



“ Skills are the foundation of modern life. They are the driving force behind successful careers and companies, thriving industries, and economies. Skills keep the world working. Through efforts of Skill India, we are certain to achieve a better socio-economic condition for today’s youth by making them more productive and addressing unemployment and underemployment in a way”

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey
Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Skill
Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)



“ We have seen great potential, great energy & enthusiasm in the youth of the country & how they are adapting to new age skills, transforming their lives & contributing to the new India. If the program has been able to transform lives, it is because of the passion & grit with which the youth is participating in it. We are working closely with the States, Department and Industry to ensure a robust skill ecosystem which would empower the youth and create opportunities of employment for them”

Shri. R K Singh
Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill
Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

Agri Skills NEWSLETTER

June, 2021



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

Message from CEO

This issue of the ASCI newsletter is focused on economic recovery in the wake of the Coronavirus crisis and the performance of the agriculture sector. As is said, agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. The role of the agriculture sector is crucial not only for the workers who are directly or indirectly dependent on this sector for their livelihood but also for the revival of overall economic growth, boosting the country’s export, and poverty alleviation. Even amid COVID related economic downturn, the agriculture sector has shown remarkable resilience, vitality, and robustness. For the current fiscal year, experts have forecast a record food grain production depending upon the normal monsoon, which certainly puts agriculture in the driver’s seat in our pursuit of post-crisis economic recovery. The recently announced much-needed market reforms in agriculture have also fuelled expectations from the sector. For many reasons, these reforms are hailed as a bold and visionary step that will lead to the realisation of higher-income by the farmers. For example, the new ordinances to facilitate barrier free interstate trading, e-trading, and higher engagement of farmers with processors, aggregators, organised retailers, and others will be beneficial in terms of access to know-how, risk mitigation, assured returns, and quality standardisation. The ‘Vocal for Local’ campaign and associated measures for strengthening of FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives, and MFEs aiming at seizing the untapped export markets for the Indian products presents a new ray of hope for export of high-value agricultural produce. The infrastructure development fund created for building a modern and efficient supply chain infrastructure has promises to improve the operational efficiency of the food value chain. Not only traditional farming but opportunities for the new-age entrepreneurs are also rising in horticulture, fisheries, dairy, agri.-logistics, and commodity management. However, skilled labour is at the core of all successful initiatives of enterprise creation and availing benefits of any radical reforms. Hence, the country now has a greater and urgent responsibility of skill building of the youth in agriculture in order that all these initiatives become fruitful and the sector can rightfully claim its place as a lifeline of Indian economy.

Dr. Satender Arya

State Engagement

- ▲ Agriculture Human Resource Development (AHRD) Scheme of Haryana Horticulture Department to upskill farmers in Horticulture to increase livelihood and sustainability was on-boarded on SIP and 13 Training Center and 35 trainers were affiliated/ certified.



Dairy & Animal Husbandry Meeting, Mohali



Meeting with Horticulture Department, Haryana

- ▲ Meeting held with Shri V K Janjua, ACS, Shri Karnail Singh, Director Dairy, Shri Mohan, Director Fishery, Shri H S Kalhon, Director Animal Husbandry, Punjab on 18th Jan' 2021 at Mohali wherein the proposal for Short Term Training and Recognition of Prior Learning in Departments got approved.
- ▲ Discussion held with Mr. C Uday Bhaskar, CGM, Odisha Regional Office NABARD and Mr. Sunil Kumar, CGM Patna Regional Office NABARD for aligning different NSQF aligned job roles under NABARD sponsored as well as Government sponsored capacity building programme and easy credit availability to NSQF certificate holders candidates who are coming forward to set up any micro-enterprises.
- ▲ Meeting held with Mr. Awanis Kumar Sharan IAS, CEO of CSSDA on potential job roles in Agriculture and allied sectors in Chhattisgarh prospective and skilling opportunities under different components of NGGB (Narwa, Gruwa, Ghuruwa and Badi) which is Govt.'s Flagship Scheme.
- ▲ A webinar organized for East region wherein Training Partners from Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand and apprised them about new and emerging job roles in Agriculture and allied sectors, skilling opportunities for the youths, RPL and special project, demand-driven approach through DSC.
- ▲ An interactive session held with officials of Kerala Institute of Local Administration to introduce sector skill councils, and the opportunities of skilling in agriculture in the southern region especially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ▲ Uttarakhand Skill Development Mission approached ASCI for the assessment and certification under CMKVY scheme (Mukhyamantri Rojgar Evam Kaushal Vikas Yojna) launched by mission. CMKVY Scheme is launched to train the candidates in promising job roles such as Mushroom Grower, Beekeeping, Organic Grower and Floriculturist-Open Cultivation. More than 500 candidates already trained and assessed by ASCI and the Mission is likely to include more unemployed individuals in the Agriculture Skilling in the future.
- ▲ A Joint webinar organized with Shri Mihir Kumar Singh IAS, Principal Secretary and CEO of BSDM, CEO ASCI to discuss possible ways to enhance skilling in Bihar under different areas in Agriculture and allied sectors.
- ▲ ASCI attended workshop convened by Director, Bihar Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (BAMETI) with different Govt. skill development centre working under Dept of Agriculture, Govt of Bihar for planning on skill development. Officials from different KVKs, ATMAS, SAUs were present in the workshop.



