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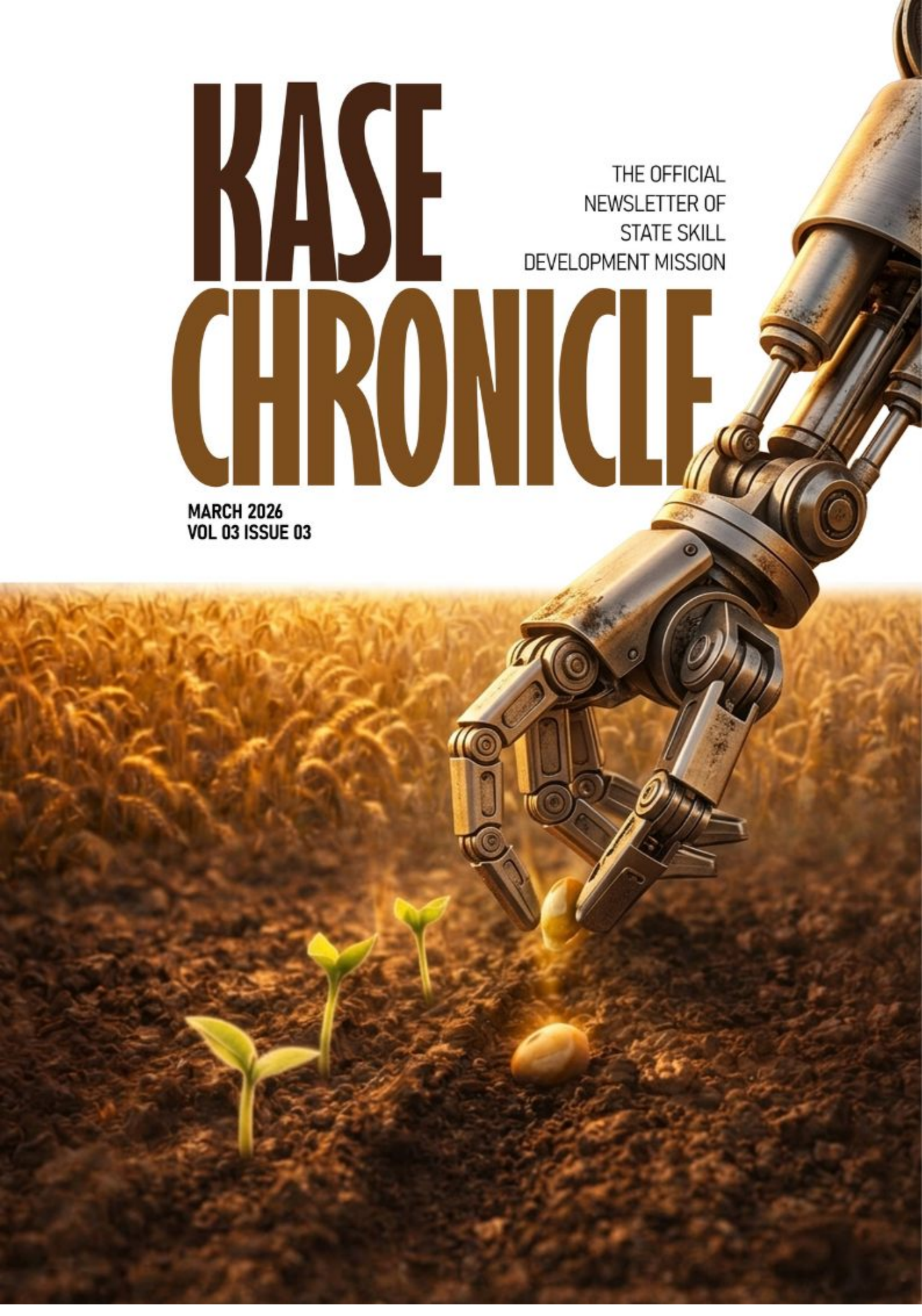


കേരളത്തിൽ തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങൾ ഉറപ്പാക്കാൻ കൈകോർത്ത് കെയ്സും ഒഡിഇപിസിയും; തിരുവനന്തപുരം പൂജപ്പുരയിൽ തൊഴിൽമേള സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു

