

CEASI

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



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Visits Agricultural Machinery Factory in Patiala

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Patiala, Punjab, as part of the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan'. He met with farmers, inspected crop fields, and toured a farm machinery factory in Amargarh. Shri Chouhan emphasized that India is now capable of producing modern agricultural machines for both domestic use and export.

He highlighted the importance of affordable tools for small farmers and stressed that subsidies should be given only to deserving beneficiaries. He encouraged the use of machines for planting and harvesting to reduce costs and labour, and called for the adoption of climate-resilient seeds and techniques.

Shri Chouhan appreciated Punjab farmers for their major role in feeding the nation and said that agriculture remains a key pillar of the Indian economy. He urged collaboration between states, scientists, and industries to make farming more profitable and sustainable. The visit concluded with a call to make India a leader in agricultural innovation and mechanization.

India's First International Agri Hackathon Concludes in Pune

India's first International Agri Hackathon concluded in Pune with a focus on using technology to improve farming. The event brought together farmers, startups, students, and experts to find smart and practical solutions for agriculture. Speakers at the closing ceremony highlighted the impact of climate change on farming and stressed the need for modern tools and innovation to help farmers increase productivity.

They urged that these solutions be made available at the grassroots level. A major announcement was the launch of the 'Clean Plant' Program to provide farmers with disease-free planting material. Three major centers will be set up in Maharashtra for grapes (Pune), oranges (Nagpur), and pomegranates (Solapur), with support for modern nurseries.

The new 'Lab to Land' policy will connect 16,000 agricultural scientists with farmers across India to share useful techniques directly in the fields. The event ended with awards for the best agri-tech ideas in areas like AI, irrigation, mechanization, and market linkages, highlighting a bright future for Indian agriculture.



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Farm Mechanization Highlighted at Konkan Agri-Tech Conference

The Maharashtra State Mango Growers Association (MSMGA) organized a Conference and Exhibition in Sahan, Alibag (Raigad) to address challenges faced by farmers in the Konkan region, especially due to changing climate conditions. The event focused on practical technologies to support sustainable farming and reduce crop losses.



Farm mechanization was a key focus, with tools and techniques for horticulture, irrigation, and processing on display. An electric tractor designed for small and medium farms drew attention for its potential to reduce fuel costs and support eco-friendly practices.

Experts showcased machines tailored to regional farming needs. Drone technology was introduced for efficient crop monitoring and spraying. MSMGA President emphasized modern tools to tackle weather challenges and boost yields. Officials, including the Joint Director of Agriculture, assured ongoing support, including crop insurance. The event promoted mechanization for climate-resilient farming.



Goa Takes First Steps Towards Drone Use in Paddy Farming

Goa's paddy farmers are increasingly turning to mechanisation to overcome labour shortages and reduce costs during the ongoing kharif season. While drone use for spraying fertilisers and pesticides is still emerging, early efforts in areas like Chinchinim and Salcete are showing promising results. With growing awareness and local success stories, Goa is steadily moving toward modern, tech-driven, and sustainable farming practices.

Local farming group 'Goencho Xetkar', led by Fr George Quadros from Don Bosco, Fatorda, has pioneered drone use in Goa's agriculture. Their efficient spraying methods are helping farmers save time and reduce chemical usage by targeting only the affected areas. What once took a week can now be done in a single day with drones.

The Agriculture Department sees great potential in expanding drone use and is encouraging more farmers, especially women-led Self Help Groups, to explore the Central government's 'Drone Didi Yojana'. The scheme offers up to 80% subsidy on drone purchases to support rural entrepreneurship.

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HORTICULTURE INSIGHTS



Uttarakhand to Emerge as National Hub for Horticulture with Centre-State Push

In a focused effort to transform Uttarakhand into a national horticulture hub, both the central and state governments have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the sector. The state's unique produce—including high-quality fruits, grains, and vegetables—holds significant potential to establish a global footprint.

