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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA

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## Boosting Odisha's Agricultural Export Potential

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in collaboration with the Odisha Government, held a workshop cum capacity-building program at OUAT, Bhubaneswar, on 25th April 2025. The event featured over 10 stalls from FPOs, women entrepreneurs, exporters, and govt

departments showcasing GI-tagged and value-added agri-products. Highlighted products included Koraput Kalajeera Rice, Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal, Kandhamal Haldi Powder, and Salepur Rasagolla, underlining Odisha's agricultural diversity and export potential.

The workshop included technical sessions on organic farming under the revised NPOP guidelines, rice export strategies, and value addition for GI-tagged products. Discussions focused on certification, infrastructure, and export logistics

A special session brought together over 30 organic grower groups and certification bodies, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The event aimed to strengthen Odisha's agri-export ecosystem and connect stakeholders across the value chain.

## World Veterinary Day 2025 Celebrated with Focus on Animal Health and Teamwork

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying organized a National Workshop in New Delhi to celebrate World Veterinary Day 2025, recognizing veterinarians as key contributors to India's livestock-driven rural economy. The event underscored their role in supporting over 536 million livestock and the

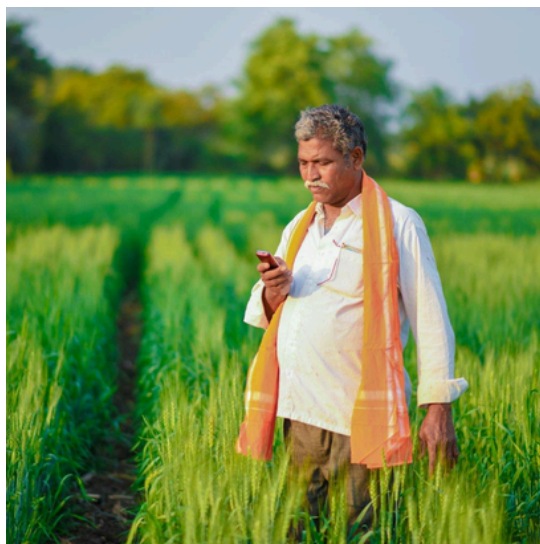


livelihoods of millions of rural families. With the theme "Animal Health Takes a Team," the workshop emphasized collaboration among veterinarians, scientists, and public health professionals. Technical sessions covered disease surveillance, zoonotic disease prevention, and India's Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control efforts through large-scale vaccination drives. Discussions highlighted the significance of indigenous breeds, adoption of technologies like IVF, and the role of digital tools such as Bharat Pashudhan for animal health tracking. The One Health approach was noted for its relevance in managing zoonotic risks. The workshop saw participation from over 250 delegates on-site and 3,000 attendees online, including students, researchers, and farmers. The event reinforced the need for strong veterinary infrastructure and continuous skill development to ensure a resilient livestock sector.

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## YouTube Channel Launched to Keep Muktsar Farmers Informed and Empowered

The Agriculture Department in Muktsar introduced a YouTube channel named Muktsar Kheti Suchnavan to provide farmers with timely agricultural updates in a simple and accessible format. This initiative aimed to ensure that farmers could receive essential information without delays or the need for repeated visits to the agriculture office. Through short and easy-to-understand videos, the channel planned to cover a wide



range of topics such as weather forecasts, government schemes, modern farming techniques, available subsidies, and registration guidelines. Officials stated that the goal was to help farmers make informed decisions and

improve their agricultural practices. The channel was officially launched by Deputy Commissioner Abhijeet Kaplish. Local farmers responded positively, expressing hope that the platform would help them stay better informed. They mentioned that such a resource could reduce their dependency on in-person visits for basic information and help them benefit from schemes and new techniques more effectively.



## Union Agriculture Minister Reviews ICAR Strategies to Boost Crop Yield and Innovation

The Union Minister for Agriculture conducted a high-level meeting with ICAR officials to assess ongoing research and chart future strategies to boost agricultural innovation and productivity. The focus was on leveraging research and advanced technologies to enhance the effectiveness of existing agricultural schemes and improve farm outcomes. Key discussion areas included increasing the yield of crops such as pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and millets

through better seed varieties and scientific farming practices like soil testing and proper pesticide use. Strengthening the farm-to-market value chain and improving the role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in delivering knowledge to farmers were also emphasized, with a special focus on involving women and youth in agricultural development.

The meeting also covered the promotion of climate-resilient farming, development of model farms for smallholders, and certification of natural farming methods. Senior ICAR officials and subject matter experts actively participated, contributing to a shared vision for sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth.

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## Odisha Transfers ₹1025 Crore to Farmers, Unveils ₹1 Lakh Crore Irrigation Plan

On the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and Farmers' Day, the Odisha government disbursed ₹1025 crore directly into the bank accounts of over 51 lakh beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Kisan Yojna. The assistance supported small and marginal farmers, landless families, tribal farmers, and for the first time, urban farmers to begin

cultivation for the 2025 crop season. During the event in Bhubaneswar, the government acknowledged the vital role of farmers in transforming Odisha into a grain-surplus state. Officials also highlighted the importance of adopting climate-resilient agriculture to tackle changing weather patterns and sustain productivity. Future plans included expanding irrigation coverage to 15 lakh hectares and establishing cold storage facilities in every subdivision over the next five years, aiming to boost crop preservation and reduce post-harvest losses.

