



“ 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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XVI Agricultural Science Congress, 2023

The XVI Agricultural Science Congress, organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and hosted by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi, Kerala, 10th-13th October 2023 convened experts to explore the theme “Transformation of Agri-Food Systems for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals.” This significant event brought together agricultural scientists, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss and share innovative strategies for enhancing agricultural practices and aligning them with the global sustainability agenda.



In his address at the Congress, CEO-ASCI emphasized the critical role of technological innovation and policy reforms in advancing sustainable agriculture. He underscored the importance of adopting sustainable farming practices that are both environmentally friendly and economically viable, stressing that these practices are essential for the long-term health of the planet and the agricultural industry.

CEO-ASCI also highlighted the need for increased investment in research and development to drive innovation in the agri-food sector. By fostering new technologies and methodologies, the sector can improve productivity, reduce environmental impact, and create more resilient food systems. Strengthening value chains was another key point of his address, particularly in terms of enhancing market access for smallholder farmers, who are the backbone of the agricultural sector in India.

At last, CEO-ASCI called for concerted efforts to support smallholder farmers through targeted interventions that include training, financial support, and infrastructure development. He emphasized that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the agri-food sector requires a collaborative approach, involving all stakeholders in the agricultural value chain. By working together, he noted, it is possible to create a more sustainable and equitable future for agriculture in India and beyond.

Capacity Building Training Program for the Fisher Communities

In a significant effort to boost the capabilities of India's fish farmers, especially those from marginalized communities, the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is being run under the guidance of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). This initiative aims to address the skills gap within the fisheries industry by offering a targeted two-day upskilling program to 10,000 fish farmers across the country. With the increasing importance of sustainable and productive practices in the fisheries sector, this project seeks to enhance the employability and productivity of fish farmers by equipping them with essential, industry-relevant skills.

As of December 2023, the project is in its initial phase, with 720 candidates having completed training in states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, and West Bengal. The training sessions, which cover roles like Aquaculture Worker, Freshwater Aquaculture Farmer, and Marine Capture Fisherman cum Primary Processor, were inaugurated with significant involvement from Union Ministers and state officials, highlighting the initiative's importance. Financial support through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms is also provided to manage wage loss compensation. As the project progresses, it aims to expand its reach to additional locations and job roles, continuing to assess and build on its impact. This early phase sets a strong foundation for improving the skills and livelihoods of fish farmers, contributing to the broader goal of sustainable development in India's fisheries sector.



12th to 14th December 2023-Saraikeela, Jharkhand



21st to 23rd December 2023-Sonitpur, Assam

In Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, a specialized training program was conducted for fisheries communities, focusing on the role of Freshwater Aquaculture Farmers. Held on December 24th, 2023, the program saw 25 participants engage in detailed sessions, culminating in a comprehensive assessment.



Training Session - Bommuluru, Krishna



Training Session - Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

In Bommuluru, Krishna, a training initiative was held on December 29th, 2023, aimed at the Inland Capture Fisherman Cum Primary Progressor job role. This program enrolled 35 individuals, with 33 achieving certification. The training equipped participants with essential skills for career advancement in the fisheries sector.

Training of Trainers (ToT) / Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) Program

In the 3rd quarter, ASCI has effectively conducted a total of 24 Training of Trainers (TOT) and Training of Master Trainers (ToMT) programs, comprising 17 online and 7 offline sessions. These programs covered 28 distinct job roles, engaging 265 trainers, further strengthening the skill development framework across various agricultural and allied sectors.



Standards and Quality Assurance (Oct-Dec, 2023)

Recent advancements include the development of three standalone National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the NCDEX project. These standards cover "Basics of Agri Commodity Market," "Price Risk Management in Agri Commodities for FPO," and "Quality Assurance and Price Risk Management in Agri Commodities at Farm Level," each designed to enhance competency and standardize training across these critical areas.

Additionally, a new Qualification Pack for WorldSkills has been developed, focusing on Floristry with 480 hours of training. This QP aims to elevate skill levels and align with industry standards, supporting professional development and excellence in the floristry field.

In a notable development, a new NOS and a comprehensive 120-hour curriculum were created for the 'Fishing Net Maker (Advance)' role. This advanced module addresses cutting-edge technologies for net fabrication and mending, business formation skills, digital literacy, financial management, and marketing strategies. These initiatives aim to elevate skills and knowledge, thereby fostering growth and innovation within the agriculture and aquaculture industries.

