

CEAS TIMES

30th June 2025

CEASI

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



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

BAU TO SURVEY FARM MECHANIZATION IN SEVEN JHARKHAND DISTRICTS



Birsa Agricultural University (BAU), Ranchi, will soon conduct a survey to understand the use of machines in farming across Jharkhand. The survey aims to find out how much farm equipment is currently being used and where improvements can be made. As per BAU's annual report, the study will cover 70 villages from 70 blocks across seven districts: Dumka, Giridih, Garwah, Ranchi, Palamu, Khunti, and Godda. These villages will be selected at random to get a clear picture of the situation.

The survey comes in response to the slow pace of farm mechanization in the state. Many farmers still depend on traditional tools like sickles, ploughs, mallets, and khurpis. For example, only 26% of paddy tillage is done using machines, and machine use in harvesting is even lower.

Dr. D.K. Rusia, Dean of the Agriculture Engineering College at BAU, said the study will be done under the All India Co-ordinated Scheme on Farm Implements and Machinery (AICSFIM), Bhopal. Findings will also be shared with the state government.

UP GOVERNMENT OFFERS SUBSIDY ON AGRI DRONES AND MACHINERY



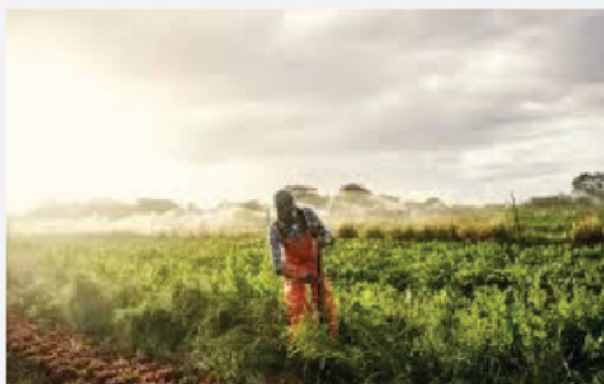
The Uttar Pradesh government is providing subsidies on agricultural drones and modern farm equipment to help farmers improve productivity and reduce manual effort. The initiative aims to promote farm mechanization and make advanced tools more accessible to farmers across the state. Applications for the scheme can be submitted online at www.agridarshan.up.gov.in until July 12.

To apply, farmers need to visit the portal and click on “Yantra Booking Prarambh” under the “Kisan

Corner” section. The portal offers complete information about equipment types, booking steps, and subsidy eligibility. The booking process started on June 27, and the website also explains technical specifications and the overall process in a farmer-friendly manner.

The scheme is being implemented under the Agriculture Department's programs, like the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue. Subsidies are available for items such as agri-drones, combine harvesters with Super SMS, farm machinery banks, sugarcane planters, oil extraction units, maize shellers, and more. This effort is expected to ease farming operations and support sustainable agricultural practices.

INDIA HELPS AFRICA MODERNIZE FARMING WITH MACHINES



India is supporting African countries to improve farming through better use of machines. Under its “3A” approach—Affordable, Appropriate, and Adaptable—India is supplying tractors, harvesters, seeders, and other farm tools to countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Lesotho. These machines help reduce manual work, save time, and increase crop production.

The support is being provided through soft loans and government partnerships. India is also sharing knowledge by setting up training centers and

technology parks in rural areas. These centers teach farmers how to use and maintain machines, helping them become more self-reliant.

In addition to large equipment, India is helping with smaller tools like crop residue managers, irrigation systems, and agro-drones. These tools are suitable for small farms and help reduce crop loss after harvesting.

Women farmers are also being trained under this partnership. By combining machines with skill development, India is helping African farmers modernize their practices and move towards a more efficient and sustainable farming future.

NEW MACHINE FROM ICAR-CIAE TO HELP SMALL FARMERS SAVE TIME AND COST



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) in Bhopal on June 22 and highlighted the importance of farm technology that meets the real needs of small farmers. He encouraged faster innovation and delivery of affordable machines directly to the fields.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed projects under the All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and called for a 10-year roadmap under the Viksit Bharat Abhiyan. He stressed the need for compact, energy-efficient machinery, sensor-based systems, and region-specific solutions. He also suggested organizing Farmer Fairs and stakeholder meetings to shape a national mechanization plan.

