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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA

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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



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FARM MECHANIZATION INSIGHTS



Trichy Farmers Trained on Farm Machinery Use to Tackle Labour Shortage

The Agricultural Engineering Department conducted a training camp in Trichy on Friday to educate farmers on operating and maintaining farm machinery, aiming to reduce manual labour dependence and optimize farming costs. District Collector M Pradeep Kumar inaugurated the camp training 300 farmers in modern agricultural equipment operation and maintenance.

"Farmers are facing labour shortages. Using machines can cut costs by 30% to 40%," said A Kanthasamy, Executive Engineer.

Demonstrations included tractors, power tillers, rotovators, seeders, transplanters, weeders, and harvesters. Officials emphasized understanding machine components to ensure long-term performance. Participants were also introduced to advanced tools like drones and coconut hoisters, encouraging the adoption of smart farming technologies. The initiative is part of a broader effort to modernize agriculture and improve efficiency, especially in regions facing rural labour challenges.

Punjab Boosts Custom Hiring Centres to Curb Stubble Burning

To combat stubble burning, Punjab is set to strengthen custom hiring centres (CHCs) with ₹360 crore from the ₹500-crore crop residue management (CRM) fund sanctioned by the Centre. These centres offer machinery like straw balers and rakes for in-situ and ex-situ paddy straw management. Under the 60:40 Centre-state funding, 1,000 CHCs for in-situ and 500 for ex-situ methods will be set up, each eligible for subsidies up to ₹24 lakh.

Additionally, 4,367 machines — including super seeders and balers — will be distributed to farmers. An extra ₹30 crore is earmarked for ex-situ units to promote straw use in biomass and composting industries.

Stubble burning cases in Punjab have dropped to 10,909 in 2024 from 36,663 in 2023 — a significant decline from 76,000 in 2020.

Officials stress continued investment in mechanisation and straw markets to reach the goal of zero stubble burning in coming years.



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Gujarat Launches 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' to Empower Farmers

Gujarat has launched the state-wide 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan,' a campaign focused on promoting modern and sustainable agricultural technologies and practices. Running from May 29 to June 12, the initiative aims to enhance agricultural productivity and support farmer self-reliance through scientific interventions.



During the campaign, 55 expert teams will visit villages to guide over 3.5 lakh farmers on advanced practices. The program emphasizes the adoption of farm mechanization, natural and climate-resilient farming methods, improved seeds, and precise fertilizer use including nano fertilizers.

It also promotes the use of soil health cards and informs farmers about relevant central and state agricultural schemes. The campaign integrates drone technology and nano urea to enhance sustainable farming, improve productivity, and support farmer livelihoods through innovation and knowledge sharing.



Under the scheme, farmers in the Acholi Sub-region can access equipment by paying just 10% upfront, with the remaining cost repaid quarterly at a 14% annual interest rate. This flexible repayment model aligns with farming cycles, allowing repayments after harvest and sales.

Mechanization Drive to Support 1,500 Smallholder Farmers in Northern Uganda

A new initiative by New Energy Nexus Uganda aims to boost agricultural productivity for 1,500 smallholder farmers in Northern Uganda through access to mechanization equipment. The "Productive Use of Renewable Energy for Agriculture" program focuses on supporting farmers with tools for irrigation, milling, and drying.

The program, in partnership with Tulima Solar, Mercy Corps, and NUTOFA, supports organized farmer groups to boost productivity. Farmers like Christine Amongy highlight how improved tools enhance efficiency, moving towards more sustainable and profitable farming.

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HORTICULTURE INSIGHTS



Malda Horticulture Department Promotes Intercropping in Mango, Litchi Orchards

In a major step towards sustainable agriculture and enhanced farm income, the Horticulture Department in Malda has initiated the promotion of companion cropping, also known as intercropping, in mango and litchi orchards. A specialised training programme was recently organised for local growers, focusing on organic farming methods and efficient land use.

Farmers were encouraged to reduce chemical fertilisers and adopt organic alternatives to improve fruit quality. The initiative aims to transform orchard farming into a more sustainable and economically viable model. With over 200 new mango orchards and nearly 100 litchi plantations in the region, farmers were introduced to methods of cultivating short-duration vegetables and spices in the spaces between trees.

Crops were categorized as short, medium, and long-term. Turmeric, ginger, and yam suit mature orchards; lemon, papaya, and banana fit newer ones; long-term crops include jackfruit, sapodilla, and lemon. Farmers from key blocks actively participated and showed strong interest in adopting these techniques.

15-Day Programme Launched to Empower Farmers, Promote Sustainability

A 15-day awareness and training initiative under the "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" commenced in Pattimpalem village, West Godavari district, focusing on empowering farmers through sustainable agricultural practices. The programme emphasised reducing the use of chemical pesticides and encouraging biocontrol-based management to enhance environmental and crop health.

The importance of the horticulture sector in achieving nutritional security and boosting farmers' income was also highlighted. Officials advocated for balanced fertiliser usage and crop selection guided by soil health cards to ensure long-term productivity.