Officials emphasized integrated efforts to promote modern agricultural techniques, improve market access at national and international levels, and support farmers through robust schemes related to seeds, irrigation, marketing, and crop insurance. During a recent grassroots interaction, stakeholders engaged directly with farmers cultivating litchi, basmati rice, jackfruit, and vegetables to assess the ground-level impact of existing initiatives.

Discussions emphasized farmer engagement through direct dialogue and feedback. Plans include boosting natural farming, adopting new technologies, and conserving water for sustainable, profitable agriculture. A plantation drive highlighted the event's green growth vision.

Centre Allocates ₹300 Crore for Horticulture Facilities in Maharashtra

The central government has announced an investment of ₹300 crore for setting up three advanced horticulture facilities in Maharashtra under the Clean Plant Programme. Centers in Pune, Nagpur, and Solapur will provide disease-free saplings of grapes, oranges, and pomegranates. The initiative aims to boost horticulture by improving planting material quality.

These facilities will serve as a major boost for horticulture farmers, helping them improve both production and profitability. Maharashtra, recognized as a key horticulture-producing state, has been a leader in cultivating quality grapes, oranges, pomegranates, and vegetables.

The Clean Plant Programme is part of a broader plan to establish nine such centers across the country, ensuring farmers get reliable and healthy planting materials. The announcement was made during an agricultural innovation event, where the importance of technology in tackling climate-related agricultural challenges was also emphasized.



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Uttar Pradesh Strengthens Agricultural Innovation with Global Technology Centres

Uttar Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a leader in agricultural modernization by setting up Indo-Israel-Dutch-supported Centres of Excellence in Mirzapur, Bundelkhand, and Barabanki. These centers focus on dragon fruit, citrus, and flower-vegetable cultivation, introducing high-value crops and advanced global farming techniques to local farmers.



These centers will serve as training hubs, showcasing modern practices from planting to post-harvest, helping farmers diversify produce and enhance profitability. Uttar Pradesh ranks second nationally for CoEs using

international technology and is expanding with six centers for fruits, vegetables, honey, and aeroponic potatoes, targeting 28 crore quality saplings annually across 150 facilities. Export efforts include mango farming innovation and a Testing Treatment Park near Jewar, promoting sustainable, export-focused agriculture.



Bihar Begins Vegetable Exports to Dubai Under Cooperative Model

Bihar has initiated green vegetable exports to Dubai through its newly formed cooperative marketing federation, VEGFED, modeled after the state's dairy cooperative system. The first 1,500 kg consignment of jackfruit, cauliflower, eggplant, bitter gourd, and bottle gourd was sent from Varanasi to Dubai's Lulu Mall. Bihar begins promoting vegetable production and global marketing via farmer cooperatives in Tirhut, Magadh, Vaishali, and Champaran.

VEGFED aims to provide farmers with significantly higher returns—over 20 times more than the domestic market—by enabling international access. A demand of 45 metric tonnes has already been received from Dubai, and the next shipment is planned for Singapore.

Bihar plans to establish 534 'Tarkari' retail outlets, with 200 plots already funded. VEGFED committees have been formed in 495 blocks and four unions, with full coverage soon. This initiative aims to replicate the success of dairy cooperatives in the vegetable sector, boosting farmer incomes and market access.

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DAIRY INSIGHTS



UP to Establish Dairy FPOs, Buy Milk Directly from Producers

The Uttar Pradesh government is taking significant steps to support milk producers by planning the establishment of Dairy Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) to enable direct milk procurement at fair prices from village-level producers. The initiative was announced during the launch of the Nand Baba Milk Mission Office and Milk Development Portal by the Animal Husbandry Minister Dharmpal Singh.

Over the past five years, ₹1,000 crore has been invested under the Nand Baba Milk Mission to develop the dairy sector. A pilot dairy FPO project in five districts will launch in 2023–24, emphasizing women's participation, creating a producer database, promoting indigenous breeds, and offering farmer incentives.

Committees at state and district levels will oversee project progress. Additionally, farmers will receive cattle disease testing kits and milk adulteration test kits to help ensure product quality and animal health. These efforts aim to strengthen the dairy sector and improve livelihoods for milk producers in the state.