Additionally, the state announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹3,100 per quintal for paddy, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring fair returns for farmers and strengthening the agricultural economy.

## Bihar Announces ₹8.39 Crore Compensation for Farmers Affected by April Storms

The Bihar government approved a compensation package of over ₹8.39 crore to support farmers affected by unseasonal rain, hailstorms, and strong winds in early April. This relief covers eight severely impacted districts: Supaul, Nalanda, Samastipur, Gaya, Madhubani, Nawada, Madhepura, and Begusarai. The assistance, under the agriculture input subsidy scheme, is directed at farmers who suffered over 33% crop



loss, based on assessments submitted by District Magistrates. Compensation will be credited directly to beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Crops damaged during the April 9–14 weather events included wheat, maize, various pulses, sesame, groundnut, onions, bananas, and betel leaves. The affected produce ranged from maturing crops to those ready for harvest.

The Agriculture and Disaster Management Departments coordinated fund disbursement to ensure timely support, reinforcing the government's commitment to helping farmers recover from weather-related agricultural setbacks.



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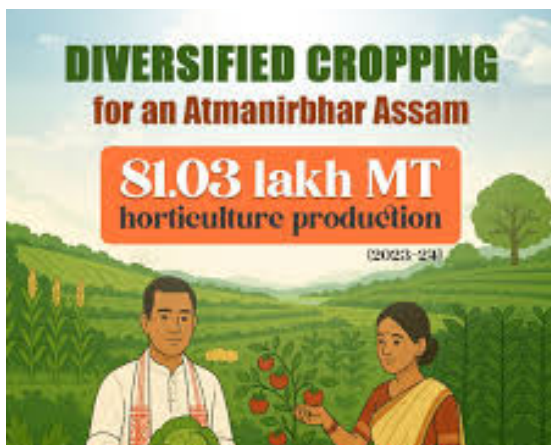
## T.N. CM Stalin Honors Farmers for Excellence in Organic Farming

On May 2, 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin presented the Nammazhvar award for excellence in organic farming to three farmers at the Secretariat in Chennai. The awards recognized the efforts of farmers from Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and Nagapattinam districts for their dedication to sustainable agricultural practices.



G. Sampathkumar from Coimbatore received the first prize, which included a ₹2.5 lakh cheque and a medal. T. Jagadeesh from Tiruppur and V. Kalidoss from Nagapattinam were awarded second and third prizes, receiving ₹1.5 lakh and ₹1 lakh, respectively, along with medals. These awards are part of

the state's ongoing efforts to promote organic farming and sustainable practices. The TN government has been actively promoting organic farming through campaigns and exposure visits across 386 blocks in the state. The Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom scheme supports the transition to pesticide-free farming, contributing to soil health and chemical-free food.



## Horticulture Boosted Assam's Agricultural Growth with 81 Lakh MT Output

Assam experienced strong growth in horticulture during 2023-24, marking a shift in the state's agricultural landscape. The total horticultural production reached 81.03 lakh metric tonnes, with crops cultivated across 6.76 lakh hectares. These crops accounted for around 15% of the gross crop area, reflecting a growing trend among farmers to diversify beyond traditional paddy cultivation. The shift was influenced by multiple factors, including

shrinking paddy land due to erosion, industrialisation, and infrastructure development. Farmers showed increased interest in cultivating fruits, vegetables, and spices due to their higher commercial value and better market opportunities. The use of improved technology, quality planting materials, and enhanced harvesting and transportation methods further contributed to this

rise in productivity. Horticulture exports from Assam also gained momentum, with lemons reaching London, pineapples to Dubai, and ginger and turmeric to Switzerland through APEDA-accredited exporters. The involvement of young farmers, attracted by the profitability and export potential of horticulture, played a key role in driving this growth.

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## Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025: ₹255 Crore for Sustainable Fisheries

The Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025, led by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh in Mumbai, announced ₹255 crore worth of projects for seven coastal states and UTs under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The event also launched the 5th Marine Fisheries Census and the VyAS-NAV app for digital data collection from 1.2 million fisher households.

Shri Singh distributed aqua insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) to ensure financial security for fishermen. The VyAS-NAV app, developed by ICAR-CMFRI, aims to enhance data collection efficiency.

The 5th Marine Fisheries Census will be completed by December 2025, documenting marine fisher families, infrastructure, and fishing activities. Guidelines on Turtle Excluder Devices and vessel communication SOPs were also released to promote sustainable fisheries practices.

## Custom Hiring Scheme Boosts MP Farmers and Rural Employment

The Custom Hiring Scheme, under SMAM, was introduced in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, to help small farmers with up to 40% subsidy and a 3% interest rebate on agricultural machinery. This enabled farmers to increase productivity and earn extra income by renting out equipment.