കേരള സർക്കാരിന്റെ നൈപുണ്യ വികസന മിഷനായ കേരള അക്കാദമി ഫോർ സ്കിൽസ് എക്സലൻസും (KASE), ഓവർസീസ് ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ് ആൻഡ് എംപ്ലോയ്മെന്റ് പ്രൊമോഷൻ കൺസൾട്ടന്റ്സ് ലിമിറ്റഡും (ODEPC) സംയുക്തമായി തിരുവനന്തപുരം പൂജപ്പുര എൽ.ബി.എസ് കോളേജിൽ വച്ച് 2026 ഫെബ്രുവരി 28-ന് സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച തൊഴിൽമേള വൻ വിജയമായി. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പൊതുവിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും തൊഴിലും നൈപുണ്യവും വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി ശ്രീ. വി. ശിവൻകുട്ടി ചടങ്ങിന്റെ ഉദ്ഘാടനം നിർവഹിച്ചു. കെയ്സ്, ഒഡിഇപിസി എന്നിവയുടെ മാനേജിങ് ഡയറക്ടർ ശ്രീ. സുഹിയാൻ അഹമ്മദ് ഐ.എ.എസ് ചടങ്ങിൽ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു.

ഉദ്ഘാടന പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ, ആഗോള സാമ്പത്തിക മാറ്റങ്ങളും നവീന സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യകളുടെ കടന്നുവരവും മൂലം തൊഴിൽരംഗം നേരിടുന്ന അനിശ്ചിതത്വങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് മന്ത്രി സംസാരിച്ചു. അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരായ യുവാക്കളുടെ ഇടയിലുള്ള തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ പരിഹരിക്കുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെയാണ് നേമം നിയോജക മണ്ഡലത്തിൽ ഇത്തരമൊരു മേള സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചത്. പരമ്പരാഗത-അസംഘടിത മേഖലകളിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് മെച്ചപ്പെട്ട വരുമാനവും സ്ഥിരതയുള്ള തൊഴിൽ സാഹചര്യങ്ങളും ഉറപ്പാക്കുക എന്നതാണ് സർക്കാരിന്റെ പ്രഥമ പരിഗണനയെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം വ്യക്തമാക്കി.

