

CEAS TIMES

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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

OIL PALM PLANTATION AND CUSTOM HIRING CENTRE LAUNCHED IN PAPUM PARE (A.P.)



A major boost to sustainable agriculture and farm mechanization was witnessed in Papum Pare district with the launch of a Mega Oil Palm Plantation Programme and the inauguration of a Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) at Gorubanda, Banderdewa Circle. The initiative is part of the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) and was jointly organized by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, and Patanjali Foods Limited.

The programme was graced by Minister Gabriel D Wangsu and Zilla Parishad Chairperson Nabam

Yakum, along with senior officials including IAS officer Vishakha Yadav.

The Custom Hiring Centre aims to make modern agricultural machinery easily accessible to local farmers, encouraging mechanized farming and improving productivity. The oil palm plantation drive also supports the national goal of increasing domestic edible oil production.

This integrated initiative reflects a strong commitment to rural development, farmer empowerment, and creating a self-reliant and technology-driven agricultural sector in the North-East region.

WOMEN-LED SHGS IN HAMIRPUR TO RECEIVE DRONES FOR FARM OPERATIONS



In a progressive step toward modernizing agriculture and empowering rural women, four women-led self-help groups (SHGs) in Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh, will soon receive drones under the Namo Drone Didi initiative. Facilitated by the district agriculture department, this initiative aims to equip SHGs with advanced technology to enhance productivity and create sustainable income streams.

The drones will be used to spray liquid fertilizers and pesticides over agricultural fields, with each capable of covering up to 20 acres efficiently. Women from

each SHG will be trained in drone operations and maintenance, enabling them to lead precision farming practices and reduce manual labour.

According to District Agriculture Officer Rajesh Rana, the initiative not only promotes environmentally responsible farming but also opens up long-term business opportunities for rural women. A proposal from a Mahila Mandal in Nadaun had initiated this allocation, which has now expanded to include four groups across the district.

This development reflects a strong commitment to inclusive growth, farm mechanization, and women-led entrepreneurship in agriculture.

MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES FIRST ELECTRIC TRACTOR TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FARMING

MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES FIRST ELECTRIC TRACTOR TO CUT FARMING COSTS AND POLLUTION



Maharashtra has introduced its first electric tractor, marking a milestone in farm mechanization and sustainable agriculture. The 45HP e-tractor, officially registered at the Thane RTO, was launched with the goal of reducing farming costs while promoting cleaner energy use.

Specifically designed for agricultural operations, the electric tractor significantly lowers operational expenses. It costs just ₹300 to plough an acre, compared to ₹1,200–₹1,500 for a diesel tractor. This cost-efficiency, coupled with minimal maintenance,

offers daily savings for farmers across the state.

The state's Electric Vehicle Policy 2025 supports the adoption of such innovations with subsidies up to ₹1.5 lakh. Additional benefits include toll exemptions and the possibility of interest-free loans, making e-tractors more accessible to small and marginal farmers.

Officials emphasized that the initiative aligns with broader goals of reducing carbon emissions and enhancing rural incomes. As the first state to launch an e-tractor, Maharashtra is paving the way for cleaner, cost-effective agricultural practices across India.

MICRO-IRRIGATION EMERGING AS A GAME-CHANGER FOR UP'S AGRICULTURE



Uttar Pradesh is leading a major agricultural transformation by scaling up micro-irrigation under the Per Drop More Crop scheme, aiming to expand coverage from 30,000 hectares to 7.5 lakh hectares by 2028. This initiative, supported by the 2030 Water Resources Group of the World Bank under the UP Accelerator Programme, reflects a growing focus on climate-smart agriculture.

Micro-irrigation methods such as drip systems, sprinklers, and rain guns use 30–70% less water, reduce soil erosion, and lower fertiliser and pesticide

usage—making farming more resilient and resource-efficient. For every ₹1 invested, farmers can earn ₹1.5–₹2 in output, according to the World Bank.

Central to UP's model is a digital platform that simplifies access to government subsidies and streamlines the adoption process. Over 3.5 lakh farmers have already registered, highlighting the growing interest in efficient irrigation solutions.

