farmers with training, awareness programmes, and technical guidance.



### FARMERS IN PRAYAGRAJ ADOPT BAGGING TECHNIQUE TO PROTECT DRAGON FRUIT



Farmers in Prayagraj and adjoining areas are increasingly adopting the fruit bagging technique to protect dragon fruit crops during the monsoon season. In this method, individual fruits are covered with paper or fabric bags, creating a protective microenvironment that safeguards them from pests, diseases, and rain-related damage. This practice not only improves the quality and appearance of the fruit but also helps reduce losses caused by fungus and excessive rainfall. The state government is extending economic assistance and subsidies under the Integrated Horticulture Mission to encourage farmers to adopt this sustainable approach.

Officials highlighted that bagging has emerged as an effective solution to ensure safe harvests and higher yields, with several farmers reporting improved income despite adverse weather conditions. Encouraged by the success, growers from nearby districts have also started adopting dragon fruit cultivation and bagging methods. By promoting non-traditional high-value crops like dragon fruit, the region is witnessing significant growth in farmer earnings, marking a positive step towards sustainable horticultural development.

### HONEY BROUGHT UNDER BHAVANTAR BHARPAI YOJANA TO SUPPORT BEEKEEPERS IN HARYANA



In a major boost for farmers and beekeepers, honey has been included under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana (BBY) for Haryana farmers, ensuring fair prices on the lines of horticulture crops. The announcement was made during a state-level workshop on beekeeping at Ramnagar, where it was also shared that a honey sales and storage facility with quality testing arrangements will soon be established at the Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC). To further strengthen the initiative, a quality control laboratory worth ₹20 crore is being set up, while the Ramnagar centre will be developed into a national-level

hub for advanced apiculture research and training.

Officials highlighted that beekeeping not only provides farmers an additional source of income but also enhances crop yields through pollination. Under the Beekeeping Policy-2021, Haryana has set ambitious targets for preparing thousands of beekeepers and scaling honey production by 2030. With subsidies of up to 85% on bee boxes, colonies, and equipment, along with training and processing facilities, the state is promoting beekeeping as a profitable, sustainable, and youth-friendly enterprise.



### BANAS DAIRY ANNOUNCES ₹2,909 CRORE PAYMENT TO PRODUCERS AND SOCIETIES



Banas Dairy, Asia's largest cooperative milk union, has announced a record disbursement of ₹2,909.8 crore during its 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM). Of this, ₹2,131 crore will be paid directly to registered milk producers as procurement price, reflecting an 18.32% increase over the previous year. Additionally, ₹778.12 crore will be disbursed to milk cooperative societies.

Chairman Shankar Chaudhary shared that the cooperative is undertaking major infrastructure projects to strengthen the dairy sector. A new milk powder plant with a capacity of 150 metric tonnes per day will be set up at Sanadar, which is projected to be the largest in

India. Further, the Banas Bovine Breeding and Research Centre (BBBRC), aimed at advancing cattle breeding and research, will be established at Bhiladi.

Highlighting its financial progress, Chaudhary said the dairy's loan liability has been reduced from ₹2,000 crore to ₹610 crore, with ₹1,389 crore already repaid. Payments, including procurement prices and bonuses, are credited directly into producers' bank accounts.

### NDRI LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST GENOMIC SELECTION PROGRAMME FOR SAHIWAL CATTLE



Karnal's ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) has launched India's first genomic selection programme for Sahiwal cattle, a prominent indigenous dairy breed. The initiative aims to accelerate genetic improvement, enhance milk productivity, and increase profitability for small and medium dairy farmers.

Announcing the programme, NDRI Director Dr. Dheer Singh said genomic selection would deliver faster results compared to conventional breeding. "Traditional phenotype-based methods take 7-8 years, whereas genomics can

identify top bulls within weeks. This ensures high-quality semen from genomically tested Sahiwal bulls reaches farmers sooner, improving herd performance and incomes," he said.

The programme employs advanced genomic models tailored for Indian conditions, addressing smallholder systems, multi-breed herds, and areas lacking pedigree records. A team led by Dr. Vikas Vohra, along with scientists Dr. Anupama Mukherjee, Dr. Rani Alex, Dr. Gopal Gowane, and Dr. T.V. Raja, developed Genomic Breeding Values (GBV) for Sahiwal cattle after extensive trials.

This breakthrough is expected to support state and central breed improvement initiatives, expanding access to superior genetics across India's dairy sector.



# CLFMA HOSTS 58TH AGM & 66TH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2025 ON FUTURE OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE



Hyderabad will host the 58th Annual General Meeting and 66th National Symposium of the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India (CLFMA) on August 22-23, 2025, at Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills. Themed “Animal Agriculture in India - The Way Forward,” the two-day event will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to discuss the future of livestock, dairy, poultry, and aquaculture.