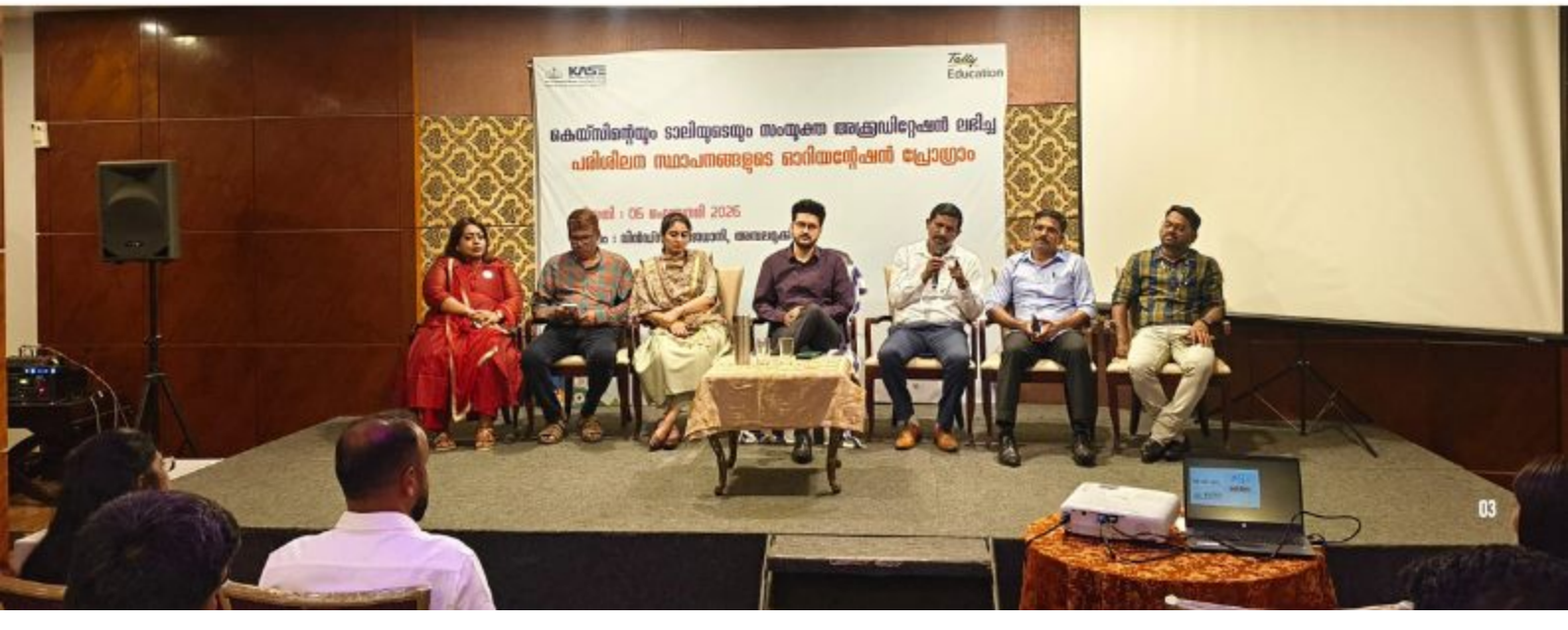
തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തെ തൊഴിലന്വേഷകർക്ക് വലിയ ആശ്വാസമായ ഈ മേളയിൽ ഏകദേശം 300 ഓളം ഉദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികൾ പങ്കെടുത്തു. പ്രമുഖരായ 26 തൊഴിൽ ദാതാക്കൾ ഉദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികളെ നേരിട്ട് ഇന്റർവ്യൂ ചെയ്യാനായി എത്തിയിരുന്നു. മേളയുടെ അവസാനം വിവിധ തസ്തികകളിലായി 170 ഉദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികൾ ഷോർട്ട് ലിസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR JOINTLY ACCREDITED TRAINING CENTRES

On 06 February 2026, the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) hosted a high-impact Orientation Programme in Thiruvananthapuram, marking a significant milestone in its strategic collaboration with Tally Education Pvt. Ltd. The event brought together representatives from 45 Jointly Accredited Training Centres to align their vision for the future of vocational excellence. A key highlight of the session was the formal issuance of Joint Accreditation Certificates by Shri Sufiyan Ahmed, IAS, Managing Director of KASE, solidifying the status of these centres as premier hubs for professional skill development.

The programme offered participants detailed insights into the joint accreditation framework, emphasizing the strategic opportunities and industry reach enabled by this unique partnership. Beyond the technical guidelines, the session reinforced a collective commitment to maintaining high quality standards in skill training. By bridging the gap between classroom learning and industry requirements, this initiative is set to play a vital role in building a robust and inclusive skilling ecosystem.

Ultimately, this collaboration focuses on the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector, aiming to significantly enhance youth employability across the state. By aligning training outcomes with real-world demands, KASE and Tally Education are ensuring that the next generation of professionals is equipped with the practical expertise needed to thrive in a competitive global market.



AGRITECH SKILLS — TRANSFORMING FARMING INTO A TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN CAREER

AgriTech Momentum in India

India's agriculture sector is undergoing a major transformation driven by technology adoption. According to recent government and industry updates, the country's AgriTech ecosystem has seen rapid growth with over 1,000+ startups working across precision farming, supply chain, and digital advisory services. These innovations are improving productivity, reducing risk, and making agriculture more data-driven.

Source: PIB (Press Information Bureau) – AgriTech and startup ecosystem updates

Technology Adoption Driving Skill Demand

The increasing use of drones, AI-based advisory platforms, satellite imaging, and IoT-enabled farm solutions is creating demand for a new category of skilled professionals. Reports highlight that technologies such as drone spraying and remote sensing are being actively promoted under government schemes like the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM).

