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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA

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CEDSI
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAIRY SKILLS IN INDIA

CEFMI
Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India

CEHSI
Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India

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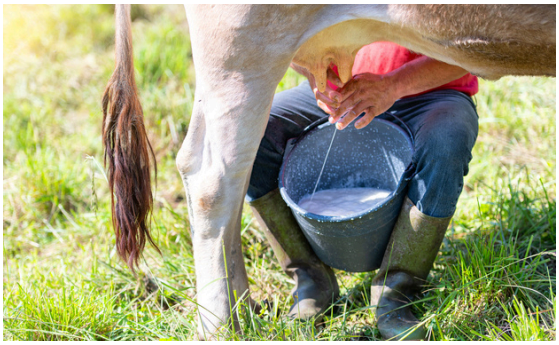
Helpline Launched for Dairy Farmers in T.N.

Dairy Development Minister T. Mano Thangaraj announced that Aavin aims to support both consumers and dairy farmers by maintaining quality and ensuring a steady income for farmers. Currently, Aavin procures 36.50 lakh litres of milk daily from 3.8 lakh farmers and sells 30.02 lakh litres per day.Minister noted 4-year rise in milk procurement, efforts to boost urban sales.

He stressed that there will be no compromise on quality and that strict action will be taken against any malpractice.Animal Husbandry Secretary N. Subbian and Aavin Managing Director A. Annathurai were also present at the launch.

To support dairy farmers, a toll-free helpline — 1800-425-2577 — has been launched. Farmers can use this number to seek assistance from veterinarians. The service is managed by IndusInd Bank Limited and its subsidiary Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) under BFIL's Bharat Sanjeevani programme.

Sustainable Dairy Farming: India's Path to Greener Growth and Rural Prosperity



India's dairy sector, the largest in the world, had long supported rural livelihoods and national nutrition. With over 80 million rural households involved, its role in the economy remained vital. However, traditional practices raised environmental concerns, particularly methane emissions and inefficient resource use. The sector approached a crucial turning point—balancing productivity with sustainability for long-term viability.Innovations such as biogas plants, automation, and digital tools helped farmers manage waste, reduce emissions, and improve efficiency. Genetic advancements improved herd resilience and milk yield. Initiatives like the GOBARDHAN project and the Rashtriya Gokul Mission focused on better manure use and indigenous breed development, supporting eco-friendly dairy practices through technology and training. Efforts by companies and NGOs demonstrated that sustainability could align with profitability. Models promoting organic farming and farmer entrepreneurship showed success across various regions. With continued focus on R&D, capacity building, and market-driven incentives, India's dairy sector held the potential to lead a sustainable transformation in agri-business.

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Experts Gather in Kolhapur to Discuss Innovations in Sustainable Dairy Farming

A seminar on "Sustainable Dairy Farming and Innovations" was recently held in Kolhapur, bringing together veterinarians, researchers, and industry professionals to share insights on advancing India's dairy sector through science and sustainable practices. The event focused on addressing challenges such as animal welfare, environmental impact, and farm efficiency.Discussions covered a range of topics including ethical

The importance of modern feeding systems, manure management, and knowledge sharing was highlighted as essential to sustainable transformation. By fostering awareness and collaboration, the event aimed to encourage future-ready dairy practices that ensure animal well-being, farmer livelihoods, and long-term sectoral resilience.

livestock management,stress reduction, Total Mixed Ration (TMR), and improved cattle nutrition. Experts emphasized practical and scalable solutions aimed at supporting small and large-scale dairy farmers.

Veterinary University Hosts Training on Nutritional Technologies for Dairy Farmers

A five-day hands-on training programme on "Nutritional Technologies for Dairy Farmers" was organized by the Department of Animal Nutrition at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana. The programme aimed to educate dairy farmers on modern nutritional practices to enhance the productivity and profitability of dairy farming. Experts conducted practical demonstrations and lectures focusing on balanced feeding using locally available resources.During the event, the importance of feeding practices that could significantly reduce costs in dairy farming was highlighted. The training covered various aspects, including the use of mineral mixtures, urea molasses mineral blocks, and bypass nutrients.Participants were also trained in silage and hay-making techniques, which are essential for year-round feeding. The training was part of ongoing efforts to improve dairy farming practices and make it a sustainable livelihood for rural communities. It also offered a platform for learning innovations that could boost both economic growth and rural employment.