BAMETI Workshop

- ▲ Meeting held with Mr. Rajiv Kumar CEO of JSLPS, Johar team, World Bank representative, wherein CEO JSLPS extended skilling program in Jharkhand state for one more year.
- ▲ Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO) and ASCI discussed to conduct the assessment of training programmes, organized by TAHDCO. ASCI has successfully certified more than 300 candidates in job roles like Barefoot Technician, Organic Grower and Gardener. The objective of the scheme is to work for the welfare for SC/ST population in the state and to provided skill development training to youth belonging to SC/ST.
- ▲ Directorate of Skill Development, Tripura launched Rurban Scheme to target the Dhalai district of Avanga. The main objective of the scheme is to organize Skill Development training for Unemployed youth. ASCI has successfully assessed and certified 150 candidates on Piggery Farmer, Mushroom Grower, and Beekeeper job roles.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0)

MSDE launched third phase of its flagship skilling scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) on 15th Jun' 2021 in a bid to empower the country's youth with employable skills by making over 300 skill courses available to them. The scheme is designed for demand-driven with a focus on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills.

National Skill Development Corporation approved 36 Agricultural job roles for the third phase of the scheme where State Skill Development Missions and District Skill Committees can select based on the demand and suitability of Districts.



PMKVY 3.0 Launch



Distribution of Organic Grower Certificate

Engagement with Ministry of Agriculture

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare approved Skill Training courses for the next phase i.e. 2021 and it is proposed to train 8,000 candidates in the promising segments of Agriculture. The major participants of the scheme constitute farmers and rural youth as the training is facilitated through rural based government Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

The popular job roles include Organic Farming, Dairy Farmer/ Entrepreneurship, Aquaculture Fish Farming, Mushroom cultivation, Vermicompost Producer, Quality Seed Grower, Small Poultry Farmer, Beekeeping, etc.



Quality Seed Grower, KVK Jhansi

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Women-centric skill training programs were conducted with John Deere under CSR wherein more than 100 women participants were trained in the Tractor Mechanic Job role.



CSR - Tractor Mechanic

UGC & School Program

University Grants Commission

Under University Grants Commission, many colleges are running Agriculture & Allied courses. Out of which, ASCI assessed nearly 800 candidates of 18 UGC approved colleges.

The courses covered are from various segments such as Livestock Production and Management, Farm mechanization, Sustainable Agriculture, Green House Management, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Soil Sciences, Organic Farming, Sericulture, Tea Plantation, etc.



College Assessment - Tamil Nadu

Samagra Shiksha

Under Samagra Shiksha, various states are running Agriculture QPs from 9th to 12th class. Since Jan'2021, more than 14,000 candidates have been assessed in 9 States i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Punjab, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. The courses covered were Paddy Farmer, Solanaceous Crop Cultivator, Dairy Worker, Small Poultry Farmer, Gardener and Floriculturist (Open Cultivation).



School Assessment - Sikkim

Content Development

ASCI has developed five Participant Handbooks Warehouse Worker, Agri Commodity Quality Assayer, Cotton Cultivator, Equine Groom, and Warehouse Worker job roles. Facilitator guides for six job roles have been prepared. Content Development Cell has also developed outline of orientation content for 12 Job roles proposed for RPL Types 1 & 2.

QP- NOS Development

NSQF Alignment

ASCI had presented 17 Rationalized Qualification Packs in the Stakeholders consultation meeting organized by NCVET, post which QPs were presented to the National Skills Qualification Committee (NSQC), 16 QPs have been approved.