Source: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare https://agricoop.nic.in/

Emerging Skill Requirements

Industry and policy reports point to a clear shift in skill demand within agriculture:

- Drone Operations & Maintenance: With subsidies supporting drone usage, certified operators and technicians are increasingly required.
- Agri Data Interpretation: Platforms providing weather, soil, and crop analytics require professionals who can translate data into farm-level decisions.
- Digital Advisory Services: Agri platforms need field coordinators who can onboard farmers and provide tech-based guidance.
- Supply Chain & Market Linkages: Digital marketplaces and FPO networks are expanding roles in aggregation, logistics, and quality tracking.

These roles highlight how agriculture is moving from manual labour to technology-supported decision-making and service delivery.

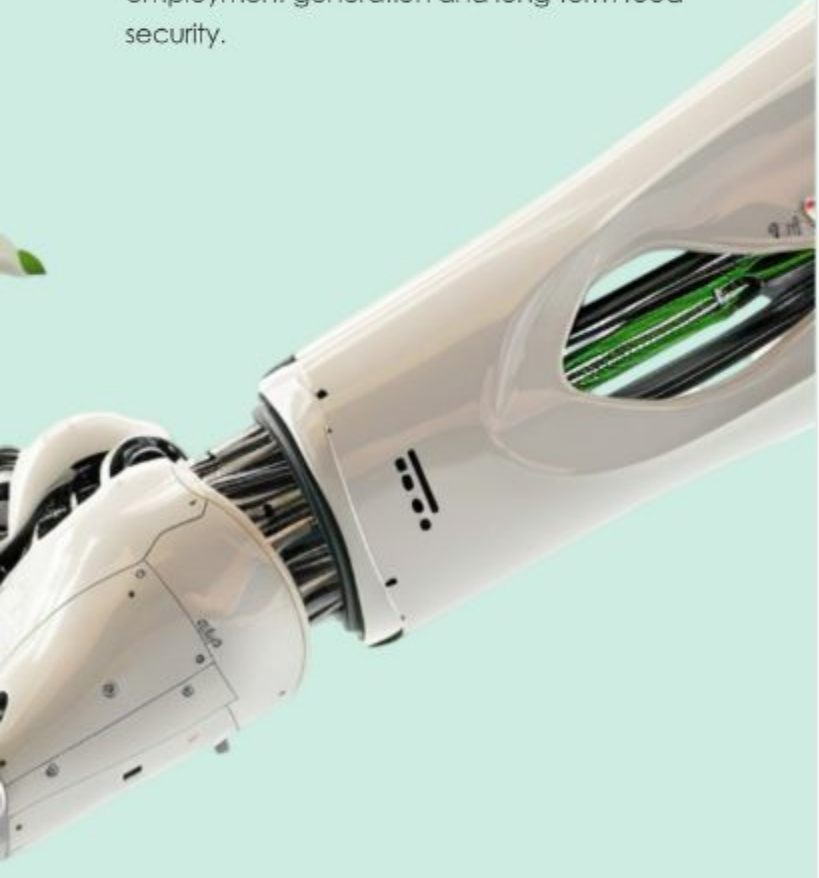
Policy Push for Skilled Workforce

Government initiatives such as the Digital Agriculture Mission (2021–2025) and AgriStack are laying the foundation for a data-driven agriculture ecosystem. These initiatives aim to create digital infrastructure for farmers, which in turn increases the demand for a workforce skilled in both agriculture and technology.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture – Digital Agriculture Mission
https://agricoop.nic.in/en/DigitalAgriculture

The Skill Takeaway

Agriculture is no longer just a traditional occupation—it is evolving into a technology-enabled sector with diverse career pathways. As digital tools become integral to farming, the demand is shifting toward professionals who can operate technology, interpret data, and bridge the gap between innovation and field-level application. Building such capabilities through structured skill training will be critical to ensuring both employment generation and long-term food security.



