

AGRI-SKILLS



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Message from CEO

Dear Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to bring forth the first issue of newsletter of the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) - "Agri-Skills".

Agriculture being the primary sector of Indian economy, contributes about 15.7% to country's GDP. It has the potential to drive the growth and sustainability of Indian economy. The Sector is witnessing radical changes & challenges and there is a need for paradigm shift spanning all the stakeholders.

While skill development in agriculture is being taken up by several stakeholders, it is time to make renewed and concerted efforts to accelerate agriculture growth through Skill enhancement of workforce.

In its endeavor to reduce the skill gap in the Agriculture sector, National Skill Development Corporations (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry of Finance has formed Agriculture Skill Council of India. ASCI attempts to bridge the skill gap in agriculture to bring about a technological and institutional transformation in Indian Agriculture.

I am sure that the various activities envisioned under the ambit of ASCI have the potential to transform Indian agriculture for good.

I urge all the stakeholders to join ASCI's initiative to make 'Agriculture' a sought after occupation amongst the youth.

With Best Wishes

Dr. Satender Singh Arya
Chief Executive Officer
Agriculture Skill Council of India

Agriculture Skill Council of India

The Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) has been setup with a vision to develop Skills in Indian Agriculture, in the line with global standards, with the support of Industry Partners. ASCI will work towards building the Capacities around the Agriculture Industry and bridge the gap between laboratories and farm. ASCI is targeting to reach/upgrade skills of about 56.49 Million Cultivators, Agricultural workers (Direct and Indirect) engaged in Organized and Unorganized domains of Agriculture & allied Industry viz, Farm Inputs, Procurement, Supply Chain, Warehousing / Logistics, Dairy, Fisheries and Poultry etc.

VISION

“ Changing the scenario of Indian Agriculture through bridging gaps in skill development ”

Mission

- ▶ End to end approach on skilling and linking all the stakeholders of Agriculture Value Chain
- ▶ Creating more non-agricultural jobs (Agricultural Allied Activities)
- ▶ Achieving rapid growth in the Agriculture sectors through intensive skill development and
- ▶ Linking and generating the maximum number of entry-level jobs
- ▶ Enhancing the economic value of time and labour of landless workforce
- ▶ Making farmers of the country Agriculture entrepreneurs through Market Information
- ▶ Linking the farm labour with wage related employment in agriculture sector, during non farming month

Objectives...

- ▶ Identification of skill development needs including preparing a catalogue of types of skills, range and depth of skills to facilitate individuals to choose from them.
- ▶ Development of a sector skill development plan and maintain skill inventory
- ▶ Determining skills/competency standards and qualifications
- ▶ Standardization of affiliation and accreditation process
- ▶ Participation in Affiliation, accreditation, assessment and certification
- ▶ Plan and execute Training of Trainers
- ▶ Promotion of academies of excellence
- ▶ Establishment of a well-structured sector specific Labour Market Information System (LMIS) to assist planning and delivery of training

Meeting of Governing Council

The Governing Council of the ASCI had its first Meeting on 4th December, 2012 at India International Center (IIC), New Delhi. Being the first Meeting of the Governing Council agenda for the meeting revolved around the evolution, objectives and benchmarks achieved in the formation of the ASCI, status of sector skill councils (SSCs), role of Governing Council and details of National Occupation Standards.

ASCI held its 2nd and 3rd Governing Council Meeting on 23rd May, 2013 and 10th August, 2013 respectively. In these meetings, the Governing Council has taken note of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of ASCI, Books & Registers' maintenance, deliberated & consented upon the various Committees (Occupational Competency Committee, Accreditation and Certification Committee and Stakeholder Engagement Committee) and has approved the appointment of Auditor. Also, discussion has been done on the development of National Occupational Standards and the working process for the 'National Skill Certification & Monetary Reward Scheme'.