National Skills Qualification Committee (NSQC) details

NSQC Date	QP Type	Approved QP
25 th Feb'2021	Rationalized QP	3
27 th May'2021	Rationalized/Revised QP	13

Qualifications Review Committee (QRC)

ASCI had presented 40 Rationalized and one new Qualification Pack Files in Qualifications Review Committee (QRC) meeting organized by NSDC. All these QPs got approved in QRC. These files will be presented in next NSQC for necessary approval and considerations.

Job Roles

1. Power Tiller Operator
2. Irrigation Service Technician
3. Operator-Reaper, Thresher and Crop Residue Machinery
4. Service and Maintenance Technician-Farm Machinery
5. Tractor Mechanic
6. Farm Workshop Foreman / Supervisor
7. Agriculture Machinery Repair and Maintenance Service Provider
8. Custom Hiring Service Provider
9. Pesticide & Fertilizer Applicator
10. Nursery Worker
11. Florist
12. Flower Handler-Packaging & Palletising
13. Gardener
14. Interior Landscaper
15. Plant Tissue Culture Technician
16. Assistant Interior landscaper
17. Assistant Gardener
18. Micro-Irrigation Technician
19. Tractor Operator
20. Fisheries Extension Associate
21. Solar Pump Technician
22. Mushroom Grower
23. Quality Seed Grower
24. Seed Processing Worker
25. Seed Analysis In-charge
26. Seed Processing Plant Technician
27. Agriculture Machinery Demonstrator
28. Aquaculture Technician
29. Aquaculture Worker
30. Assistant Groundskeeper
31. Combine Harvester Machine Operator
32. Farm Workshop Service Manager
33. Greenhouse Installer
34. Rice Transplanter Machine Operator Cum Mechanic
35. Seed Plant Production Supervisor
36. Pack House Worker
37. Freshwater Aquaculture Farmer
38. Brackishwater Aquaculture Farmer
39. Hatchery Manger
40. Mariculture Farmer
41. Fish Seed Grower

Affiliation

ASCI has affiliated 68 Training Partners and 76 Training Centers across 41 job roles under different schemes like RKVY, MIDH, PMKVY, AHRD on Skill India Portal. Out of these 68 Training Partner 53 are government and 15 private.

Under Self-Funded RPL, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) and Ornamental Fisheries Training and Research Institute, Udaipur under RPL Agriculture SSC scheme.

Under Industry Funded Agriculture SSC Scheme, ASCI on-boarded NCDEX Institute of Commodity Markets and Research (NICR) and National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML).

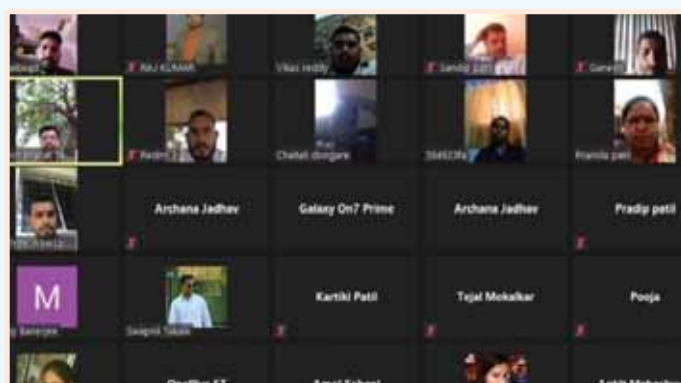
Training of Trainer & Master Trainer

ASCI has organized 12 online TOT programmes covering 39 Job Roles involving 203 trainers from January to June 2021. Details are mentioned below:

1. Online-TOT (9th Jan' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 6 Trainers and 2 Job Roles.
2. Online-TOT (11th Jan' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 15 Trainers and 2 Job Roles.
3. Online-TOT (11th Jan' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 12 Trainers and 1 Job Role.
4. Online-TOT (11th Jan' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 10 Trainers and 2 Job Roles.
5. Online-TOT (10th Feb' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 15 Trainers and 2 Job Roles.
6. Online-TOT (12th Feb' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 17 Trainers and 2 Job Roles.
7. Online TOMT (13th Feb' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 1 Trainers and 1 Job Role.
8. Online-TOT (18th Feb' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 26 Trainers and 5 Job Roles.
9. Online-TOT (26th Feb' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 13 Trainers and 9 Job Roles.
10. Online-TOT (25th Mar' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 26 Trainers and 18 Job Roles.
11. Online-TOT (15th Jun' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 6 Trainers and 6 Job Roles.
12. Online-TOT (25th Jun' 2021): ToT (Domain & Platform skill) for 56 Trainers and 16 Job Roles.