SKILL TERM

Geo-Spatial Crop Intelligence

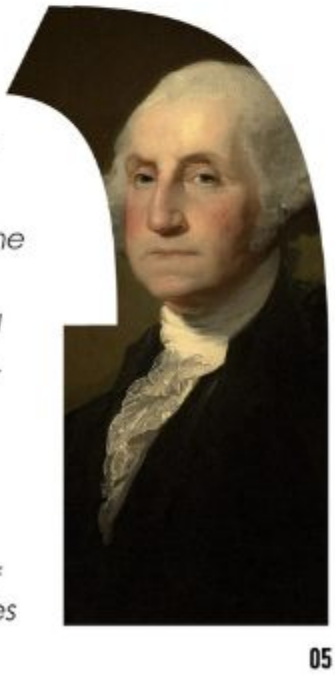
refers to the ability to use satellite imagery, GPS mapping, and remote sensing data to monitor crop health, assess field variability, and support precision farming decisions. This skill combines agriculture with geospatial technologies, enabling professionals to interpret spatial data for improving yield, optimizing resource use, and reducing risks. As agriculture becomes increasingly data-driven, this capability is emerging as a critical component in modern farm management and agri-advisory services.

Sector: Agriculture / AgriTech / Geospatial Analytics

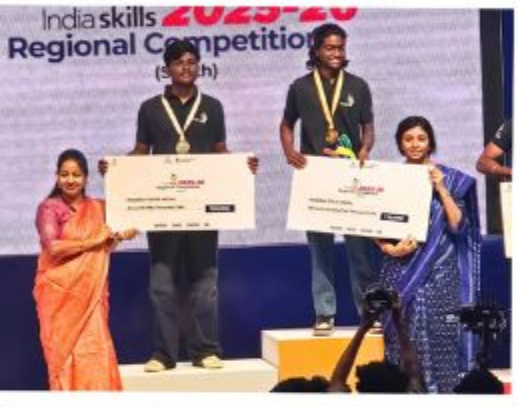
SKILL THOUGHT

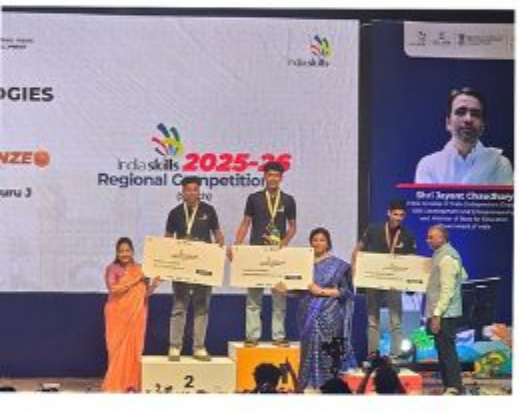
"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man"

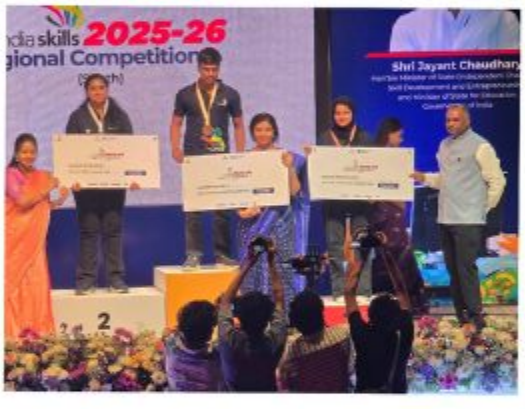
George Washington
First President of the United States

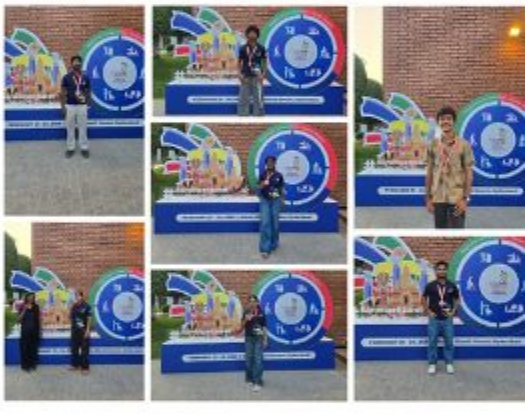


KERALA's SKILL EXCELLENCE SHINES AT SOUTH REGIONAL INDIASKILLS COMPETITION 2025–26









Kerala has once again demonstrated its prowess in vocational expertise, with Team Kerala delivering a stellar performance at the recently concluded South Regional IndiaSkills On-site Competition 2025–26. Represented by a dedicated cohort of 55 students, the state secured a total of 15 honors across a wide array of technical and creative trades, underscoring the high caliber of talent emerging from the region.