Himachal Pradesh Introduces MSP for Milk to Support Farmers

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to implement a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for milk, marking a significant step in supporting livestock farmers and improving rural livelihoods. The government procures over 2.32 lakh litres of milk daily, paying ₹51 per litre for cow milk and ₹61 per litre for buffalo milk.

This benefits more than 38,000 cow milk suppliers and nearly 1,500 buffalo rearers. A transport subsidy of ₹2 per litre helps farmers in hilly areas access markets more easily.

Under the Him Ganga Yojana, 268 new dairy cooperatives have been formed in Hamirpur and Kangra districts, with 110 registered so far.

Notably, women lead 20 of the new societies in Hamirpur, promoting inclusive growth. A pilot project for goat milk procurement has also begun, offering ₹70 per litre and collecting 100 litres daily from 15 farmers. The transport subsidy for cooperatives has increased to ₹3 per litre, supported by a ₹6 crore annual fund. These initiatives aim to strengthen the dairy sector and promote sustainable rural development in the state.



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Rajasthan Govt to Hold Livestock Fairs Across Districts

The Rajasthan government, in collaboration with the Centre, is set to organize livestock fairs at the divisional level and in 11 additional districts to promote animal husbandry and strengthen rural livelihoods. According to Joraram Kumat, Minister for Devasthan and Animal Husbandry, the fairs aim to provide cattle owners access to high-quality breeds and guidance on breed improvement programs.



Rajasthan, home to over 4,000 Gaushalas and Nandishalas, is addressing challenges from a high bull population through initiatives to expand livestock fairs from 7 to 44 districts. This aims to enhance service access and livestock quality. These efforts mark a new chapter in strengthening the state's livestock sector and rural economy.

Brazilian Gir cattle semen, yielding 40–50 litres daily, will be subsidised. The Sex-Sorted Semen scheme, with a 90% chance of female calves, aims to boost productivity and support breeders.



APEDA & DAHD Host Roundtable on Boosting Livestock and Value-Added Exports

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) jointly organized a roundtable in New Delhi on “Exports of Livestock and their Value-Added Products – Future Prospects and Way Forward.” Chaired by DAHD Secretary Alka Upadhyaya, the event united officials, experts, and industry leaders to discuss strengthening India's livestock export ecosystem.

Key focus areas included disease control, FMD-free infrastructure in nine states, traceability, quality systems, and improved market access. Discussions set a 20% livestock export growth target, promoted star ratings for export units, and emphasized resource mobilization and hygienic processing to boost competitiveness.

The workshop emphasized inter-ministerial collaboration and using trade agreements to boost exports. With animal product exports at USD 5.1 billion last fiscal, discussions focused on creating a strategic roadmap to establish India as a leading global exporter of livestock and value-added products.

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GENERAL AGRICULTURE INSIGHTS



India to Safeguard Farmers' Interests in U.S. Trade Talks

India will safeguard the interests of its farmers during ongoing agricultural trade negotiations with the United States, said Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. As both countries work to expand bilateral trade, India will assess the benefits and challenges before finalizing any agreement to protect its agricultural community.

Chouhan emphasized that India will not make decisions without considering the impact on its farmers and will ensure that any deal is balanced and fair. The talks aim to set a framework for the first phase of a bilateral agreement expected by fall 2025.

India exports products like basmati rice and spices to the U.S., while the U.S. aims to increase exports of corn, soybeans, and animal feed to India. However, high tariffs and India's cautious approach to fully opening agriculture and dairy markets remain key challenges.

Loan Support for PACS to Boost Food Storage Network

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has called for expanding loan facilities to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The move aims to strengthen PACS financially and involve them more deeply in India's cooperative food grain storage network—the largest such initiative in the world.

During a review meeting, Shah emphasized the need for PACS to play a key role in this scheme, ensuring both financial stability and social benefit at the grassroots level. He directed national-level mapping of warehouses and urged agencies like FCI, NAFED, and State Warehousing Corporations to link PACS with existing infrastructure.

