

GOE HARVEST

8th September 2025



ASCI
Agriculture Skill Council of India

CEASI
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



CEFMI
Centre of Excellence for
Farm Mechanization Skills in India

CEHSI
Centre of Excellence for
Horticulture Skills in India

www.ceasi.in



Dear Readers,

It is a privilege to reach you through our weekly newsletter, which reflects the pulse of CEASI working under the aegis of ASCI, our collective journey toward skill development and sustainable agriculture. Every story we share here is a testament to the dedication of our teams, partners, and farming communities.

Our mission remains clear: to empower farmers and agri-professionals with the skills, knowledge, and technology they need to thrive in a changing world. By combining innovation with grassroots engagement, we are laying the foundation for a more productive, resilient, and inclusive agricultural sector.

I invite you to read, learn, and actively participate in the opportunities this newsletter presents. Your involvement is what transforms ideas into impact.

Dr. Satender Singh Arya
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Readers,

CEASI weekly newsletter is not only a summary of activities. Rather it is a platform to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen our shared vision for the future of Indian agriculture and its allied sectors like Dairy, Horticulture, Farm Mechanisation, Climate resilience, to name a few. Each edition carries stories of innovation, collaboration, and progress from across the agriculture domain and across geographies.

As we move forward, our focus will continue to be on sharing knowledge, latest developments, building capacity, and sharing success stories at every level from the farmer's field to the policymaker, ensuring that modern tools, techniques, and best practices reach those who need them most.

I agree that this newsletter is at its nascent stage. I encourage the readers and stakeholders to stay engaged with the initiatives, trainings, and updates featured here, and to share the salient achievements and developments that can be published herein. Your ideas for improvement of coverage, publication frequency, new sections to be included and feedback will be of immense importance to make it a model periodical that will provide opportunities to grow stronger and together.

Jaswant Singh Kalsi
Chief Operating Officer

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

FARMERS TO SAVE BIG ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY WITH GST RATE CUT

Tractor Parts & Spares
Get Major GST Cut

Modern Agriculture, Lower Costs

18% GST

5% GST

Cheaper Tyres, Tubes, Engine parts, and Accessories mean lower repair and maintenance costs, keeping tractors affordable and reliable.

**More savings in farmers' pockets,
More power in their hands**

Farmers across India are set to benefit from a major reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on agricultural machinery. The GST Council has approved lowering the tax rate on equipment such as tractors, harvesters, and seed drills from 18% to 5%. The change will come into effect on September 22 and is expected to reduce input costs, encourage farm mechanisation, and improve productivity.

With the revised rates, farmers can now save significantly on new purchases. For example, the cost of a 35 HP tractor will drop by around ₹41,000, while a 75 HP tractor will be cheaper by about ₹63,000. A harvester combine will see savings of nearly ₹1.87 lakh, and smaller equipment such as power tillers, threshers, and seeders will also cost less.

Experts believe these reductions will make modern machinery more affordable, enabling farmers to adopt efficient practices, lower production costs, and ultimately increase farm incomes.

BIHAR EXPANDS FARM MACHINERY BANKS TO SUPPORT SMALL FARMERS



Patna: Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha announced that the Bihar government is expanding Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) under the state's agriculture road map to provide modern equipment to small and marginal farmers.

So far, 569 FMBs have been established, with a target of 38 more in the current financial year. Under the scheme, an 80% subsidy up to ₹8 lakh is provided on a project cost of ₹10 lakh, making advanced farm machinery affordable and reducing the financial burden on farmers.

Each FMB is required to include at least one

machine for ploughing, sowing or planting, harvesting, and threshing, tailored to the local crop cycle. This ensures timely access to machinery and helps increase productivity.

The scheme is open to a wide range of groups including Jeevika SHGs, farmer clubs, FPOs, FPCs, PACS, and federations linked with NABARD or ATMA. Officials say the initiative is a major step towards giving small farmers access to technology comparable to larger farms.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE - RESILIENT TECHNOLOGIES HELD IN HYDERABAD



The ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad organized a two-day Capacity Building Programme on “Technology Demonstrations for Enhancing Resilience” from 24th to 25th July 2022. The programme was conducted under the Technology Demonstration Component of the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA).

Inaugurating the event, Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), ICAR, emphasised NICRA’s vital role in raising awareness on climate change from farmers to policymakers. He noted that many state governments have

launched climate-resilient programmes and schemes inspired by NICRA’s experience. He also appreciated the contribution of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and village institutions in grassroots-level sensitisation.

Dr. V.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-CRIDA, highlighted the adoption of a farming system typology-based approach, risk and vulnerability mapping, and collaborations with national programmes like NMSA for wider impact.

The programme saw active participation from officials of ICAR institutes, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes, and KVKs.

