



“ 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”*



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Transforming Agriculture: Insights from the Annual Conference 2024

At the Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes, held on February 26-27, 2024, CEO-ASCI provided key insights into the agricultural sector's evolving dynamics and ASCI's role in advancing industry standards. CEO-ASCI highlighted ASCI's function as an industry-led initiative, integrating contributions from industry,



CEO-ASCI sharing his insights during the Conference

government, academic and research institutions, and farmer groups. Core responsibilities include the development of qualifications and standards, occupational mapping, assessment and certification, and the training of trainers and assessors. Additionally, ASCI facilitates the PMKVY flagship scheme and promotes apprenticeship and employment opportunities within the sector.



CEO-ASCI addressing Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes

In discussing the current state of the agriculture sector, CEO-ASCI emphasised its significant potential. Despite India's leading position in global agricultural production and its vast arable land and diverse agro-climatic zones, there is a notable shift from traditional subsistence farming to a focus on profitability and diversification. This transition is crucial for unlocking new opportunities and achieving sector growth.

Agriculture accounts for 18.3% of India's GDP and employs 45.5% of the workforce. The sector benefits from a demographic advantage with a high proportion of individuals under 25 years of age. To fully capitalise on this potential, skills development is essential. Special emphasis on enhancing the capabilities of the female workforce, which represents more than half of the agricultural labour force, could be transformative.

The conference provided a significant platform for discussing these issues and strategizing on how to leverage the sector's potential. The insights shared aim to drive forward agricultural growth and address critical challenges through targeted skill development and strategic initiatives.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Programs

ASCI has successfully organized 32 online and 1 offline training programs, encompassing 29 job roles and engaging 1,080 trainers. This extensive series of programs highlights a significant effort to enhance trainer skills and broaden the scope of vocational training.



Capacity Building Initiative for Himachali Youth

The Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN) has approved a capacity building training program for Himachali youth, facilitated by ASCI. This initiative includes residential facilities and focuses on training in key areas such as Horticulturist (Protected Cultivation), Floriculturist, Dairy Farmer Entrepreneur, and Aquaculture Worker. The program, operating in districts including Mandi, Sirmaur, and Bilaspur, has enrolled 495 candidates to date. Of these, 405 have already been assessed, while the remaining candidates continue their training.



Training Program for the Horticulturist (Protected Cultivation) Job Role

Training Program - Mandi

Strengthening Agricultural Skills Through New Collaboration

On January 24, 2024, CSIR-Human Resource Development Centre (CSIR-HRDC) and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) formalized a key collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement signifies a strategic partnership aimed at advancing skill development in the agricultural sector. CSIR-HRDC, located in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, is pivotal in implementing the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative Program, while ASCI focuses on enhancing agricultural skills across India.

The MoU establishes a framework for integrating CSIR-HRDC's training programs with Qualification Packs developed by ASCI, in line with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). This alignment ensures that the training provided meets national standards and equips participants with the necessary skills for the agricultural industry. ASCI will manage the assessment and certification of trainees from CSIR laboratories, ensuring that evaluations adhere to NSQF criteria. This collaborative effort aims to provide robust and standardized certification that reflects the competencies gained through the training programs.



MoU signed between CSIR-HRDC and ASCI



Meeting with CSIR-HRDC Team

Standards and Quality Assurance

In this quarter, ASCI has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing agricultural skills and education by making significant strides in course development and approvals. Three QPs were submitted to NCVET, focusing on crucial areas such as Livestock Farm Facilitation (Green Management), Integrated Farming Practices, and Organic Farm & Business Facilitation. These submissions align with ASCI's dedication to advancing sustainable and innovative agricultural practices.

Additionally, fifteen standalone NOSs were submitted to NCVET, encompassing a wide range of vital topics. These include managing regulatory compliance, developing business and marketing plans for FPOs, mitigating GHG emissions in the fish value chain, and practicing agrivoltaic farming. This comprehensive effort reflects ASCI's strategy to equip the agricultural workforce with the necessary skills to meet modern challenges.

In this quarter, ASCI also achieved approvals for three new Micro Credentials and one revised QF by NSQF. The newly approved credentials include Basics of Agri Commodity Market, Price Risk Management in Agri Commodities for FPO, and Quality and Price Risk Management of Agro Commodities for Farmers. These developments highlight ASCI's ongoing efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector through targeted and effective skill development initiatives.

Rozgar Mela

ASCI takes an active role in fostering employment opportunities through its participation in Rozgar Melas. By actively engaging with various industries, ASCI encourages their participation in these job fairs, facilitating a platform where employers and job seekers can connect directly. Through these events, ASCI not only showcases the diverse skill sets of candidates but also highlights the employment needs and opportunities across different sectors. By bringing together industry stakeholders and job seekers under one roof, ASCI contributes significantly to reducing unemployment and promoting economic growth.



Growfast Group fertilizers participated in Lucknow Rozgar Mela on 31st Jan, 2024



Maple Ortega participated in NAMO Rozgar Mela in Thane, Maharashtra on 7th Mar, 2024



Anima Seeds participated in Sambalpur Rozgar Mela on 21st Jan, 2024

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

Upskilling Program for Saahaj Milk Producer Company



Upskilling Program on 15th & 16th March, 2024-Aligarh

CEDSI organized a three-day upskilling program for the field functionaries of Saahaj Milk Producer Company in Aligarh on 15th - 16th March, 2024. Sponsored by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the program saw the participation of 28 mid-senior functionaries. The training focused on various aspects of dairy production, aiming to enhance efficiency and productivity while promoting energy efficiency and sustainable practices in the dairy value chain. Key topics included milk procurement, waste management, and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation.

Agriculture Skill Council of India

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