The state's achievements were highlighted by a series of top-tier placements. Gold medals were awarded to Harishankar R.S. and Ashwin B. for Cyber Security, Harinanda S.K. for Floristry, and Avneeth Hareesh for Web Technologies. The success continued with Silver medals earned by Siddharth R. in Joinery and Jishith M.P. in Web Technologies, while Fathima Saja secured a Bronze medal in Jewellery.

In addition to the podium finishes, several students earned Medallions of Excellence for their high-standard performances. These included Sreehari M. (Electronics), Kashinath M. (Painting & Decorating), Angelina Jose and Haniya Raihaanah (Landscape Gardening), Flaviyus Clement (IT Network System Administration), Abhinav Vinod (Graphic Design Tech), Prathibha Pradosh (Health & Social Care), and Akshara Anand (Logistics & Freight Forwarding). These results are a testament to the robust skill development ecosystem in Kerala and the tireless efforts of the participants and their mentors.

THE GREEN TECH REVOLUTION: SKILLING FOR A FOOD-SECURE FUTURE

Where Technology Touches the Soil: Sowing the Seeds of Knowledge-Driven Agriculture Revolution

Introduction- Kerala's Digital Harvest: A New Dawn in the Fields

Agriculture has always been deeply woven into Kerala's cultural and economic fabric. From the spice plantations of the Western Ghats to the coconut groves along the coast, farming has shaped livelihoods and local economies for generations.On a small farm in central Kerala, a young farmer checks his smartphone before stepping into the field. An app alerts him that soil moisture levels are low in one section of his farm. A sensor buried beneath the soil has already sent the data. Within minutes, an automated irrigation system begins watering only the required area, saving both water and energy.Scenes like this, once considered futuristic, are increasingly becoming part of modern agriculture around the world. In agriculture, this approach seeks not to replace farmers with technology but to empower them with tools that enhance productivity, efficiency, and resilience.

Powering the Plate: A New Global Landscape for Food Security

The global agricultural landscape is no longer defined merely by the plow and the seasons; it is being rewritten by sensors, satellites, and silicon. As we navigate the complexities of this decade, Agritech has emerged as the linchpin for achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger). For a state characterized by fragmented landholdings, a highly literate youth population, and unique ecological sensitivities, Agritech isn't just a sector—it's a necessity. AgriTech, is enabling farmers to harness tools such as artificial intelligence, drones, remote sensing, and digital platforms to improve productivity and decision-making.This transformation coincides with the global transition toward Industry 5.0, a new paradigm that emphasizes human-centric innovation, sustainability, and collaboration between humans and machines.

With global food systems under immense pressure from climate volatility and population growth, the core mandate of the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) must evolve. We are no longer just training "farmers"; we are cultivating tech-enabled "Agri-Entrepreneurs" and "Bio-Technicians" who can guarantee food security while making agriculture a lucrative, high-tech career pathway for the next generation.

The Skill Gap: Where Tradition Meets Technology

Despite the rapid growth of the Indian agritech ecosystem, a significant "Knowledge-Action Gap" persists at the ground level. The traditional workforce struggles to adapt to the digitized farm, while tech-savvy youth remain disconnected from agricultural opportunities. This gap manifests in three critical areas:

- **Data Literacy**: While soil sensors and drones collect vast amounts of data, the rural workforce often lacks the analytical skills to translate these metrics into actionable irrigation or fertilization plans.
- **Operation & Maintenance**: There is a critical shortage of certified technicians capable of maintaining drone payloads, automated drip-irrigation networks, and climate-controlled polyhouses.
- **Value Chain Management:** Skills in digital traceability and cold-chain logistics remain scarce, leading to post-harvest losses that directly threaten regional food security.

