



“ We need to bring momentum to Skill India campaign and I would encourage more and more youth to come forward and participate in these opportunities being extended to them”

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Hon'ble Minister,
Ministry of Skill Development &
Entrepreneurship (MSDE)



“ Skill India is one of the most inspiring missions. It remains a very active, well-funded, and solidly supported program of the Govt of India. Skilling should be a collaborative effort between Government & industry that requires skilled talent.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Hon'ble Minister of State,
Ministry of Skill Development &
Entrepreneurship (MSDE)



*“Sowing skills...
...Harvesting opportunities”*



Developing Critical Skills Courses for the Agricultural Sector in India

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In response to India's evolving agricultural landscape, a comprehensive 16-month initiative has been launched to develop critical Agriculture skills courses. This program is designed to address emerging skill gaps in the sector through extensive stakeholder consultations, curriculum development, and international partnerships.

The initiative began with a series of consultations involving key stakeholders across the agricultural sector, identifying critical skills and emerging job roles crucial for India's agricultural future. These discussions led to the identification of few key skill areas: Digital Agriculture, Livestock Management, Organic Farming, Carbon Farming, and Integrated Farming. This initiative aims to also develop 20 National Occupational Standards (NOS) along with the corresponding curriculum and training materials.

Recognizing the value of global expertise, the program includes strategic partnerships with Australian organizations, ensuring that the courses not only meet local needs but also align with international standards. To validate these newly developed curricula, pilot training programs will be implemented involving around 100 participants. These pilots will serve as a testing ground to refine the training content and delivery methods, ensuring their effectiveness.



DCASCI - Indian and Australian Team with Chairman & EM, NCVET



DCASCI Team visit to John Deere Training Centre-Pune

The initiative also featured notable site visits to industry leaders such as the Mahindra Training Centre, John Deere, and the Syngenta Foundation, which further enriched the practical aspects of the training programs. Throughout the course of the program, many experts from various organizations to be engaged, exploring emerging skills that are anticipated to drive the future of Indian agriculture. By the conclusion of this initiative, the program is expected to deliver substantial outcomes, including the development of 20 National Occupational Standards, 20 course curriculum, and the successful implementation of pilot training programs. This initiative would mark a significant step in equipping India's agricultural workforce with the essential skills needed to navigate and thrive in the rapidly changing agricultural environment.

Ministry of Education Programs

The Samagra Shiksha - School Program has successfully completed assessments across seven states—Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Ladakh, Assam, and Uttarakhand. A total of 7,825 candidates were evaluated in the 1st quarter in various agricultural and horticultural courses, including Solanaceous Crop Cultivator, Paddy Farmer, Animal Health Worker, Gardener, Micro Irrigation Technician, Floriculturist (Open Cultivation), Organic Grower, and Multi-Skill. This comprehensive evaluation aims to align educational outcomes with the practical needs of the agricultural sector.

In higher education program, the assessment carried out for 202 candidates from seven colleges. The courses evaluated span multiple fields such as Organic Farming, Agriculture, Fisheries, Green House Management, Plant Propagation & Nursery Management, Soil & Water Management, Horticulture & Nursery, Industrial Aquaculture, Agri Business Management and Dairy Technology. The focus on these essential agricultural roles supports the creation of a skilled workforce ready to meet the sector's current and future demands.



UGC Program - Maharashtra



School Program - Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Events and Webinars

A series of webinars and events has been organized in the 1st quarter to advance agricultural development and spread crucial knowledge. Regular webinars covered topics such as enhancing farming techniques, promoting sustainable agriculture, and exploring digital technology in farming. These sessions offer a platform for experts to share valuable insights with a broader audience. In addition, several events have been held, including an awareness camp for animal health workers to improve animal welfare practices and a sapling sowing event aimed at environmental conservation. These initiatives collectively support agricultural growth by fostering community engagement and promoting sustainable practices.



Webinars Organised by ASCI



Sapling Sowing as part of Jan Bhagidari G20 on 15th June 2023 in HTI-Karnal, Haryana



Awareness camp for Animal Health Workers on 16th June 2023 in Karnal, Haryana

Training of Trainers (ToT) Programs

A series of 15 Training of Trainers (ToT) programs were organized in April-June 2023, covering 28 job roles and involving 121 trainers nationwide. These programs included both online and offline formats, designed to enhance the trainers' skills and knowledge to deliver effective and current training.

The sessions provided a mix of learning opportunities, with online modules focusing on upskilling existing trainers, while offline sessions offered practical, hands-on experiences. This comprehensive approach ensured that trainers across India were well-equipped to advance agricultural training and contribute to a more skilled workforce in the sector.



TOT (13th to 15th June 2023) Chhattisgarh



TOT (27th April 2023)-Maharashtra

Ministry of Science & Technology

Under the Department of Biotechnology's Skill Vigyan program, a significant collaboration has been established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment. This partnership marks a pivotal step towards enhancing skill development in the agricultural sector.

Two prominent institutions are involved in this initiative. The Community Agrobiodiversity Centre, part of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation located in Wayanad, is renowned for its work in preserving and utilizing plant genetic resources. The National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health (NCAAH), situated at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in Cochin, specializes in aquatic animal health and management. Together, these institutions will offer a range of specialized courses designed to address critical skill gaps in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The courses provided through this collaboration will include Plant Tissue Culture Technician, Mushroom Grower, and Organic Grower, among others. These programs aim to equip individuals with the technical expertise required to advance in these fields, fostering a skilled workforce capable of supporting India's growing agricultural needs. This initiative highlights the commitment to enhancing agricultural practices through targeted skill development and advanced training opportunities.