A major highlight was the launch of a tractor-operated plastic mulch layer-cum-planter developed by CIAE. This machine combines bed formation, drip line laying, and seed sowing in one go. It cuts down labor from 29 man-days to just 3 per hectare and saves about ₹6,600 per hectare. Priced at ₹3 lakh, it suits high-value crops and can pay back its cost in under two years—making it ideal for small farmers.

INDIA'S HORTICULTURE OUTPUT PROJECTED TO HIT RECORD 367.72 MILLION TONNES IN 2024-25



India is set to achieve a record horticulture production of 367.72 million tonnes in 2024-25, marking a 3.7% increase over the previous year, according to the second advance estimates released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The total area under horticulture crops has expanded by 1.81 lakh hectares, reaching 29.26 million hectares. This surge in output is largely attributed to higher production of vegetables such as potato, onion, green chilli, and bottle gourd, as well as key fruits including watermelon, mango, banana, mausami, and papaya.

Vegetable production is estimated to rise by 6.11% to 219.67 million tonnes, up from 207.02 million tonnes the previous year. Notably, onion production is projected to grow by nearly 27%, while potato output is expected to reach 60.17 million tonnes. Fruit production is also estimated to increase by 1.36% to 114.51 million tonnes. The enhanced horticulture performance is anticipated to ease food inflation, which has already declined to its lowest level since October 2021.

PUNJAB'S ROSE-SCENTED LITCHIS MAKE GLOBAL ENTRY, BOOSTING INDIA'S HORTICULTURE EXPORT PROFILE



Pathankot's aromatic, rose-scented litchis have made a successful international debut, with the first consignment exported from Sujampur to Doha, Qatar. This marks a new milestone in India's horticulture export journey. A metric tonne of premium litchis was shipped, followed by an additional 600 kg to Dubai. The initiative was supported through coordinated efforts to promote high-value horticultural exports, capitalizing on Pathankot's favorable agro-climatic conditions.

The fruit, cultivated by progressive farmers in the region, has gained significant global attention for its exceptional taste and fragrance. Procured at nearly double last year's price, it is now fetching premium rates in international markets – up to ₹375 per kg in Doha and Dubai, and as high as £18 for two kg in the UK. Punjab contributed over 71,000 metric tonnes to India's total litchi production in 2023-24, with strong yield rates and expanding cultivation. Experts see this development as part of a broader trend of diversification and global outreach in Indian horticulture.

HORTICONNECT INDIA 2025 TO CATALYSE INNOVATION AND GROWTH IN HORTICULTURE SECTOR



Bengaluru: HortiConnect India 2025, a flagship horticulture exhibition, is scheduled to take place from 25th to 27th September 2025 at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). The event aims to bring together over 250 exhibitors showcasing advanced technologies in protected cultivation, precision farming, IoT, smart irrigation, floriculture, and more. With an expected footfall of over 10,000 professionals, government officials, and industry leaders, the platform will enable extensive networking, knowledge exchange, and collaborative opportunities.

The event will feature exclusive B2B meetings, hands-on technology demonstrations, and expert-led workshops focused on sustainable and scalable horticulture solutions tailored for Indian conditions. Participants will have the chance to connect with global suppliers and buyers, explore innovations, and forge strategic partnerships to enhance productivity and market access. Positioned as a transformative platform, HortiConnect India 2025 is set to play a key role in accelerating growth and innovation in India's horticulture sector.

TRIPURA LAUNCHES ₹132 CRORE INITIATIVE TO BOOST QUEEN PINEAPPLE CULTIVATION



Agartala: Tripura has announced a ₹132 crore project aimed at enhancing the cultivation and market reach of its Queen Pineapple, declared as the state fruit in 2018. Known for its golden-yellow appearance and distinct aroma, the Queen variety thrives in Tripura's hilly, humid climate with minimal chemical use. The initiative aims to boost farmer incomes by expanding pineapple cultivation and strengthening the state's position in the tropical fruit market.