Mapping the Future: Emerging Agritech Job Roles

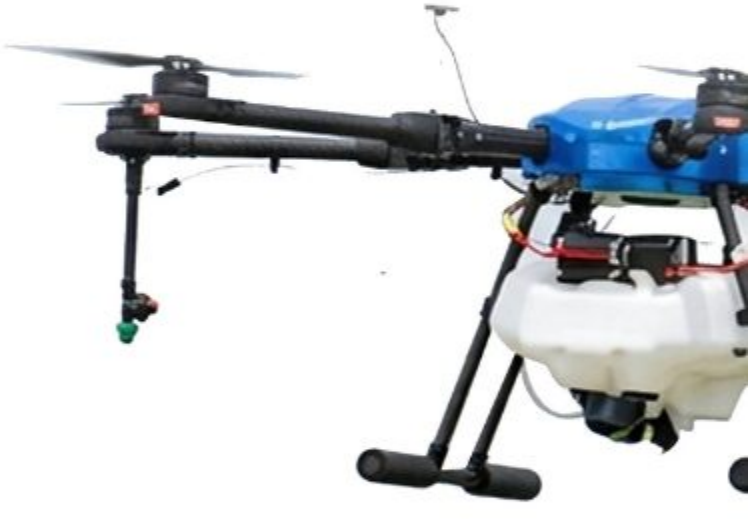
- As we design future-ready training frameworks, we must target specific, high-growth job roles. The "farmer" of the future is a technologist. Key emerging roles include:

1. Field & Farm Technology

- **Agricultural Drone Pilots (Agri-Aviators)**: With the rise of drone-assisted farming, there is an immediate need for certified pilots to operate heavy-payload drones for precision pesticide spraying, crop health monitoring, and seeding.
- **Smart Greenhouse & CEA Technicians:** Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), including hydroponics and vertical farming, requires technicians who understand plant biology alongside HVAC maintenance and nutrient-dosing automation.
- **IoT & Sensor Maintenance Technicians:** Ground-level workers skilled in installing, calibrating, and repairing soil moisture sensors, weather stations, and automated irrigation systems.

2. Data & Digital Agriculture

- **Farm Data Analysts:** Professionals who can translate raw data from satellites into actionable dashboards for farmers, predicting disease outbreaks and optimizing water use.



- **Precision Agriculture Specialists:** Experts trained in GPS-guided farm machinery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map field variability.

3. Post-Harvest & Supply Chain (Direct impact on Food Security)

- **Agri-Blockchain Technologists:** Specialists focused on integrating traceability into the supply chain, ensuring produce is tracked from "seed to shelf" to reduce spoilage and guarantee food safety.

- **Agro-Processing Automation Technicians:** Skilled personnel to operate and maintain robotics, optical sorters, and automated packaging lines in modern food processing parks.

4. Sustainability & Advisory

- **Climate-Smart Agriculture Consultants:** Advisors who guide local farming communities on transitioning to regenerative, low-carbon practices, directly aligning state outputs with UN SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The Opportunity Landscape: Where are the Jobs?