Standards and Quality Assurance

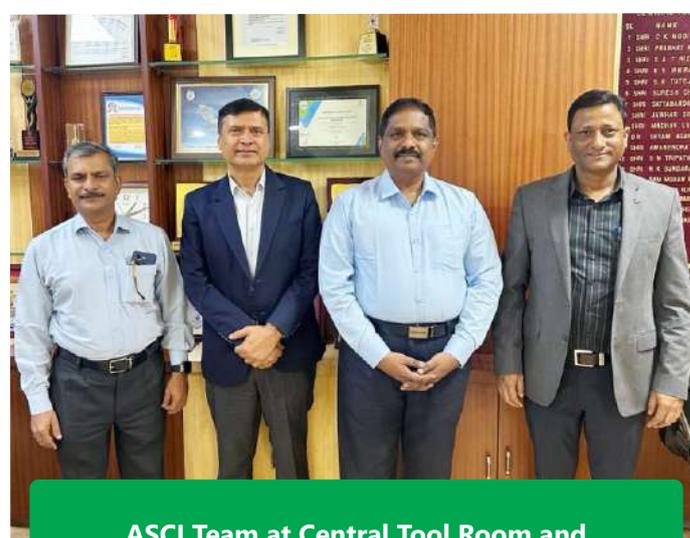
ASCI has updated and uploaded 153 National Occupational Standards (NOS) and their corresponding Model Curricula, all aligned with the National Credit Framework (NCrF), to the Skill India Portal. These updated Qualification Packs (QPs) are now available for various skill development schemes. Additionally, 30-hour upskilling curricula for Fishing Boat Mechanic and Small Agricultural Implements Maker trades have been developed and are to be approved by NCVET.

Strategic Engagements during the Quarter

- ▲ Key discussions have been held with influential bodies such as the Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. These meetings focused on enhancing training programs and developing new initiative.
- ▲ Shri Dr. Ramaswami N, IAS, Chief Executive Officer of the Maharashtra State Skill Development Society, was consulted to explore avenues for skill development and capacity building in Maharashtra.
- ▲ Engagements with organizations like the Karnataka Milk Federation and the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR) have been instrumental in discussing advancements in dairy and horticultural practices.
- ▲ National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) were also involved to align strategies for sustainable fisheries and plantation management.
- ▲ Discussions with the Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, and Srikalash Eduskills Pvt Ltd. have focused on expanding skill development programs and enhancing educational opportunities. Interactions with Krishi Vijnana Kendra (KVK), the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and various other institutions have promoted agricultural research, training, and development.
- ▲ Key interactions were held including Sharp Garuda, Hitakari Nursery and Horticulture Foundation, and the GPS Institute of Agricultural Management. These discussions aimed at advancements in agricultural techniques and training. Myefarm, Abeja Labs Pvt Ltd. was engaged to explore onboarding processes for their technology on the Skill India Portal, integrating innovative solutions into agricultural practices.
- ▲ Selco Foundation and Bastar Honey have focused on collaborative proposals and technology integration for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- ▲ Major players such as the Sattava CSR conference, Axis Bank Foundation, and Shree Renuka Sugars Limited have been involved in discussions on corporate social responsibility and its impact on the agricultural sector.



MoU signed between ASCI's CEO & Director General of Department of Horticulture, in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, Horticulture, Govt. of Haryana



ASCI Team at Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar

- ▲ International collaborations have also been a key component, with meetings held with representatives from New Zealand and the Netherlands. These discussions aimed to explore global best practices, exchange knowledge, and enhance international cooperation in agriculture.
- ▲ The ongoing efforts to engage with various stakeholders across Central and State Departments, industry leaders, and international partners highlight a committed approach to strengthening the agricultural sector. By fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and addressing emerging challenges, these strategic engagements are set to drive significant progress in agricultural development and skill enhancement.

Major Initiatives under Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI)

1. CEDSI Empowers Milk Producers in Gajraula through Certified Capacity Building Program

CEDSI, in collaboration with the Industry Association of Ananda Dairy Limited, has successfully conducted a three-day Certified Capacity Building Program for milk producers in Gajraula, Amroha District on 2nd - 4th June 2023. This program, supported by the World Wide Fund India (WWF), aimed to empower dairy farmers by enhancing their productivity and profitability. With the active participation of 35 farmers, the training covered various key topics, including advanced dairy farming practices, milk quality assurance, climate resilient dairying, improving milk productivity, and financial management and market linkages. Eminent experts from CEDSI provided valuable insights and practical solutions to address the specific needs and queries of the participants. The program's successful completion marks a significant milestone in empowering dairy farmers in Gajraula and promoting sustainable practices in the region, further contributing to the overall development of the agricultural sector.



Capacity Building Program for Milk Producers

2. Empowering Rural Women: CEDSI and ITC's Collaborative Training for Pashu Sakhis in Sehore

The Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) successfully conducted a six-day training program for Pashu Sakhis from June 12th to 17th in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with ITC. The program combined theoretical knowledge with practical sessions, empowering rural women with essential skills to manage large ruminants effectively. By focusing on animal health, nutrition, and management practices, the training enhanced participants' expertise and confidence, enabling them to become local resources for livestock care. This initiative is a significant step toward improving rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable dairy practices in the community.



Women Empowerment Program

Agriculture Skill Council of India

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