The inaugural session will be led by Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon’ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of

India, along with senior ministers and officials from Telangana.

CLFMA Chairman Divya Kumar Gulati highlighted India’s livestock sector as a driver of rural prosperity and proposed Export Oriented Zones and a Livestock Export & Domestic Development Authority to enhance global competitiveness.

The programme will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and thematic sessions on competitiveness, innovation, sustainability, and strategies to position India as a global leader in animal agriculture.

## VET VARSITY AND PDFA PARTNER TO BOOST DAIRY GENETICS AND MILK PRODUCTIVITY IN PUNJAB



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Progressive Dairy Farmers’ Association (PDFA) to strengthen genetic improvement and milk production in Punjab.

Under the agreement, elite Holstein Friesian (HF) and Jersey male calves, selected from PDFA members’ herds, will be used for breeding. GADVASU will produce high-quality frozen semen doses from these calves and supply them back to farmers through PDFA, ensuring wider access to superior germplasm

and sustainable genetic advancement. This will enable progeny testing with accurate data generation.

Vice Chancellor Dr. J.P.S. Gill emphasized that the initiative will enhance cattle genetics, improve milk productivity, and create a sustainable livestock growth model. PDFA President S. Daljit Singh Gill highlighted that demand for quality HF and Jersey semen is rising, but supply remains irregular and costly.

Officials noted that Punjab has emerged as a hub for elite HF and Jersey germplasm, with the collaboration expected to further strengthen the state’s role in advancing India’s dairy sector.



### UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY IN FARMING AT NATIONAL SPACE DAY EVENT



Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually addressed the National Space Day celebrations held at ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi, on the theme "Research and Development in Space Technology for Agricultural Transformation." He said that space science has significantly contributed to India's record food grain production by enabling accurate crop yield estimation, weather forecasting, and disaster management. Citing ISRO's Geo Portal, he noted that farmers now benefit from precise data on rainfall, drought, soil moisture, and crop health. He also pointed to recent advances such as real-time monitoring of wheat sowing and harvesting, pest detection

through uploaded photographs, and satellite-based crop loss assessment that has improved transparency in crop insurance schemes.

The Minister emphasised the importance of bringing scientific innovations directly to farmers under initiatives such as the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan. He urged scientists to focus on practical solutions for issues like virus attacks on crops, productivity of pulses and oilseeds, and detecting spurious inputs. Expressing pride in India's space achievements, he congratulated astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and highlighted Chandrayaan's success as a symbol of India's growing capabilities in science and technology.

### ARUNACHAL UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURE STUDENTS GAIN EXPOSURE TO CLIMATE-RESILIENT TECHNOLOGIES AT ICAR-KVK NAMSAI



Twenty-five undergraduate agriculture students and faculty members from Arunachal University of Studies visited ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Namsai, to gain hands-on exposure to climate-resilient agricultural technologies. During the programme, students were briefed on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the role of KVKs in transferring climate-smart practices to farmers. They observed district-level trials on climate-resilient crop and livestock technologies, including submergence-tolerant rice variety Ranjit Sub-1, short-duration rice Disang, drought-tolerant toria TS-38, and integrated farming systems combining crops,

livestock, fisheries, and duckery.

The visit also introduced students to natural resource management techniques such as mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting, and beekeeping, alongside tools like the leaf colour chart for efficient nitrogen management to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Skill development opportunities in mushroom spawn production, planting material development, food processing, and apiculture were highlighted. As part of "Parthenium Awareness Week," students learned about weed management and planted saplings under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. The programme concluded with an interactive session and a tour of demonstration farms.



## 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, are advancing sustainable sugarcane farming practices in Ayodhya. So far, 500 farmers have been surveyed across 89 unorganized and 3 organized farmer groups to assess existing cultivation methods and identify opportunities for improvement. Building on these insights, village-level demonstration plots have been established to showcase best practices in water-use efficiency, soil health management, and organic input application.

To strengthen community engagement and peer-to-peer learning, the initiative has facilitated 89 retailer interactions, organized 8

field days, and conducted 500 one-to-one farmer connect activities. These platforms enable farmers to interact directly with experts, share on-ground challenges, and witness the adoption of climate-resilient practices firsthand.

Through field research, hands-on demonstrations, and active stakeholder participation, the initiative equips sugarcane growers with eco-friendly, resource-efficient techniques that enhance yields, conserve natural resources, and build resilience against climate change. The broader vision is to not only increase sugarcane productivity but also establish a replicable model for ecological sustainability and inclusive agricultural growth in the Ayodhya region.







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