The plan includes engaging more PACS at the state level and connecting them with State Marketing Federations to create a full cooperative supply chain. Shah said the initiative supports GDP growth and rural employment, aligning with the goals of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Sahkar Se Samridhi.'



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Goa Implements Centre's Digital System for Accurate Crop Yield Estimation

The state agriculture department has adopted a modern digital system developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture to estimate crop yields more accurately. This system features real-time data entry via a mobile app, GPS-tagged images for verification, automated plot selection to minimize errors, and a centralized web dashboard for monitoring.

The Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES) replaces manual methods with a faster, transparent system. So far, 60 paddy and six sugarcane plots have been surveyed, with ongoing assessments of rabi crops like pulses, groundnuts, and vegetables.



The initiative has three phases: planning district sampling, conducting crop cutting experiments, and generating yield estimates with automated analytics. Training for farmers and officers is ongoing. The system aims to streamline processes and provide reliable, timely data for smarter agricultural monitoring.



New Centre of Excellence to Boosts Agricultural Innovation

A new Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) was launched to boost innovation and collaboration among Global South countries. It aims to scale proven solutions, promote knowledge exchange, and build partnerships to address shared agricultural challenges. A strategic MoU was signed to promote sustainable agriculture through shared expertise and capacity building.

ISSCA includes a digital platform that stores validated innovations, supports peer learning, and promotes affordable technologies for dryland and developing regions. It fosters inclusive agricultural transformation in the Global South through coordinated investment, action, and partnerships.

It will also support climate-smart farming practices by integrating sustainable production systems and digital technologies, thereby contributing to resilient and prosperous agricultural development in partner countries.

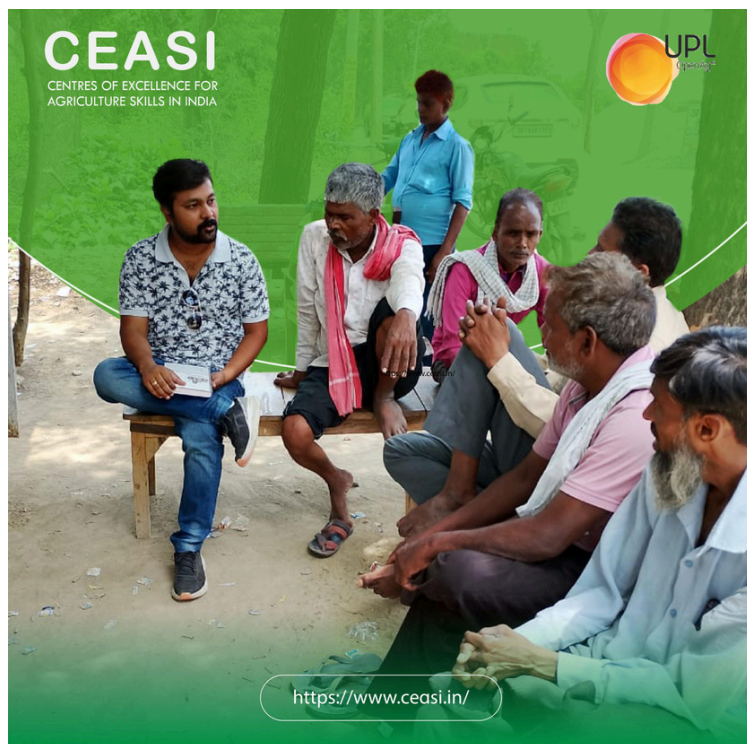
CEASI ACTIVITIES

Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India: Promoting Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation in Ayodhya

Under the Sashwat Mithas project, the Centres 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.

Additionally, the establishment of demonstration plots is underway at the field level, showcasing sustainable methods of sugarcane cultivation. These demo plots serve as practical examples to guide farmers in adopting better practices, which include water management, soil health improvement, and the use of organic fertilizers. 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.

We celebrated World Environment Day by planting trees in Ayodhya district and highlighted their importance for soil conservation, microclimate regulation, and long-term farm productivity. These efforts aim to raise awareness about sustainable agriculture while delivering practical, hands-on learning to local farmers.



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.