HARYANA APPROVES ₹315 CRORE PLAN TO MODERNISE IRRIGATION SYSTEM



Chandigarh, September 2, 2025: The Haryana government has approved a major initiative to strengthen and modernise the state’s irrigation network. In a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Irrigation and Water Resources Department cleared a comprehensive remodelling plan for minors, with 54 projects to be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹315 crore.

Under the scheme, 30 canals will be rehabilitated and 24 canals will be remodelled using modern technology. The work will focus on improving the depth, width, and structure of canals to ensure timely and adequate supply of water to farmers.

According to the Chief Minister, the project will help provide sufficient irrigation water, reduce farmers’ reliance on underground resources, and improve agricultural productivity. Additionally, the measures are expected to address issues of waterlogging in rural areas.

The initiative marks an important step towards sustainable water management and ensuring long-term benefits for the state’s farming community.

ANDHRA PRADESH REVIEWS FERTILISER SUPPLY AND HORTICULTURE CROP MANAGEMENT



A high-level review meeting was held in Andhra Pradesh to address fertiliser availability, horticulture crops, and market-related issues. Officials reported that more than 200,000 metric tons of fertilisers had been delivered to the state this season. Discussions focused on curbing black market activities and exploring subsidy options for farmers reducing the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Emphasis was placed on continuous monitoring of crop cultivation, supply, and consumption to ensure timely interventions and support to farmers.

The review also highlighted the need to align support prices for horticultural crops with the

cost of cultivation, ensuring fair returns to farmers. Special attention was given to pest challenges in coffee plantations, with immediate measures directed for removal of affected crops to prevent further spread. Officials assured that necessary compensation would be provided to farmers undertaking such preventive steps. The meeting underscored the state's commitment to improving agricultural practices, safeguarding crop health, and strengthening horticulture marketing systems.

JALGAON BANANA CLUSTER SET TO BOOST EXPORTS UNDER NATIONAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM



The banana cluster of Jalgaon has been included in the Cluster Development Program of the National Horticulture Board, opening new opportunities for farmers and traders to access global markets. With support of up to one hundred crores, the initiative aims to strengthen banana production, post-harvest management, and value addition. Jalgaon, known for cultivating bananas across nearly 68,000 hectares in talukas such as Raver, Yawal, Muktainagar, and Chopda, benefits from favorable land, water, and climate conditions, making its produce highly demanded both within India and abroad.

The program will provide farmers with high-quality tissue culture seedlings, mechanisation support, training, warehouses, pack houses, ripening chambers, processing units, and cold chain infrastructure. Emphasis will also be placed on logistics, branding, and marketing to enhance competitiveness in domestic and export markets. Covering over 15,000 hectares, the cluster will ensure better returns by reducing losses from inadequate storage and improving banana quality for exports. This initiative marks a significant step towards making Jalgaon bananas globally competitive.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES PROPEL INDIA'S HORTICULTURE OUTPUT TO RECORD 367.72 MILLION TONNES



NEW DELHI: India's horticulture sector has shown remarkable growth over the past decade, supported by targeted government schemes and diversification into high-value crops. According to the second advanced estimates for 2024-25, total horticulture production has risen to 367.72 million tonnes from 280.70 million tonnes in 2013-14. This includes 114.51 million tonnes of fruits, 219.67 million tonnes of vegetables, and 33.54 million tonnes of other horticulture crops. Fruit production has increased by nearly 30 percent and vegetable output by 22 percent in the past decade, with notable gains in productivity as well.

The growth is attributed to initiatives such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, the Horticulture Cluster Development Programme, and the Clean Plant Programme, which aim to improve crop quality, productivity, and farmers' market access. These programmes focus on providing high-quality planting material, creating Centres of Excellence for training and technology demonstration, and strengthening post-harvest infrastructure. Together, they are positioning India's horticulture sector for greater competitiveness in domestic and global markets.

BAGALKOT HOSTS WORKSHOP ON BAELE FRUIT CULTIVATION AND MARKETING



BAGALKOT: The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot organized a one-day workshop on the cultivation, marketing, and utilization of Juice Bilwa (Bael) fruit. Experts highlighted the potential of the crop, scientifically known as *Aegle marmelos*, emphasizing its suitability for drought-prone areas such as the Kalyana Karnataka region. They noted that this marks the first introduction of the crop in Karnataka, opening new opportunities for diversification in horticulture.

As part of the initiative, the State's four farm universities have procured more than 7,000 grafted saplings of Juice Bilwa from the Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Godhra, and nurseries in Uttar Pradesh. These saplings will be distributed to observation nurseries and selected farmers to promote trial cultivation and assess adaptability. Registered participants of the workshop also received saplings for on-field trials. The event underscored the potential of Juice Bilwa in creating new avenues for farmers while supporting sustainable horticultural practices in water-scarce regions.