Experts from agricultural institutions discussed coordinated strategies for the kharif season, focusing on value addition in turmeric, castor, and ashwagandha, natural farming, and oil palm cultivation. The programme also highlighted smart farming using ICT tools and drones. Over 400 farmers, village leaders, and officers attended, gaining practical knowledge.



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FTCCI Promotes Kitchen Gardening for Health, Sustainability, and Urban Well-being

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Agro & Food Processing Committee recently held an informative session, "Grow Your Own Food," promoting kitchen gardening to improve diets and reduce urban stress by encouraging urban residents to use small spaces like balconies and windowsills for chemical-free gardens.



Experts emphasised that home-grown produce not only improves physical health but also supports mental wellness, reconnecting individuals with nature and self-care.

The session shared practical tips on kitchen gardening, organic pest control, and composting methods. It highlighted the numerous health benefits of fresh produce and promoted reducing chemical use in daily life. Kitchen gardening was strongly encouraged to boost overall health, environmental sustainability, and lower carbon footprints.



₹250 Crore Project to Boost Development of Pollachi Coconut Cluster

A ₹250 crore Central government project has been launched under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) of the National Horticulture Board for the development of the Pollachi Coconut Cluster. The project includes a ₹100 crore subsidy and will focus on three key verticals: pre-production and production, post-harvest management and value addition, and logistics, marketing, and branding.

Eligible implementing agencies include Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives, private firms, government bodies, and public sector entities from both state and central governments. The Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA) invites online proposals for a programme by June 25, 2025.

The Pollachi cluster, a 'mega' pilot with over 15,000 hectares, is among 12 nationwide. A ₹75 lakh mobile soil testing lab was launched to hold 12 monthly village camps, advising farmers on soil-based fertilizer use and issuing soil health cards for a nominal fee.

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DAIRY INSIGHTS



Livestock Schemes Reviewed to Boost Dairy Sector in Nagaland

National Level Monitors (NLMs) from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India, conducted a review of central livestock schemes in Nagaland from May 28 to 31. The assessment focused on the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), and National Livestock Mission.

The evaluation was carried out in Peren and Dimapur districts. A state-level briefing was held in Kohima, chaired by the Commissioner and Secretary of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, with participation from DAHD officials, national monitors, and state department representatives.

The review focused on milk productivity, indigenous breed promotion, and animal health. Monitors conducted field visits, engaged with dairy entrepreneurs, and assessed practices to inform policy and operational improvements for better sector outcomes.

Goa to Launch First Veterinary College to Strengthen Livestock and Dairy Sectors

Goa is set to establish its first veterinary college to support the dairy and livestock sectors. The Goa College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences will be located in Curti, Ponda, on a 66,595 square meter site currently occupied by the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services. The land and facilities are leased for 10 years to the new institution.

The college aims to meet the local demand for veterinary education, as students from Goa have traditionally had to study in other states. It will offer a Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (BVSc & AH) program starting from the upcoming academic year.

The initiative is expected to enhance veterinary services, improve animal health management, and promote sustainable livestock farming practices across the state.

Key preparations include upgrading infrastructure, developing laboratories and livestock farms, and recruiting qualified staff. A retired professor from a leading veterinary institute has been appointed as the first dean. This development is anticipated to strengthen Goa's capacity in veterinary education and support growth in the livestock and dairy industries.



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Haryana Launches Statewide Campaign to Promote Dairy and Livestock Development

Haryana has launched the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' from Kurukshetra, aiming to enhance agricultural sustainability with a strong focus on dairy and livestock development. The campaign emphasizes the adoption of scientific practices, advanced technologies, and improved access to animal husbandry services. Jointly led by key agri departments, the initiative promotes integrated farming.



The campaign, continuing through June 12, aims to connect scientific research with on-ground practices. Farmers will be informed about key central and state schemes, including crop insurance and incentives for indigenous cattle. Emphasis is on natural dairy farming and using digital tools for improved livestock management.

It will reach 1,380 villages across 109 blocks, providing localized guidance on livestock care, fodder development, veterinary services, and sustainable dairy practices.



Odisha Expands Support for Dairy Farmers, Increases Milk Procurement Price

On World Milk Day, Odisha announced a ₹1 lakh accidental death compensation for milk producers associated with OMFED and a ₹3 per litre hike in procurement price. Retail milk prices will rise by ₹4 per litre, with ₹2 subsidized by the government and ₹2 borne by consumers. Odisha produced 26.4 lakh metric tonnes of milk in 2023–24, yet per capita availability is just 156 grams, far below the 471-gram national average.

The state aims to double production in five years. Efforts include the Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana, offering up to 70% financial aid for dairy farmers, and the Mukhyamantri Prani Kalyan Yojana, which supports goshalas with cattle care grants.

Three new OMFED dairy products were also introduced during the event. These measures aim to enhance dairy infrastructure, support livestock welfare, and boost milk production, contributing to improved nutrition and rural livelihoods.