With the right financing and digital innovation, the Uttar Pradesh model offers a scalable blueprint for water-efficient, productive agriculture across India.

UTTARAKHAND SCALES UP MILLET, KIWI, AND DRAGON FRUIT CULTIVATION TO BOOST FARM INCOMES:



Uttarakhand has launched a comprehensive push for traditional and high-value crops, focusing on millet promotion and diversification into kiwi and dragon fruit cultivation. Under the State Millet Mission, mandua (finger millet) procurement began in 2022, followed by integration into PDS, mid-day meals, and Anganwadi programs. The MSP for mandua rose from ₹2,500 to ₹4,200 per quintal between 2021 and 2024. Collection centers grew from 23 to 270. A two-phase State Millets Policy (2025–31) aims to cover 70,000 hectares across 11 districts, promoting mandua, jhangora, ramdana, kauni, and china.

In horticulture, the Kiwi Policy (2025–31) supports orchard development in 11 districts, offering 70% subsidy on ₹12 lakh/acre cost, backed by ₹894 crore. A parallel scheme for dragon fruit covers seven districts, with 80% subsidy on ₹8 lakh/acre investment. Both initiatives encourage scientific farming practices. The state aims to enhance farmer incomes and promote sustainable agriculture through targeted support and infrastructure development.

FOCUSED PUSH TO BOOST HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE IN JAMMU & KASHMIR:



A high-level visit to highlight ongoing innovations in horticulture and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to boosting the agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir. At the Shalimar campus, officials reviewed early-fruited apple varieties, hail-protection systems, scientific pruning, and smart water-nutrient practices. Farmers shared success stories of higher yields and income gains, while students exhibited cold storage solutions and quality produce.

A stakeholder meeting with growers, beekeepers, nursery operators, and agri-entrepreneurs raised key concerns including irrigation for saffron fields, pesticide safety, affordable inputs, crop insurance, and cold chain development. In response, plans were announced for Clean Plant Centres, enhanced support for private nurseries, and infrastructure under HADPL. Emphasis was placed on fair pricing, logistics upgrades, and stronger quality control. The visit reflected the Centre's inclusive, field-oriented strategy to transform J&K into a horticulture hub and ensure sustainable growth and prosperity for farmers.

PUNJAB ACCELERATES HORTICULTURE GROWTH THROUGH CROP DIVERSIFICATION AND FARMER EMPOWERMENT



Punjab is strengthening its horticulture sector through focused crop diversification strategies aimed at enhancing productivity, income, and market access. In a recent departmental review at the Punjab Civil Secretariat, officials evaluated the implementation of key horticulture schemes designed to improve crop output, introduce advanced technologies, and provide better linkage to markets for farmers.

Emphasis was placed on ensuring that farmers receive timely and accurate information about government schemes, technological advancements, and best practices. The department was directed to intensify outreach through training programs, awareness camps, and digital platforms. These efforts are expected to empower farmers to adopt modern methods and fully benefit from available support. The initiative reflects Punjab's commitment to revitalizing its agricultural economy by promoting sustainable horticulture and enhancing livelihoods across the state.

OVER ₹220 LAKH DISBURSED UNDER HORTICULTURE SCHEMES IN DHARMAPURI OVER FOUR YEARS



The Horticulture Department has disbursed ₹227.69 lakh to 16,700 beneficiaries in Dharmapuri over the past four years through various horticulture development schemes. As part of the Chief Minister's Vegetable Garden scheme, 1,313 terrace horticulture sapling kits were distributed at a subsidised rate of ₹450 each. In rural areas, 5,200 vegetable seed packets were provided at ₹30 per packet, while micro greens worth ₹75 each were distributed to 4,500 beneficiaries.

Additionally, under the Tamil Nadu State Horticulture Development Scheme, mobile vegetable and fruit vending vehicles were distributed to support farmers, especially during the COVID period. In total, 190 mobile units were provided with a subsidy of ₹15,000 each, amounting to ₹28.5 lakh. These initiatives aim to promote kitchen gardening, ensure nutrition security, support livelihood generation, and strengthen last-mile delivery in the horticulture value chain. The efforts reflect the state's commitment to inclusive horticulture development and farmer welfare.