RAJASTHAN SETS VISION TO BECOME INDIA'S LARGEST DAIRY HUB



Rajasthan has unveiled an ambitious vision to transform itself into the country's largest dairy hub, with a strong focus on empowering farmers, animal keepers, and milk producers. Speaking at the Gau Mahakumbh in Jaipur, key initiatives were highlighted to boost the state's dairy sector and strengthen livestock management.

Under the Chief Minister Milk Producer Incentive Scheme, ₹500 crore has been earmarked, with ₹468 crore already disbursed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). To support producers, a subsidy of ₹5 per litre is being provided, along with ensuring an average price of ₹864 per kg of fat.

Additional measures include expanding loan facilities through the Gopal Credit Card, offering insurance coverage of ₹3 lakh to more than 33,000 milk producers, and allocating ₹2,791 crore for cow protection and promotion. Registered Gaushalas are receiving daily assistance of ₹50 per cow and ₹25 for calves. Further, ₹62 crore has been allocated under the Nandishala Sahyogita Yojana to develop panchayat-level infrastructure.

GST CUT TO BOOST AFFORDABILITY AND ADOPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS



The recent reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) on dairy products from 12% to 5% has been welcomed by leading dairy cooperatives, who believe the move will drive wider adoption of milk-based products and support millions of farmers.

Mr. Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Amul, said the decision will benefit 36 lakh farmer families in Gujarat and over 10 crore families across India connected to the dairy industry. He noted that more than 30 dairy and food categories under Amul will see lower tax rates, which will enhance consumption and ensure sustainable income growth for milk producers.

Mr. Manish Bandlish, Managing Director of

Mother Dairy, also hailed the reform, calling it a significant step for the sector. He highlighted that reduced GST on paneer, cheese, ghee, butter, UHT milk, beverages, and ice creams will increase affordability, strengthen demand for packaged value-added dairy products, and create stronger opportunities for farmers, while ensuring consumers receive safe, quality offerings at better value.

HASSAN'S ₹790-CRORE MEGA DAIRY TO OPEN BY MARCH 2026 WITH TOURISM AND YOUTH INITIATIVES



A mega dairy project worth over ₹790 crore is set to be inaugurated in Hassan by March 2026, aiming to strengthen the region's dairy sector while opening avenues for tourism and youth engagement. The facility is being constructed at the KIADB industrial area on the outskirts of the city under the Hassan Cooperative Milk Producers' Society Union.

The upcoming plant is expected to significantly enhance the processing and capacity-building strength of the Hassan dairy, which already stands among the best-performing dairies in Karnataka. Despite having 240 staff vacancies and no recruitment in recent years, the union

has been managing operations efficiently, utilising only 1.69% of its earnings for administrative expenses compared to higher overheads in other federations.

The dairy's turnover has witnessed remarkable growth, rising from just ₹4 crore in the mid-1990s to ₹3,000 crore today. With the mega facility, the union plans to further diversify its activities, including promoting dairy tourism and youth-focused initiatives.

MADHYA PRADESH ADOPTS AI BREEDING, LAUNCHES KAMDHENU YOJANA WITH SUBSIDIES UP TO ₹14 LAKH



Madhya Pradesh Ranks Third in India for Milk Production and Cattle Population



Daily Milk Production
57.3
Crane litres



Per Capita Milk Availability
644
grams/day
(National Average: 499 grams/day)



Cattle Population
187.5
lakh



Buffalo Population
103.5
lakh

Source: Livestock Census 2019

Madhya Pradesh has become the second state after Uttarakhand to adopt Artificial Insemination with sex-sorted semen technology, aimed at producing female calves. This scientific process filters out Y chromosomes, increasing the probability of female births to over 90%, thereby enhancing milk production and reducing stray cattle.

The Bhopal-based Central Semen Station currently produces two lakh doses annually, with a target of 25 lakh doses in five years. Although the technology costs ₹850 per dose, it is subsidized and made available to farmers at just ₹100.

Alongside, the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kamdhenu Yojana supports large-scale dairy farming. Each unit of 25 milch animals costs about ₹42 lakh, with subsidies of ₹14 lakh for SC/ST farmers and ₹10 lakh for OBC/General categories. Farmers can set up to eight units, with mandatory training and a three-year lock-in period.

The scheme aims to scale up milk collection from 10 lakh to 50 lakh litres daily, generating employment, boosting productivity, and reducing dependence on other states for dairy animals.

TECHNOLOGY DRIVING INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION: FROM SEED TO MARKET



Indian agriculture is undergoing a major transformation as advanced technologies reshape the journey “Beej Se Bazaar Tak” (from seed to market). Tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), drones, satellite mapping, and the JAM Trinity are revolutionising farming practices and improving farmers’ livelihoods.