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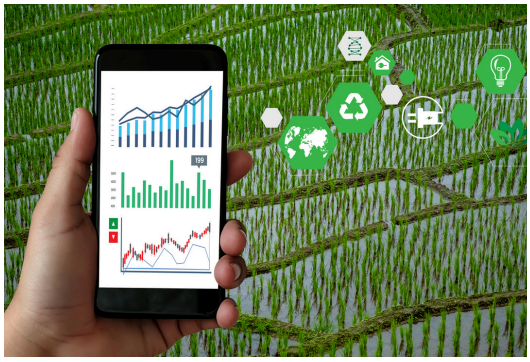
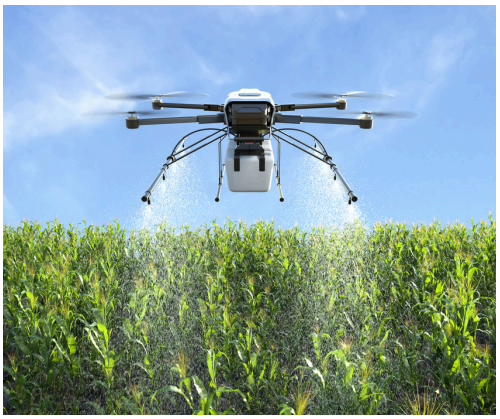


Odisha Empowers Farmers with AI-Driven Agriculture for Better Yields and Reduced Losses

The Odisha Government is integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into agriculture to provide farmers with accurate, real-time data aimed at reducing crop losses and improving productivity. This digital approach is designed to ensure that critical farming information reaches farmers efficiently, enabling timely interventions and informed decision-making.A recent presentation highlighted the use of AI for analysing geographical and agricultural data to enhance farming practices. Experts demonstrated how technology can support better crop planning, resource management, and yield forecasting, ultimately improving agricultural sustainability and efficiency. This initiative is part of Odisha's broader push towards digital agriculture, reflecting its commitment to empowering farmers with modern tools and insights. By adopting AI-driven solutions, the state is helping farmers transition into informed, resilient, and self-reliant agricultural entrepreneurs capable of meeting future challenges.

Himachal Pradesh to Deploy Drone Stations in Three Districts for Innovation



Drone technology will be deployed in agriculture and horticulture, with stations to be established in Hamirpur, Mandi and Kangra districts. The administration is promoting a drone ecosystem for agriculture, disaster management and healthcare. To support the Green Himachal vision, it will encourage drone usage statewide. . Plans are also in place to introduce drone taxi services to improve delivery of farm produce and medicines to remote areas. The project will include demonstration facilities and maintenance support to ensure readiness. Drone technology will be deployed in agriculture and horticulture, with stations to be established in Hamirpur, Mandi and Kangra districts. The administration is promoting a drone ecosystem for agriculture, disaster management and healthcare. To support the Green Himachal vision, it will encourage drone usage statewide. Plans are also in place to introduce drone taxi services to improve delivery of farm produce and medicines to remote areas. The project will include demonstration facilities and maintenance support to ensure readiness.

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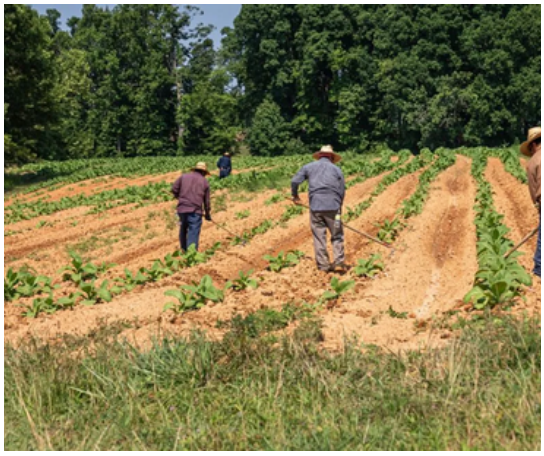
Mission-Mode Program Urged to Boost Medicinal Plant Cultivation at Stakeholder Consultation

A stakeholder consultation held in New Delhi aimed to strengthen India's medicinal plant sector through collaborative efforts, regional clustering, and industry partnerships. Government officials highlighted the sector's untapped potential and called for increased domestic production, improved inter-state trade, and expanded export opportunities.Participants recommended launching a mission-mode program under existing horticulture schemes to adopt best cultivation practices and enhance the value chain. They stressed the need for better coordination among central and state departments to simplify licensing processes and establish uniform guidelines. Region-specific cluster development, specialised mandis for fair pricing, and industry-farmer partnerships were proposed as key strategies. Emphasis was placed on value-added products like extracts and oils, with a focus on sustainable growth and rural livelihood improvement.