Standalone NOS developed for NCDEX Project

- 3 Standalone National Occupational Standards (NOS) were developed and submitted to NCVET

S.No.	Standalone NOS Title	NSQF Level	Duration (Hrs)
1	Basics of Agri Commodity Market	4	30
2	Price Risk Management in Agri Commodities for FPO	4	30
3	Quality Assurance and Price Risk Management in Agri Commodities at Farm Level	3	30

1 QP was developed for World Skills

S.No.	Qualification Pack Title	NSQF Level	Duration (Hrs)
1	Floristry	4	480

Seminar: A Comparative Look at Agricultural Education Systems in France and India

A seminar was organized to explore agricultural education systems in France and India at India Habitat Centre on 15th December 2023. A total of 10 French Institutes participated in the meeting. French delegates presentations focused on leveraging technological workshops and agro-ecology to enhance training and experimentation. In addition, India's approach highlighted the integration of technology into farming practices and the development of vocational training programs aimed at sustainability. The seminar addressed several key themes, including France's continuing vocational training and its impact on farm advisory services, as well as India's initiatives in vocational training to support sustainable practices. Additionally, discussions explored potential exchange programs between the two countries to promote knowledge transfer and encourage entrepreneurship.



Seminar on Comparative Look at Agricultural Education System in France and India

Ministry of Education Programs

Samagra Shiksha (School Program)

- ▲ The state of Assam has seen significant activity under the Samagra Shiksha (School Program), with 6,644 candidates successfully assessed across various agricultural and allied courses. These include Dairy Worker, Solanaceous Crop Cultivator, Dairy Farmer, and Floriculturist (Open Cultivation), all aimed at enhancing the skills and employability of participants.



School Program-Assam

Higher Education (UGC Program)

- ▲ Under the Higher Education (UGC Program), assessments were conducted in six colleges, focusing on diverse fields such as Aquatic Animal Health Management, Organic Farming, Gardener & Nursery Raiser, Industrial Fishing Technology, and Beekeeping. These efforts are a testament to the ongoing commitment to building a skilled workforce in agriculture and related areas.



UGC Program- Kerala



UGC Program-Punjab

14th Foundation Day of Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS)

The 14th Foundation Day of Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS) was celebrated with a grand ceremony at the university's veterinary auditorium. Major General Dr. Shrikant Sharma, SM, VSM, former Vice-Chancellor of LUVAS, served as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Satender Arya, CEO, ASCI, was present as Special Guest.

In a discussion held on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Satender Arya, CEO, ASCI and Dr. Vinod Verma, Vice-Chancellor of LUVAS, explored opportunities for the development and implementation of veterinary skill courses. This initiative can enhance practical training and employability, ensuring students are well-equipped to meet the demands of the evolving agricultural and veterinary fields.



14th Foundation Day-LUVAS

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

1. CEDSI Partners with Reliance Foundation to Empower Dairy Farmers in Karnataka

Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI), in collaboration with Reliance Foundation, is conducting a series of three-day capacity-building programs in Gadag, Karnataka. These initiatives are a crucial component of the Dairy Farmer Training Program, aiming to benefit dairy farmers and extension workers. The program focuses on imparting essential knowledge and skills to elevate dairy farming practices and promote sustainability within the dairy industry. By fostering partnerships and knowledge-sharing, CEDSI and Reliance Foundation strive to equip participants with the tools necessary for a prosperous and sustainable dairy farming future.



Reliance Foundation – Dairy Farmers Training Program

2. CEDSI organised a Series of Workshops in Collaboration with Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) Gathering Insights Across the Dairy Value Chain



Workshops on Dairy Value Chain

CEDSI, in collaboration with EDF, organized six stakeholder workshops to foster collaboration and gather insights across the dairy value chain. Over 75 delegates from dairy cooperatives like Amul, Bani, and Vita, along with 500+ progressive dairy farmers, participated. The workshops included representatives from organizations like BSE-BEAM, government bodies, and companies such as Milkfed, Corteva, and ITC. The discussions focused on developing strategies and advocating for policy interventions to ensure sustainable growth in the dairy sector.

Agriculture Skill Council of India

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