Currently, pineapple is cultivated on over 11,000 hectares in Tripura, out of a total 58,491 hectares under fruit cultivation. The Queen Pineapple has already received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, underscoring its unique quality and regional identity. This project is expected to enhance branding, improve production practices, and open new export opportunities for the state's signature fruit. With global demand rising, this focused effort is set to position Tripura as a major hub for premium pineapple production in the country.

NAPIER GRASS SCHEME REACHES PRAYAGRAJ TO BOOST DAIRY AND FODDER SECURITY



To enhance livestock productivity and ensure year-round fodder availability, Uttar Pradesh is expanding its Hybrid Napier Grass scheme to Prayagraj district. The initiative offers farmers a subsidy of ₹20,000 per hectare along with hybrid Napier root cuttings. A buy-back arrangement is included, where the government will purchase the produce at twice the market rate to encourage adoption. Napier grass, rich in protein and ideal for dairy animals, matures in 20–25 days and yields 300–400 quintals per acre. Its low production cost—just ₹0.50 per kg—makes it a sustainable, high-return option for green fodder. Once planted,

the grass regenerates and remains productive for up to 10 years. Eligible beneficiaries include individual farmers, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), self-help groups (SHGs), nurseries, and cow shelters (gaushalas). Already operational in Hamirpur and Bahraich, the scheme is now set to benefit farmers in Prayagraj, with the selection of the first 10 beneficiaries underway. Officials describe it as planting “seeds of prosperity — one blade at a time.”

NDDB TAKES CHARGE OF THREE DAIRY PLANTS IN U.P. TO BOOST RURAL LIVELIHOODS



The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has taken over the operation of three key dairy plants in Kanpur, Kannauj, and Gorakhpur, following an MoU signed with the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Dairy Federation (PCDF) on June 25, 2025. Additionally, an animal feed production facility in Ambedkar Nagar will also be managed by NDDB.

This collaboration aims to modernize and professionalize the state's dairy infrastructure by ensuring efficient management, transparency, and farmer-focused operations. NDDB's involvement is

expected to streamline processing, enhance milk quality, and improve market linkages.

The U.P. government stated that timely payments, better milk prices, and stable marketing support will directly benefit dairy farmers, contributing to a more sustainable rural economy. With NDDB's technical expertise, the initiative is expected to elevate productivity, support livestock health, and enhance profitability in the sector.

The move marks a significant step towards building a self-reliant and technologically advanced dairy ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.

STRENGTHENING RURAL DAIRY: PUNJAB INSURES THOUSANDS OF MILCH ANIMALS



In a major achievement for Punjab's dairy sector, the Dairy Development Department has insured 30,598 milch cattle under the National Livestock Mission's Risk Management and Livestock Insurance Scheme. This initiative aims to provide financial security to dairy farmers and safeguard their livelihoods. The scheme offers affordable premium rates ₹1,120 for general farmers and ₹672 for SC/ST farmers with a maximum claim limit of ₹70,000 per animal. So far, ₹7.39 crore has been disbursed to 1,056 farmers for loss compensation.

To support dairy entrepreneurship, ₹3 crore has also been granted to 204 farmers in FY 2024-25 for

setting up dairy units with 2-20 animals. Furthermore, 9,150 unemployed youth have received dairy training to promote self-employment.

To ensure maximum outreach, the department conducted 47 seminars and camps across the state to educate farmers on insurance, claim processes, and livestock health management. These efforts collectively aim to build a resilient and inclusive dairy ecosystem in Punjab.