UP's First Indo-Dutch Horticulture Center to Boost High-Value Crop Production

Uttar Pradesh's first Indo-Dutch Center of Excellence in horticulture was established in Barabanki's Sonikpur village. Developed on a three-hectare site, the project was backed by an investment of approximately ₹12 crore and aimed to modernize horticulture practices across the state. The facility incorporated advanced greenhouse and post-harvest technologies to support the cultivation of high-value crops and provide critical infrastructure for farmers.The center focused on the protected cultivation of crops such as tomatoes, colored bell peppers, cucumbers, and several floricultural varieties. A nursery with the capacity to produce up to one crore saplings per cycle was set up to supply healthy planting materials across districts. The center also trained farmers and horticulture department officials in crop management, pest control, and meeting export standards to improve overall productivity and profitability. It aimed to increase farmer incomes, encourage sustainable horticulture, and position Uttar Pradesh as a leader in modern agricultural practices.

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ICRISAT Study Revealed Grafting Technique Boosted Tomato Yield by 64%

A recent study by ICRISAT, published in Frontiers in Horticulture, found that grafting tomato plants onto hardy rootstocks and growing them in Naturally Ventilated Polyhouses (NVPH) led to a 64% increase in yield compared to non-grafted plants in open fields. The grafted plants showed enhanced vigor, larger leaves, and extended harvesting periods, offering three to five additional pickings.This climate-smart approach proved financially viable as well, delivering the highest gross income, net profit, and benefit-cost ratios among tested methods. The technique addressed key challenges faced by smallholder farmers, such as unpredictable weather and declining soil health.

Pilot projects in Andhra Pradesh demonstrated productivity gains ranging from 30% to 150%. Stakeholders emphasized the need for greater training, support systems, and planting material access to enable wider adoption of this resilient, non-GMO technology.

Panchkula to Boost Horticulture Waste Management, Safety, and Infrastructure

Panchkula is set to get its first horticulture waste disposal plant in Industrial Area Phase 1, aimed at scientifically processing garden and horticultural waste into usable briquettes. The plant will be equipped with machinery such as a briquette machine, hammer mill, flash dryer, and a pollution control system. This project, estimated at Rs 2.43 crore, will help reduce landfill dumping and promote the reuse of horticultural waste, similar to the model followed in Chandigarh.To improve public safety and sanitation, funds have been allocated for the installation of CCTV cameras in sectors 2 and 4, and outsourcing agencies will be engaged to address the shortage of sanitation workers.

Around 200 workers along with necessary equipment will be deployed across different areas. Additionally, a door-to-door waste collection and segregation initiative has been extended for another year to ensure efficient waste management across the city.

Infrastructure improvements are also underway, with approval given for thermoplastic road painting and installation of reflectors and studs in several sectors. A new cremation ground and park will also be developed on a 7-acre plot in village Budhanpur to meet local needs.

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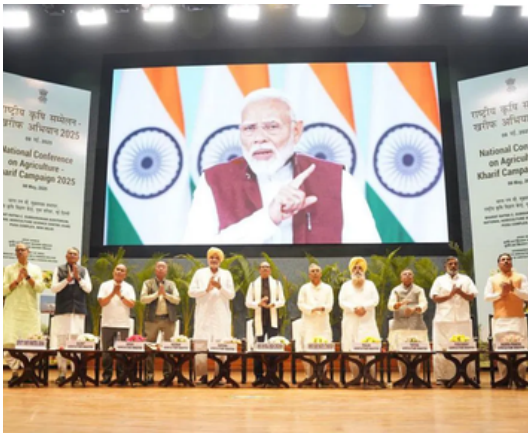
National Kharif Campaign 2025 Launched to Strengthen Indian Agriculture

The National Kharif Campaign 2025 was successfully launched at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium in New Delhi, under the leadership of Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The conference saw active participation from agriculture ministers of over 10 states, with others joining virtually.



