

AGRI-SKILLS



Sowing *Skills* Harvesting *Opportunities...*

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Message from CEO

Dear Friends

It gives me utmost pleasure to bring the second edition of 'Agri Skills'.

This newsletter marks a major milestone for Agriculture Skill Council of India. In a short span, ASCI has continued to walk towards realising its vision of a skilled agricultural workforce in the country.

Our efforts to bring all the stakeholders on one platform and accelerate agricultural growth in the country through skill development has started to take a definitive shape. We developed National Occupational Standards (NOS) for 42 job roles besides initiating collaborations with State Skill Mission viz. UP and Kerala. A beginning has been made for collaborating with ICAR by involving ICAR institutions in "Train the Trainers" Programmes. Tie ups with Apex Educational Institutions, like AICTE and NIOS, are also underway, in order to boost Agri & Allied sector as a career option. Through these collaborations, ASCI endeavours to reach out to maximum number of people involved in agricultural activities and bridge the skill gap.

Another major achievement of ASCI during this period was the successful completion of STAR scheme. In this Scheme, which was biggest of its kind, ASCI trained around 1 lakh people across 11 Job Roles. The training was spread over 23 states/UTs of the country. ASCI was also one of the few Sector Skill Councils to make use of technology enabled assessments as well as assessments in 11 different languages.

The way ahead for ASCI is filled with opportunities to meet our goals. No doubt there will be challenges along the way, but we have full confidence that we will overcome all these challenges through dedicated efforts.

Once again I thank all the stakeholders for their continued support and guidance in our endeavours.

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 line with the global standards, with the support of Industry Partners. ASCI will work towards building capacities around the Agriculture Sector 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.

Meetings of the Governing Council

The 5th Governing Council Meeting of ASCI was conducted on June 30th 2014 at India International Centre, New Delhi. During the meeting the Governing Council members stressed that the relevant industries should be aware of the existing and upcoming Job Roles. It was also deliberated that there should be a Quality based categorization of the Training Partners based upon the feedback from the trainees. The members suggested a more holistic approach for the awareness and promotional programs of ASCI through Industry Outreach and collaboration with Government bodies.

ASCI conducted its 6th Governing Council Meeting on September 5th 2014 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The main agenda of the meeting was the successful completion of STAR Scheme. The Governing Council unanimously agreed that all the necessary guidelines for project closure should be completed as soon as possible. The Council also discussed the way ahead for ASCI. The members again emphasised the need of developing more job roles focussed on modern and environment friendly agri-techniques.

MoU with National Seeds Corporation (NSC)

ASCI signed an MoU with National Seeds Corporation, a Schedule 'B'-Miniratna Category-I company wholly owned by Government of India on March 6th, 2014. This MoU will foster the establishment of partnerships & collaboration for upgrading the skills of the workforce. This association will lead to capacity building in seed production, quality inspection and farm mechanization.

MoU with Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

ASCI signed an MoU with Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry on June 10th, 2014. This MoU would have a great influence in evolving the vocational training programmes and up skilling of currently employed manpower, especially in Tea plantations.

MoU with Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)

ASCI signed an MoU with Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission on August 4th, 2014 for collaboration on introduction of Assessment & Certification based on Qualification Packs (QP) and National Occupational Standards (NOS) to improve employability of the trainees of UPSDM.

MoU with Taratahi Agriculture Training Centre, New Zealand

ASCI signed an MoU with Taratahi Agriculture Training Centre, New Zealand on August 29th, 2014. The collaboration would facilitate higher level of vocational agricultural programs, development of National Occupational Standard (NOS) at various levels and planning of an effective system for the Training of Trainers in Post-harvest & Dairy segment in India.

Engagement with LANTRA, U.K.

The project titled "Promoting the take up of Occupational Standards in the Indian Agriculture Sector through developing a unique system for managing the development and review" has been selected for the SSC collaboration under UK-India Education and Research Initiative to be jointly implemented by LANTRA (UK Sector Skills Council for the Land Based and environmental Sector).