NEW DAIRY AND SALT COOPERATIVES LAUNCHED IN GUJARAT TO EMPOWER FARMERS AND PRODUCERS



The Ministry of Cooperation has launched the Sardar Patel Cooperative Dairy Federation in Anand, Gujarat, aimed at strengthening the dairy sector through organized milk procurement, fair pricing, and a circular economy model, following the successful Amul framework. This new multi-state federation will offer input services and equitable milk purchase to benefit dairy farmers nationwide.

Additionally, the Kutch District Salt Cooperative Society has been introduced to support Gujarat's salt producers (Agariyas), ensuring profits are directed to field-level workers. Gujarat contributes over 70% of India's salt production, with around 30%

from the Little Rann of Kutch.

The launch event also marked the 150th birth anniversary year of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Several key projects were inaugurated, including the ₹365 crore expansion of Amul's cheese and chocolate plants, the Maniben Patel Bhawan of NCDFI, and the ₹45 crore Ready-to-Use Culture (RUC) Plant of NDDDB. The foundation stone for NDDDB's new headquarters was also laid, emphasizing transparency and technology in cooperative development.

NDDDB TO STRENGTHEN ARUNACHAL DAIRY SECTOR THROUGH FORMATION OF MILK UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS



The National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) is taking a major step to enhance the dairy sector in Arunachal Pradesh by establishing Milk Unions and a State-level Milk Federation, according to an official statement.

As part of this initiative, five milk unions will be created based on the state's five river basins. The project will initially begin in the Lohit River basin, covering the districts of Lohit, Namsai, and Lower Dibang Valley, informed S. Roy, Regional Head, NDDDB Kolkata, during a training session for

enumerators and supervisors held in Chowkham circle, Namsai.

Similar unions are planned in the Siang, Subansiri, Kameng, and Tirap basins. These district-level unions will eventually merge into a state-level milk federation, opening up new avenues in dairy and allied sectors.

D. Longri, Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary, and Dairy Development, emphasized the urgency of completing the Lohit basin survey by July 31, 2025. He expressed concern over the slow progress in forming dairy cooperative societies across various districts, despite their high potential. He urged officials to prioritize the survey work and develop the Lohit model as an example for the rest of the state under the White Revolution 2.0.

GADVASU PROMOTES SMART DAIRY FARMING WITH REAL-TIME SENSOR TECHNOLOGY



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) is spearheading the integration of sensor-based technologies in dairy farming to improve productivity, animal health, and farm efficiency. Through real-time monitoring tools such as Temperature Humidity Index (THI) sensors, gas sensors, TDS meters, and grain moisture meters, farmers are adopting precision practices that reduce costs and enhance animal welfare.

As part of this effort, GADVASU organized a hands-on awareness-cum-demonstration camp under the Farmer FIRST Project at Mehal Kalan village. The training, led by university experts,

focused on practical applications of these technologies.

Farmers learned how real-time data could help detect early disease symptoms, manage heat stress, ensure clean water, and improve reproductive efficiency. Sensor equipment was installed in nine dairy farms, and data will be collected over 30 days to provide custom advisories.

The initiative underscores GADVASU's commitment to bridging traditional practices with modern technologies to support sustainable, data-driven dairy farming in Punjab.

J&K REVIEWS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES SECTORS, FOCUSES ON INFRASTRUCTURE, COOPERATIVES, AND MARKET LINKAGES



The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Government, conducted a high-level review of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar. Discussions focused on boosting infrastructure, promoting cooperatives, and enhancing market access for farmers.

A 50,000 LPD UHT Milk Plant was virtually inaugurated at Satwari, Jammu. Officials emphasized organizing dairy operations, reviving cooperatives, and building value chains, particularly

in trout and mutton sectors.

J&K contributes 6.25% to its GDP through livestock and fisheries, with a livestock population of over 144 lakh and 2,875 TMT annual milk production. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), ₹1,364 crore is allocated for livestock and fisheries.