MoU with Agri Food Skills, Australia

In June 2012 the Australia India Joint Working group on Education and Training Cooperation agreed to upscale engagement between mutually agreed Sector Skill Councils, key industry areas including retail, mining, agriculture, telecommunication and entertainment. In May 2013, a MoU along these lines was signed between Agri Food Skills, Australia and ASCI.

Visit to the UK and MoU with LANTRA

A two member team of ASCI visited United Kingdom (UK) in January 2013, for an interaction with Sector Skill Council of UK in Agriculture, LANTRA.

The team had interaction with UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), City & Guild, Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (OFQUAL), LANTRA (Agri SSC in UK), National Farmer Union (NFU), Employer Visit and Royal College of Agriculture.

Based on the discussions and learning from UK Sector Skill Council and its working, ASCI has signed an MoU with LANTRA, with the objectives of sharing the knowledge and information between ASCI and Lantra for the development of ASCI in India.

MoU with Kerala Government

ASCI entered into a MoU with the Govt. of Kerela in November, 2013 for developing Agriculture Skill Ecosystem through Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP). This MoU will foster a partnership for identification of skill gaps in Agriculture & allied sectors and development of Vocational Training Programs for skilling/upskilling of the youths of Kerela.

MoU with Directorate of Technical Education, MP

ASCI has signed an MoU with the Directorate of Technical Education, Madhya Pradesh towards collaboration in the field of Agriculture Skilling in Madhya Pradesh. This is for fostering establishment of partnerships & collaboration for development of skilled Manpower.

Engagement with UKIERI

UKIERI was started in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing educational links between India and the UK. In the last five years, UKIERI has played a pivotal role in establishing a step change in the educational relations between the two countries. UKIERI has agreed to the proposal submitted by ASCI along with LANTRA (UK) for funding collaboration between Indian and UK SSCs



Qualification Packs

ASCI has developed Qualification Packs (QPs) for 12 job roles in agriculture and the same have been validated by the industry. These QPs were launched on 16 August'2013 by Hon. Finance Minister, Mr. P Chidambaram at the event "Launch of the National Skill Certification and Mandatory Reward Scheme" held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

QPs developed

- ▶ Banana Farmer
- ▶ Paddy Farmer
- ▶ Tea Plantation Worker
- ▶ Coffee Plantation Worker
- ▶ Gardener
- ▶ Micro Irrigation Technician
- ▶ Dairy Worker
- ▶ Dairy Farmer/Entrepreneur
- ▶ Floriculturist (Open Field Cultivation)
- ▶ Floriculturist (Closed Cultivation)
- ▶ Green House Fitter
- ▶ Tractor Operator

QPs under development:

- ▶ Horticulture
 - ▶▶ Vegetable Farmer
 - ▶▶ Production Nursery Worker
- ▶ Fisheries
 - ▶▶ Fisherman (Culture)
 - ▶▶ Fisherman (Capture)
- ▶ Agri-Information Management
 - ▶▶ Agri-extension worker
- ▶ Poultry
 - ▶▶ Poultry Farmer
 - ▶▶ Asst. Farm Supervisor
 - ▶▶ Hatchery Operations Assistant
- ▶ Agri Supply Chain
 - ▶▶ Agri Warehouse Supervisor
 - ▶▶ Agri Warehouse Worker

STAR Scheme



The National
Skills Certification and
Minority Reward Scheme

Agriculture Skill Council of India has successfully initiated Skill Development in Agri & allied sectors under the Rs. 1000 crore Ministry of Finance funded STAR Scheme in association with National Skill Development Corporation.

ASCI in its endeavor to meet the entire Agricultural value chain's requirements of trained manpower (in both quantity and quality terms) on a sustained and evolving basis, has rolled out trainings in various Job Roles in the states of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Tripura, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Skikkim and Kerala

Particulars	Total Numbers
<i>QPs developed</i>	12
<i>Training Providers Affiliated</i>	34
<i>Assessment Bodies Accredited</i>	2
<i>Assessors Empanelled</i>	15
<i>Trainees Enrolled</i>	3000 (approx.)
<i>Trainees Assessed</i>	837
<i>Trainees Certified</i>	156