The gathering focused on advancing agriculture through collaboration with the central government.Minister Chouhan emphasized the importance of ensuring food security for India's growing population, underlining the need for collective efforts in agriculture. He also highlighted India's growth as the fourth-largest economy and the government's commitment to agricultural development , food production, and welfare schemes. The conference discussed strategies to reduce input costs, increase production, and promote sustainable farming practices. Additionally, Chouhan introduced the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan,' where 16,000 scientists will spread agricultural awareness at the grassroots level.

Smooth Wheat Procurement in Madhya Pradesh Benefits Lakhs of Farmers

Madhya Pradesh witnessed an impressive wheat procurement season, with expectations of collecting up to 85 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of wheat from registered farmers. The drive began on March 15 across 4,000 centres, offering a procurement price of ₹2,600 per quintal. As of early May, 76 lakh MT had already been procured from over 8.7 lakh farmers.A total disbursement of ₹16,472 crore had been made to farmers for their produce, with projections estimating ₹19,400 crore in total support, along with an additional ₹1,400 crore in bonus payments. The entire procurement process was streamlined through digital registration options and local facilitation centres to ensure accessibility. Madhya Pradesh is known for producing high-yield wheat varieties like Sharbati and Durum, particularly in districts of the Malwa plateau. These varieties, grown in low-irrigated zones, contributed significantly to the state's overall procurement and wheat quality this season.

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Biometric Screening Made Mandatory for MSP Procurement of Pulses and Oilseeds

Starting from the Kharif 2025-26 season, the agriculture ministry mandated biometric face authentication and PoS machine use for Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement of pulses and oilseeds. This move ensures that only genuine farmers benefit from government procurement schemes under the PM-AASHA umbrella.

The procurement period has been limited to 60 days, extendable by 30 days, to avoid last-minute manipulation. Agencies like Nafed and NCCF will conduct real-time registration via Aadhaar-based portals, integrated with the government's unified agricultural statistics platform.

Disposal of procured produce will take place in the remaining nine months of the year.With robust crop prospects, the government approved record procurement of over 6 million tonnes of oilseeds and 5 million tonnes of pulses for the 2024-25 season. The new system aims to boost domestic production, curb imports, and ensure fair pricing for farmers during peak harvesting periods when market prices fall below MSP.

Haryana Offered ₹1,000 Per Acre to Promote Dhaincha Cultivation

To promote organic farming and reduce chemical fertiliser use, the Haryana government launched a scheme offering ₹1,000 per acre to farmers for cultivating "dhaincha" (Sesbania bispinosa), a green manure crop known for improving soil health and structure.

The initiative aimed to encourage crop diversification across 4 lakh acres in all 22 districts, expecting participation from over 3 lakh farmers. Dhaincha, ploughed back into the soil before harvesting, naturally enriched it by fixing nitrogen and retaining moisture, reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers and lowering input costs for farmers.Under the scheme, financial support was provided through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to farmers' bank accounts.To receive the incentive, farmers were required to upload crop photographs on the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal within the specified time. The initiative was seen as a step toward sustainable agriculture and long-term soil productivity.

CEASI UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The North-East Dairy Conference

Path to Self Sufficiency is being organized by the Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI) in collaboration with the Directorate of Dairy Development, Assam. Scheduled for May 15, 2025, the event will be held at the Assam Administrative Staff College in Khanapara. The conference aims to promote self-reliance in the dairy sector across the North East region.

ASCI Agriculture Skill Council of India | CEDSI CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR DAIRY SKILLS IN INDIA | सत्यमेव जयते Directorate of Dairy Development Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department Government of Assam

North East Dairy Conference

Path to Self Sufficiency

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Venue: Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara

15th May 2025

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WHO ARE WE

"**Centre of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI)**" is an autonomous organization working under the aegis of "**Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)**", which is working under **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** for skilling and capacity building of farmers, wage workers, self-employed professionals, extension workers etc. engaged in organized and unorganized segments of Agriculture & Allied sectors.

CEASI is an apex organization of Centres of Excellence in various sub-sectors of agriculture viz.

- Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India(CEDSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India(CEHSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India(CEFMI)

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