5th Governing Council Meeting



6th Governing Council Meeting



MoU signing with National Seed Corporation

Industry Collaboration

In its endeavour to reach out to the industry, ASCI entered into collaborations with over 100 industry partners. ASCI signed MOUs with these Industry partners paving way for heightened cooperation with each other. Broadly, following segments/institutions were covered:

- Agri-Input Industry
- Farm Mechanisation
- Dairy Industry
- Poultry Industry
- Fishery Industry
- Chambers of Commerce
- Training and Research Institutes



Industry Outreach Programme

- ASCI successfully started its industry outreach program with a workshop at Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), Pune on February 20th, 2014 with the theme “Skilled Workforce: Imperative for Enhanced Productivity and Sustainable Growth in Agriculture”. More than 125 company representatives, Govt. Officials and media personnel participated in the event.
- Dr. S. K. Goyal (Addl. Chief Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, GoM) was the chief guest for the event. ASCI focused on active participation of industry for moving the wheel of skill development. For this, many eminent personalities expressed their views including Mr. Mukul Varshney (Director-Corporate Affairs, John Deere), Mr. Shriram Gadhave (President, Vegetable Growers Association of India), Ms. Meena Gokhale (Senior Programme Coordinator, BAIF) & Dr. S. V. Deshmukh (Director, B. V. Rao Institute of Poultry Management & Technology).

Participation in Awareness Programmes

ASCI participated in the Krishi mela held at Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izzatnagar, Bareilly on February 27th and 28th, 2014. The primary purpose of participating in such events is to create awareness amongst various research institutes, KVKs, state departments, agro-industries, agri-business firms and other entrepreneurs.

ASCI also took part in a Seminar on Prospects & Challenges for sustainability of Small holder farming with special reference to Vidarbha Region conducted by Syngenta Foundation at Nagpur on March 21st 2014 and made a presentation on “Importance of Training & Skill Development in Agriculture”.

Train the Trainer Programmes

In continuation of its efforts towards capacity building, ASCI organised 10 “Train the Trainer” Programs during March – June 2014. These programs covered 6 Job Roles and 14 Training Partners. A total of 326 Trainers were trained during these programs which were conducted in 7 States.



Development of Qualification Packs

ASCI developed 30 new Qualification Packs (QPs) in agriculture and allied Sector which brings total to 42 Qualification Packs. New QPs developed are as follows:

1	Agriculture Extension Service Provider	16	Poultry Farm Worker Broiler
2	Agriculture Extension Executive	17	Poultry Farm Supervisor Broiler
3	Agriculture Field Officer	18	Poultry Hatchery Incharge
4	Fish Hatchery Production Worker	19	Wheat Cultivator
5	Shrimp Farmer	20	Maize Cultivator
6	Marine Capture Fisherman	21	Soyabean Cultivator
7	Mango Grower	22	Cotton Cultivator
8	Citrus Fruit Grower	23	Sugarcane Cultivator
9	Bulb Crop Cultivator	24	Pulses Cultivator
10	Solanaceous Crops Farmer	25	Sericulturist
11	Tuber Crops Farmer	26	Beekeeper
12	Coriander Cultivator	27	Quality Seed Grower
13	Chillies Cultivator	28	Seed Processing Worker
14	Supply Chain Field Assistant	29	Bamboo Grower
15	Warehouse Worker	30	Harvester Machine Operator

The National Skills Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme



Under the STAR Scheme, ASCI oversaw training programs being conducted for 14 Job Roles across 23 States/UTs with 78 affiliated Training partners under the STAR Scheme.

Particulars	Total Numbers
QPs developed	42
Training Providers Affiliated	78
Assessment Bodies Accredited	4
Assessors Empanelled	235
Trainees Enrolled	10052
Trainees Assessed	99349
Trainees Certified	56370*

* Certification still in process