The scheme also benefited unemployed rural youth, aged 18-40, who received training in machinery operation and maintenance. After training, they could purchase farming tools with subsidies.

In Shahdol, 52 Custom Hiring Centres were established, providing access to modern farming equipment and promoting agricultural efficiency in underserved villages.

Farmers like Seema Baiga and Neeraj Singh Parmar used the equipment to improve their yields and generate additional income, while also supporting rural entrepreneurship.





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## Rubber Board Launches Digital Mapping of Rubber Plantations in Karnataka

The Rubber Board has launched a digital mapping project in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, to map land ownership and boundaries of rubber plantations. This initiative aims to improve plantation management and will expand to other regions, aligning with global sustainability regulations like the EU's Deforestation Regulation.



to ensure compliance with EUDR, the board has partnered with Trayambhu Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd to develop supply chain mapping and traceability systems. This involves 100% polygon mapping of rubber plantations, improving transparency and traceability in the supply chain.

Alongside the mapping, the Rubber Board is working on certifying natural rubber under the Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (ISNR) scheme. This will enhance India's rubber production and strengthen its global market position. All collected data will be stored in a secure, centralized database to maintain confidentiality and ensure data integrity.



## Sikkim Promotes Microgreens Farming to Boost Livelihoods and Urban Agriculture

The Sikkim agriculture department launched an initiative to promote microgreens farming, aiming to diversify farming and create new livelihoods. Technical support was provided by the Centre of Floriculture and Agri-Business Management (Cofam), which trained 150 government officials in terrace and vertical farming techniques suited to urban areas. The project focused on introducing microgreens as a sustainable farming option in urban

areas like Gangtok, where land is limited. It encouraged residents and institutions, particularly in tourism, to grow their own greens, while offering farmers additional income and business opportunities. Polyhouses were introduced for

vertical farming, enabling year-round microgreens cultivation. The project also trained agriculture officials to pass on their knowledge to farmers and youth, providing skill development and creating new income options in agriculture.

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## Sugarcane Price Raised to ₹355/Quintal for 2025–26 Season

The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane was increased to ₹355 per quintal for the 2025–26 sugar season, marking a 4.41% rise from the previous year's rate of ₹340. This revision was made with consideration for both farmer welfare and the operational viability of sugar mills, with adjustments linked to sugar recovery rates to ensure fairness.

To support farmers further, it was decided that there would be no deductions for sugar mills with a recovery rate below 9.5%. For such cases, farmers would receive ₹329.05 per quintal. The revised FRP was reported to be 105.2% above the production cost of ₹173, ensuring profitability for sugarcane growers.

Sugarcane cultivation and its allied industries provide livelihood to nearly five crore farmers and five lakh mill workers across the country. The pricing decision was informed by recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and consultations with various stakeholders.

## India Rolled Out Genome-Edited Rice Varieties to Enhance Yield

India has introduced two new genome-edited rice varieties—Kamala (DRR Dhan-100) and Pusa DST Rice 1—designed to boost yields by up to 30% and reduce water use and greenhouse gas emissions. These crops mature 15–20 days earlier than traditional varieties, offering both productivity and environmental benefits.

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In field trials, Kamala delivered a 19% higher yield than Samba Mahsuri, while Pusa DST Rice 1 showed a 9–30% increase depending on the soil. These varieties are recommended for states across southern, eastern, and central India.

The seeds will take a few years to reach farmers through certified seed production. Their launch marks a milestone in India's push for sustainable and high-yield farming through advanced science.





# CEASI ACTIVITIES

## Promoting Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation in Ayodhya



Through these efforts, the project aims to create awareness among local farmers about the importance of sustainable agriculture for both improved yields and environmental conservation. Additionally, 10 model plots have been developed across 1 acre of land in Ayodhya, serving as demonstration sites for sustainable farming techniques.

Under the Sashwat Mithas project, the Centers of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India, in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, is implementing sustainable sugarcane cultivation practices in Ayodhya. The project focuses on enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills related to eco-friendly farming techniques. A dedicated team is actively conducting field surveys to assess current farming practices and identify areas for improvement.

These demonstration plots showcase sustainable methods of sugarcane cultivation, including water management, soil health improvement, and the use of organic fertilizers. They are designed to guide farmers in adopting better practices for a more productive and environmentally friendly farming approach.





# CEASI ACTIVITIES

## Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills Organized Orientation Program on Dairy Cattle Feed in Khanapara, Assam



The Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) organized a one-day orientation training program on dairy cattle feed at Khanapara, Assam. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge of dairy farmers, extension workers, and stakeholders on modern cattle feeding practices to improve milk production and animal health.

The session was conducted by an eminent professional from the dairy sector, who shared critical insights into balanced nutrition, feed formulation, fodder management, and cost-effective feeding techniques. Participants received practical guidance on improving cattle productivity through scientific feed practices, ensuring better returns and sustainable dairy farming.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from dairy farmers reflecting a strong interest in adopting scientific dairy practices across the region. CEDSI's initiative marked another step forward in building capacity and promoting best practices in India's dairy sector, particularly in the North-East region.





# WHO ARE WE

**“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)