Major achievements include 96 lakh vaccinations, 2.9 lakh insured animals, and deployment of 50 Mobile Veterinary Units. Over 1,800 Pashu Sakhis and 500 hydroponic fodder units have been deployed, with digitization advancing through Kisan Sathi and Daksh Kisan LMS platforms.

US-INDIA TRADE TALKS: FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROWTH



India and the United States are currently in advanced discussions on a bilateral trade agreement, with agriculture playing a key role in the dialogue. As both nations explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, India is prioritizing strategies that ensure sustainable development and long-term resilience for its agricultural sector.

Given the country's vast base of smallholder farmers, India is emphasizing the need to align trade agreements with rural livelihoods, food security, and inclusive growth. Mechanization, technology infusion, and modern farming practices are central to this vision. Collaborative efforts in these areas

could open avenues for investment, knowledge exchange, and innovation in precision farming, post-harvest infrastructure, and value chain development.

India's approach seeks to balance trade opportunities with the imperative of empowering its farm sector through capacity building rather than sudden market shifts. By focusing on mechanization and strategic partnerships, India aims to build a future-ready agricultural economy while fostering stronger, mutually beneficial trade ties with global partners like the US.

MAHARASHTRA TO INVEST ₹25,000 CRORE IN AGRICULTURE OVER FIVE YEARS



In a significant move to modernize agriculture and boost productivity, the Maharashtra government has announced a ₹25,000 crore investment in the state's agricultural sector over the next five years. The initiative aims to lower farming costs and enhance crop output through a comprehensive approach that includes support for drip irrigation, farm mechanization, farm ponds, and efficient water pumps.

The announcement was made by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the inauguration of the 'Krishi Pandhari' agricultural exhibition at the

Pandharpur APMC. The investment also aligns with ongoing efforts to strengthen agricultural marketing systems and rural infrastructure.

Fadnavis emphasized the importance of cooperative societies in bridging the gap between farmers and markets. Plans are underway to transform rural cooperative development societies into multi-purpose institutions capable of handling a wide range of agribusiness services.

Enhanced storage, cold chain facilities, and marketing support will enable farmers to access larger markets and fairer prices, contributing to a more resilient and profitable agricultural economy in the state.

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER TO FARMERS PROPOSED AS KEY TO AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION SAYS VICE PRESIDENT



A strong case has been made for restructuring India's agricultural subsidy framework by directly transferring subsidies to farmers instead of routing them through intermediaries. This shift is seen as a way to empower farmers to make independent choices, promote sustainable practices, and reduce dependency on chemical inputs. Reference was made to successful international models where direct benefit transfers have enabled farmers to manage their resources more efficiently.

It was highlighted that while existing schemes like the PM-Kisan initiative provide ₹6,000 annually to eligible farmers, redirecting the entire subsidy pool—including the ₹3 lakh crore spent annually on fertilisers—directly to farmers could result in each household receiving over ₹30,000. Such a move is expected to encourage natural and organic farming, reduce chemical usage, and improve financial autonomy for over 10 crore farmer families. The approach emphasizes transparency, efficiency, and long-term sustainability in Indian agriculture through direct engagement with the farming community.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST WEATHER DERIVATIVE TO PROTECT AGRICULTURE FROM CLIMATE RISKS



India is set to introduce its first weather derivative product to help farmers and agri-industries hedge against climate-related risks such as erratic rainfall, droughts, and unseasonal weather. This initiative follows a strategic partnership between the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), enabling the development of rainfall-based financial instruments. These contracts will be designed using high-quality, real-time, and historical weather datasets to reflect region-specific climatic patterns with statistical accuracy.

The new instrument is expected to support seasonal, location-specific contracts that empower farmers and related sectors to manage climate uncertainty more effectively. It will enable informed decision-making in agriculture, agro-business, and other allied industries like transport and tourism. The partnership will also promote joint research, training, and capacity-building for farmer producer organizations, traders, and policy stakeholders. This marks a significant step toward building a climate-resilient rural economy through innovative, market-based risk management solutions.

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 397 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, 35 unorganized meetings, 2 organized meetings, 36 retailer visits, 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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