AI-powered solutions like Kisan e-Mitra, a multilingual chatbot, are already handling lakhs of farmer queries daily, while the National Pest Surveillance System uses AI and ML to detect crop diseases early, covering 61 crops and 400 pests. Satellite-based programs such as FASAL and Krishi-DSS provide crop forecasts, acreage

statistics, and geospatial decision support.

Drones are emerging as key enablers in spraying, monitoring, and precision farming, with financial assistance schemes supporting their adoption. The Namo Drone Didi Scheme alone targets 15,000 drones for Women Self Help Groups.

Meanwhile, the JAM Trinity ensures direct benefit transfers, empowering farmers economically. Together, these initiatives signal a future where technology drives productivity, sustainability, and resilience in Indian agriculture.

INDIA LAUNCHES HELPLINE TO TACKLE FAKE FARM INPUTS



New Delhi, September 3, 2025: To protect farmers from the growing menace of counterfeit seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare has launched a dedicated helpline. Farmers can now call the toll-free number 1800-180-1551 to report fake products and seek immediate assistance.

Announcing the initiative, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stressed that timely grievance redressal is as important as introducing new schemes. “Farmers’ satisfaction is our top priority. Swift action on complaints will help build lasting trust,” he said at a review meeting in Krishi Bhavan.

The Ministry has assured that all complaints will be monitored closely, with periodic reviews to ensure accountability. State authorities have already been directed to take strict action, including suspending licenses of defaulters and filing FIRs against companies involved in malpractice. Surprise inspections and tougher laws are also being planned.

This initiative is expected to safeguard farmers, reduce crop losses, and ensure that genuine farm inputs reach the fields.

CEDSI CONDUCTS FIRST AWARENESS PROGRAM ON QUALITY, HYGIENE & FOOD SAFETY IN ASSAM

The Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) successfully organized its first Awareness Program on Quality, Hygiene & Food Safety on 8th September 2025 at the Directorate of Dairy Development, Khanapara, Assam. The program brought together 30 participants, including traditional sweet makers, members of dairy cooperative societies (DCS), and street food vendors from different parts of the state.

Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, participants enhanced their understanding of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), personal hygiene, food safety basics, safe storage and handling of ingredients, street vending standards, and waste management and

pest control practices. The training also offered compliance-related guidance, enabling participants to align their work with national food safety standards.

Each participant was awarded a CEDSI Certificate of Completion, recognizing their commitment to improving the quality and safety of food served to consumers. Conducted in collaboration with CEASI, ASCI, and Skill India, this initiative is a step towards promoting healthier communities, strengthening consumer confidence, and improving the sustainability of the sweets, dairy, and street food sectors in Assam.



STRENGTHENING CLIMATE-SMART SUGARCANE CULTIVATION IN AYODHYA UNDER THE SASHWAT MITHAS INITIATIVE

Under the Sashwat Mithas initiative, the Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI), in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, are advancing sustainable sugarcane farming practices in Ayodhya. So far, 500 farmers have been surveyed across 90 unorganized and 3 organized farmer groups to assess existing cultivation methods and identify opportunities for improvement. Based on these findings, village-level demonstration plots have been established to showcase best practices in water-use efficiency, soil health management, and the application of organic inputs.

To strengthen community engagement and peer-to-peer learning, the initiative has facilitated 97 retailer visits, organized 9 field

days, and conducted 4 organized meetings along with 94 unorganized meetings with farmers. These platforms enable farmers to directly interact with experts, discuss on-ground challenges, and witness practical demonstrations of climate-resilient practices.

Through field research, live demonstrations, and stakeholder participation, the initiative equips sugarcane farmers with eco-friendly and resource-efficient techniques that enhance yields, conserve natural resources, and build resilience against climate change. The broader vision is to not only increase sugarcane productivity but also to establish a replicable model of ecological sustainability and inclusive agricultural growth in the Ayodhya region.



CEFMI PARTNERS WITH EKL CSR FOUNDATION TO STRENGTHEN FPO LEADERSHIP IN HARYANA

Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India (CEFMI), in collaboration with Escorts Kubota Limited, successfully conducted a 3-day residential capacity-building training program for Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Escorts Kubota Advanced Farming Institute (EKFAI), Kurukshetra, Haryana. Held from 25th to 27th August 2025, the program brought together 50 participants representing 29 FPOs from Uttar Pradesh.

The training was designed to strengthen the organizational governance and structure of FPOs, enhance participants' understanding of farm mechanization, and improve their knowledge of financing mechanisms for

agri-business activities. Special emphasis was placed on developing leadership skills, fostering better decision-making practices, and promoting sustainable mechanization solutions that directly benefit member farmers.

Through interactive sessions, case studies, and group discussions, the program created a platform for FPO leaders to exchange experiences, address operational challenges, and explore opportunities for collective growth. The residential format ensured an immersive learning environment, encouraging peer-to-peer learning and collaboration across participating FPOs.





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