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GENERAL AGRICULTURE INSIGHTS

Boost to kharif crops
MSP (₹/quintal)

	2024-25	2025-26	% change
Paddy gr A	2,320	2,389	3.0
Jowar	3,371	3,699	9.7
Bajra	2,625	2,775	5.7
Maize	2,225	2,400	7.9
Ragi	4,290	4,886	13.9
Urad	7,400	7,800	5.4
Tur	7,550	8,000	6.0
Moong	8,682	8,768	1.0
Soyabean	4,892	5,328	8.9
Groundnut	6,783	7,263	7.1
Sunflower	7,280	7,721	6.1
Cotton (long)	7,521	8,110	7.8
Cotton (medium)	7,121	7,710	8.3
Sesame	9,267	9,846	6.2
Niger	8,717	9,537	9.4
Paddy	2,300	2,369	3.0



Soybean MSP Hike Retains Acreage, Offsets Maize Rise in Kharif 2025

The government’s timely decision to raise the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean appears to have stabilized farmer sentiment ahead of the Kharif 2025 season, easing concerns over a potential large-scale shift towards maize. The ₹436 per quintal hike — from ₹4,892 to ₹5,328 — represents an 8.9% increase, the highest among key kharif oilseeds.

Farmers, especially in states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, had been leaning towards maize due to its lower input costs and higher resilience to erratic rainfall. The increased MSP for soybean has boosted interest in oilseed cultivation, supporting goals of import reduction and self-reliance.

Maize, which has seen rising popularity for its cost efficiency, also received a 7.9% MSP hike. But early sowing trends suggest soybean acreage will largely be preserved. Experts highlight the importance of follow-up procurement efforts to ensure the revised MSPs benefit farmers fully and support sustainable crop diversification.

Experts Call for National Weed Management Policy to Boost Food Security

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) hosted a national roundtable, uniting policymakers, researchers, and agri-industry leaders to push for a comprehensive National Weed Management Policy. Themed “National Policy for Weeds Management: Essential for Farmers’ Income and Food Security,” the event stressed the urgent need to address weed-related crop losses that severely impact yields across India.

Speakers highlighted that effective weed control is essential for improving farm productivity and ensuring food security, especially as India’s population continues to grow.

Experts from institutions such as the ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research and the Kisan Vigyan Foundation shared research on sustainable weed management, resistance prevention, and technological innovation.

The roundtable called for a science-based, farmer-focused weed management policy, recommending a Herbicide Resistance Action Committee, streamlined herbicide registration, integrated weed management, and precision farming tools.



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Uttarakhand Launches 'Developed Agriculture Resolution Campaign'

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Developed Agriculture Resolution Campaign' in Gunjyal village, Dehradun, aimed at modernizing agriculture and supporting farmers across Uttarakhand. The campaign will see agricultural scientists and officials reaching out to farmers in 95 development blocks, 670 Nyaya Panchayats, and over 11,000 villages.



From May 29 to June 12, 2,000+ teams will reach 15 million farmers nationwide. In Uttarakhand, daily events will educate 600 farmers on climate-smart farming, soil testing, and crop selection.

Farmers will receive updates on agriculture, animal husbandry, and horticulture schemes, with a focus on feedback, traditional knowledge, and local innovations. Support includes interest-free loans, equipment subsidies, irrigation aid, and higher crop bonuses. Key investments target organic farming, aroma valleys, and polyhouse infrastructure.



UP Targets Outreach to 50 Lakh Farmers Under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

As part of the centrally-driven Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, Uttar Pradesh aims to connect with at least 50 lakh farmers, contributing nearly one-third to the national outreach target of 1.5 crore farmers. The state, responsible for 22% of India's total food grain output despite having only 11% of the agricultural land, plans to modernise agriculture through scientific awareness, sustainable farming, and empowerment initiatives.

Running from May 29 to June 12, the campaign will cover 65,000 villages in 723 districts, focusing on kharif crop technologies, natural farming, and environmental benefits. Uttar Pradesh will support this through Kisan Kalyan Kendras, Kisan Pathshalas, Million Farmers Schools, and 89 KVKs—18 of which are being upgraded to Centres of Excellence.

These KVKs will offer district-specific guidance on improved seeds, soil health, irrigation techniques, drone applications, and crop protection. The campaign also promotes key government schemes, including PM-Kisan, Farmer Registry, and Fasal Bima Yojana, to strengthen farmer welfare and agricultural productivity.

CEASI ACTIVITIES

Empowering Women Farmers through Cluster Farming and Orchard Management Training in Karnal

The Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India (CEHSI) successfully conducted a 3-day residential training-cum-exposure program from 26th to 28th May in Karnal, targeting 30 women farmers under the HP-SHIVA project, which is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The training focused on cluster farming, FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) development and modern horticultural practices in orchard management, with the aim of empowering women through skill development and exposure to sustainable agricultural methods.

As part of this initiative, participants received comprehensive training encompassing theoretical sessions, hands-on practical learning, roleplays, and exposure to advanced technologies. Field visits to the Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre in Kurukshetra and the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruits in Ladwa were organized to provide participants with real-time insights into pollination management, sustainable horticultural practices, and collective farming approaches.

This program aims to equip women farmers with the necessary knowledge, technical skills, and confidence to implement innovative and scalable farming techniques in their communities, promoting long-term agricultural sustainability and women-led development.