BIHAR LAUNCHES SUBSIDY SCHEME TO PROMOTE BUFFALO-BASED DAIRY FARMING



Bihar has launched the Samagra Bhains Palan Yojana 2025-26 to boost dairy farming and rural self-employment. The scheme provides financial assistance to farmers and unemployed youth to set up dairy units with high-yielding buffalo breeds such as Murrah, Jaffarabadi, and Bhadawari. Eligible beneficiaries can establish units with one or two lactating buffaloes and receive subsidies based on their social category. Extremely Backward Classes (EBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will receive a subsidy of ₹90,750 on a single buffalo unit costing ₹1,21,000. For General and OBC

categories, the subsidy amount is ₹60,500 per unit. The scheme aims to enhance milk production and improve the livelihoods of rural families by promoting scientifically managed buffalo dairying. It will be implemented in all districts through the respective District Animal Husbandry Officers (DAHOs). Only complete and error-free applications will be accepted, and the buffaloes must be of the approved breeds to qualify. This initiative is expected to strengthen the rural economy and create employment opportunities.

OPEN DISCUSSION

“LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DEVELOPMENT IN ASSAM – THE WAY FORWARD”

As part of a vision to build a 25-year roadmap toward a self-reliant and prosperous Assam (Atmanirbhar Assam) during the “Amrit Kaal,” a one-day session titled “Livestock and Poultry Development in Assam – The Way Forward” was organized on 9th June 2025 by the Directorate of Extension Education (Veterinary), AAU, Khanapara, in collaboration with the Extension Education Institute (NE), AAU, Khanapara. The event, held in the Conference Hall of EEI (NE), brought together stakeholders including researchers, technocrats, extension specialists, industry partners, input providers, and livestock entrepreneurs.

Dr. Hiranya Kumar Bhattacharyya, Associate Director of Extension Education (Veterinary), AAU, Khanapara, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and outlined the programme’s objectives. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Dandeswar Deka, President of the Assam Veterinary Council (AVC), who appreciated the initiative for creating a platform where experts could share valuable insights. Sri Loken Das, Chief General Manager, NABARD, emphasized the importance of conserving local germplasm, developing household farming models, promoting livestock insurance and credit guarantee schemes, and harnessing

biotechnology for economic, environmental, and employment growth.

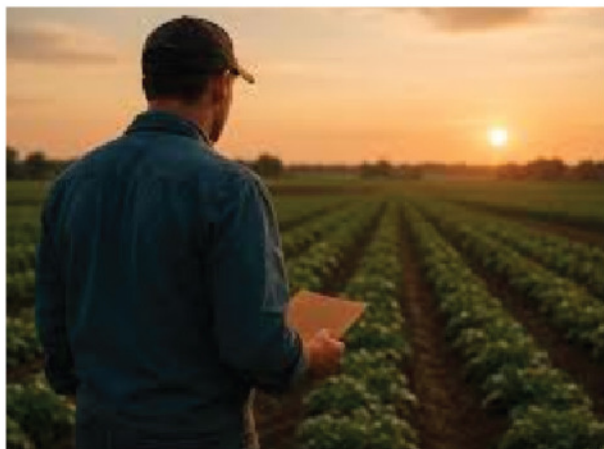
Dr. Probodh Borah, Director of Research (Veterinary), AAU, Khanapara, highlighted the vital role of the livestock and poultry sectors in Assam’s rural economy and their potential to enhance employment through commercial farming with collaborative efforts. Dr. Rajumoni Bordoloi, Director, EEI (NE Region), stressed the importance of real convergence and effective linkages among stakeholders as a team approach.

The open discussion was chaired by the Director of Research (Veterinary) and co-chaired by the President of AVC, with the ADEE (Veterinary) initiating the session. Experts from various departments and institutions, including the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Dairy Development, Assam Livestock and Poultry Corporation, private integrators, veterinary scientists, and entrepreneurs, shared their inputs.

Key constraints affecting Assam’s livestock and poultry sectors were identified and analyzed, leading to the development of one or two model frameworks for sustainable development, with implementation strategies either under existing government schemes or proposed new policies.



NSO RELEASES REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT GROWTH (2011-2024)



The National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI, has released its annual publication “Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24)”. The report highlights robust growth across agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries.

Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors rose by 225% at current prices, while Gross Value of Output (GVO) at constant prices increased by 54.6%. The crop sector remains the largest contributor, with cereals and fruits & vegetables making up over half its GVO.

Notably, potato led the vegetable group, while banana overtook mango in fruits by GVO. Livestock GVO nearly doubled, with a rising share of meat products. Floriculture also saw a marked increase, reflecting diversification in horticulture. Fishing and aquaculture’s share in total GVO grew to 7%, with a shift from inland to marine fish. The report also reflects evolving state-level contributions, underscoring dynamic agricultural growth patterns across regions.

The full report is available at <https://mospi.gov.in>.

MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES INDIA’S FIRST AI POLICY FOR AGRICULTURE



In a landmark step toward tech-driven farming, the Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the MahaAgri-AI Policy 2025-2029, India’s first comprehensive artificial intelligence policy for agriculture. With an initial outlay of ₹500 crore, the policy integrates AI, drones, robotics, and advanced analytics to boost productivity, tackle climate change, and improve market access.

Key initiatives include real-time advisory systems, precision farming tools, and blockchain-based traceability for export crops like grapes and bananas. The VISTAAR platform will deliver

multilingual AI advisories linked to national platforms like Agristack.

Maharashtra will build strong digital public infrastructure, featuring an Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX), an AI Sandbox for startups, and a Geospatial Intelligence Engine. Research and innovation will be anchored by four hubs across State Agricultural Universities.

Support for startups, PPP models, and digital literacy programs will drive inclusive adoption. An annual global AI in Agriculture Conference will position Maharashtra as a global leader in agri-innovation.

This policy signals a bold shift towards sustainable, smart, and farmer-first agriculture.

BIHAR TO ESTABLISH CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE HUB AT BISA, PUSA



Pusa (Samastipur): Bihar is set to develop the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) in Pusa as a Centre of Excellence for climate-resilient agriculture. The initiative aims to promote sustainable practices by focusing on pulses, oilseeds, and nutrient-rich crops suited to the state's agro-climatic conditions. A climate-friendly agriculture programme is being formulated to boost innovation, resilience, and adaptive capacity in farming systems across the state.

Key strategies include the use of AI-driven tools for early disease and pest detection, promotion of natural and organic farming, and strengthening water and soil conservation efforts. Agricultural universities and research institutions will collaborate to enhance impact at the grassroots level. The initiative also encourages the development of innovative, business-oriented models to attract youth into agriculture while ensuring cost efficiency and income growth for farmers. This hub is expected to drive long-term sustainability and position Bihar as a leader in climate-smart agricultural innovation.

FPO CONCLAVE IN MADURAI PROMOTES ORGANIC FARMING AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FARMERS



Madurai: A Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Conclave aimed at empowering farmers to adopt organic farming was held in Madurai, drawing participation from over 600 farmers across Tamil Nadu. The event focused on building a comprehensive ecosystem to support sustainable agriculture through collaboration, awareness, and financial inclusion. Organised in partnership with key institutions and agribusinesses, the conclave emphasized the importance of traceability, quality assurance, and fair pricing in organic production.

The initiative highlighted the role of FPOs as critical enablers of agricultural transformation and encouraged collective efforts for organic transition. A key outcome was the announcement of a new co-branded card enabling farmers to purchase organic inputs at subsidised rates. Additionally, an MoU was signed with Indian Overseas Bank to promote organic farming and ensure liberal financing options through institutional support. The conclave served as a platform to inspire confidence among farmers and create long-term strategies for environmentally sustainable and economically viable agriculture.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE & CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN VIJAYAWADA RURAL

On 20th June 2025, CEASI, in collaboration with Sompoo 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 Sompoo 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 Sompoo 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, with 364 farmers surveyed so far, 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.

To facilitate community engagement and knowledge exchange, 33 unorganized meetings, 2 organized meetings, and 4 field days have been conducted. These interactions provide platforms for farmers to share experiences, clarify doubts, and observe sustainable practices in action.

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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