TOT conducted on 18th Feb' 2021



ToT conducted on 25th Mar' 2021

Training of Assessor (ToA)

ASCI conducted 4 online ToA programme for New and Existing Assessors (online mode) on various Agriculture sub segments during Jan-Jun' 2021. Total 31 Assessors were certified across various job roles i.e Organic Grower, Dairy Farmer, Quality Seed Grower etc with the validity of 2 years from date of certification.

Overcoming COVID disruptions, ASCI executed assessments for 28,021 candidates against the enrolled number of 33,410 across PMKVY and NON PMKVY programmes during Jan-Jun' 2021.

PMKVY & NON PMKVY Assessment and Certification Status

Enrolled	Assessed	Certified
33,410	28,021	24,513

Industry Outreach & Placements

ASCI is continuously reaching out to employers to bridge the gap between the skilled candidates and employment. 23 organizations have registered between Jan - Jun'2021 on ASCI's Agri Placement Portal with a demand aggregation of many new vacancies in Sales and Marketing and Agriculture Marketing Technician related job roles.

- ▲ Exhibition - ASCI participated at Assam regional Livestock & Poultry Show, Guwahati on 11th Feb' 2021.
- ▲ Virtual Industry Meet - ASCI Conducted virtual Industry Meet on 19th Feb' 2021 .



Livestock and Poultry show, Guwahati

CEDSI: Paving the Future of Dairy

ASCI has established its first CoE, Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) to help the empowerment and betterment of Livelihood of dairy farmers, wage workers, and other stakeholders in the Dairy value chain. Skilling among Dairy Farmers across the country is very low only 3.2% Dairy Farmers are trained in raising of cattle and 6.9% Dairy Farmers are trained in production of milk.

Upgrading Dairy Skills

CEDSI has trained around 65 Trainers in Dairy Farmer/ Entrepreneur, Animal Health Worker, Artificial Insemination job roles in 7 batches. Through ToT programs, CEDSI envision to create a large pool of experts who can further disseminate knowledge & correct practices at field levels.

CEDSI has started its corporate trainings with leading companies of India to skill train their employees in relevant fields as per company's requirement. Currently we have trained around 80 employees of Lactalis India in Milk Procurement & Input Supervisor job role. Approximately 200 Employees has to be trained.



Lactalis Training

International Associations to strengthen Dairy sector in India

CEDSI has signed MoU with KOLD College, Dairy division which is a Denmark Based institution working in dairy skilling space since 1880. This collaboration shall help to Leverage best international dairy practices, Develop knowledge materials of international level & Cross learning opportunity in form of student exchange programs. These international associations will help India to become Dairy Skill Capital of world.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

ASCI and **National Collateral Management Limited (NCML)** signed an MoU on 1st Feb' 2021. Basis the MoU, NCML has become Training Partner with ASCI and will collaborate on several aspects to cover, RPL, Short Term Training, Apprenticeship and Industry validations.

Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), a state government set, up has tied up with ASCI for conducting RPL for the Job Role of 'Village Watershed Consultant' for all the 6000 villages in the state. As a pilot, the scheme will be launched in 400 villages.

Foundation for Ecological Security and Ornamental Fisheries Training and Research Institute, a Udaipur based organization, has been on boarded for the conduct of a 'Fee Based' RPL programme in the Job Role of 'Ornamental Fish Technician'.



Signing of MoU with NCML

Corporate Interaction

Coca-Cola has approached ASCI for the training of 35 selected candidates as 'Trainers' in the Job Role of 'Temperate Fruit Grower' for a new CSR initiative planned to be launched by the company.

Urban Clap has approached ASCI for collaborate partnership for undertaking RPL and development of QPs for specific wage related Job roles.

International Placements

10 Agriculture candidates have been placed in USA out of which 4 sent under J1 Visa and 6 are awaiting Visa. These are the first ever Skill India US J1 Agriculture (Poultry segment) candidates.

Apprenticeship

Between Jan - Jun' 2021, ASCI has generated 324 apprenticeship contracts. Till date, 13 Model Curricula have been approved and uploaded on NAPS portal. There has been a surge in demand for appointing apprentice under different Agriculture trades like Agriculture Field Officer, Gardener and Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator are in demand by agricultural industries and organizations.



USA Placements: 4 candidates employed in Poultry

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