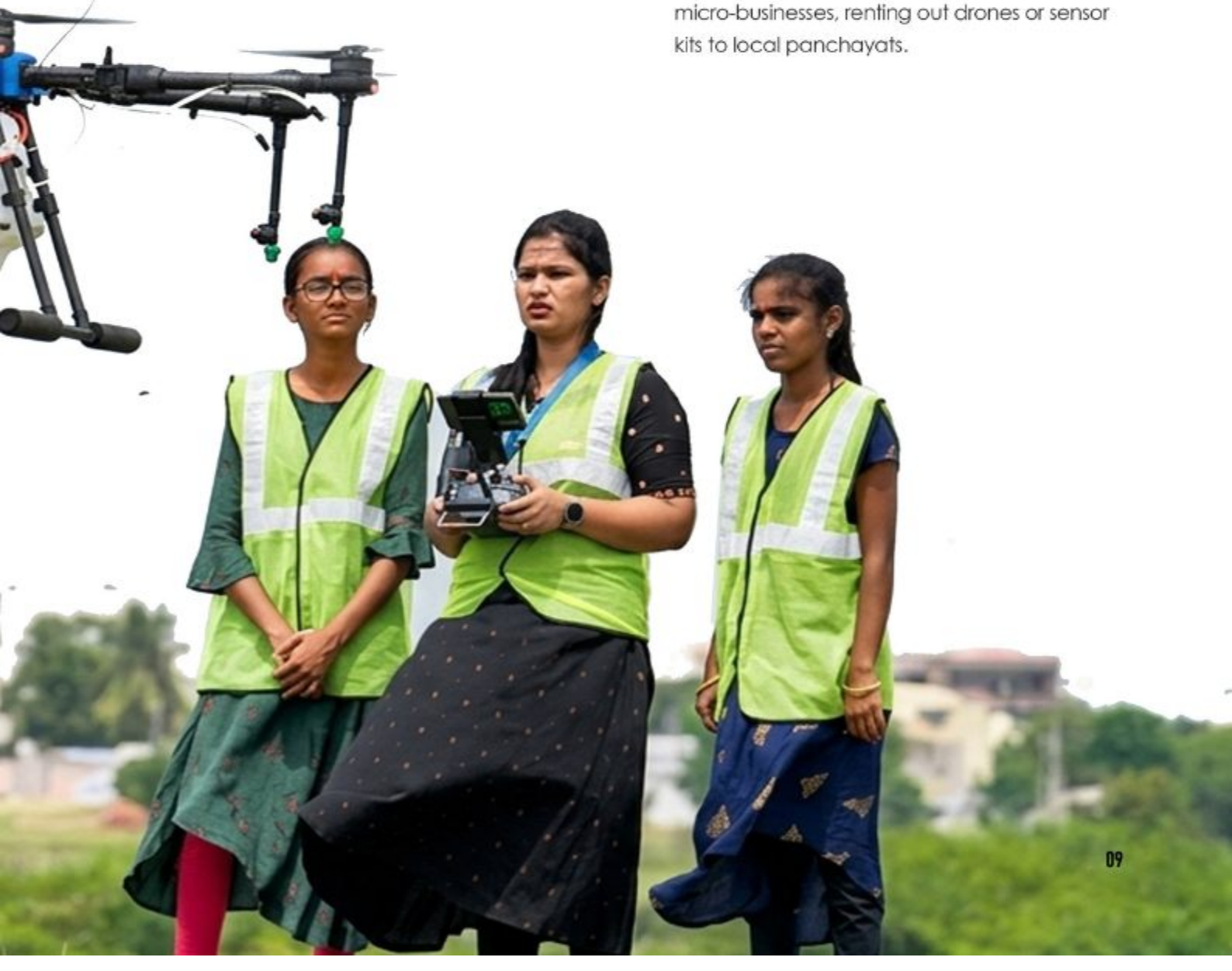
The demand for these specialized skills is surging across two distinct horizons:

1. The Domestic Market (India):
The domestic agritech ecosystem is booming, driven by established Agri-input giants and evolving Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

- **Startups & Agri-Fintech:** Companies are aggressively hiring field agents who can onboard farmers onto digital platforms and provide tech-support.

- **Corporate Farming & Processing:** Mega food parks are generating direct employment for automation technicians.

- **Entrepreneurship:** A primary goal of our skilling initiatives is to foster Agri-Entrepreneurs—youth who set up "Farming-as-a-Service" (FaaS) micro-businesses, renting out drones or sensor kits to local panchayats.



2. The Global Frontier (International Placement):

The global demand for tech-savvy agricultural workers is creating highly lucrative overseas migration pathways:

- **The Middle East:** Facing severe water scarcity, nations in the Gulf are investing heavily in high-tech food security projects, creating a massive demand for Hydroponics Experts and CEA Technicians.

- **Europe & Japan:** These regions are battling rapidly aging farming populations. Aligning our SSDM certifications with global benchmarks (like the German dual vocational training system) positions our state's workforce as the prime choice for these highly mechanized, AI-driven international roles.

Skilling Initiatives & Schemes: The Current Framework

To capitalize on these opportunities, we must leverage both national frameworks and state-specific structures:

- **National Integration:** Aligning with the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and utilizing digital public infrastructure like the "AgriStack" ensures our curriculum meets industry standards.

- **State-Level Innovations:** Existing state infrastructure must be repurposed as advanced agritech hubs. The focus must be on practical, hands-on training rather than purely theoretical instruction.

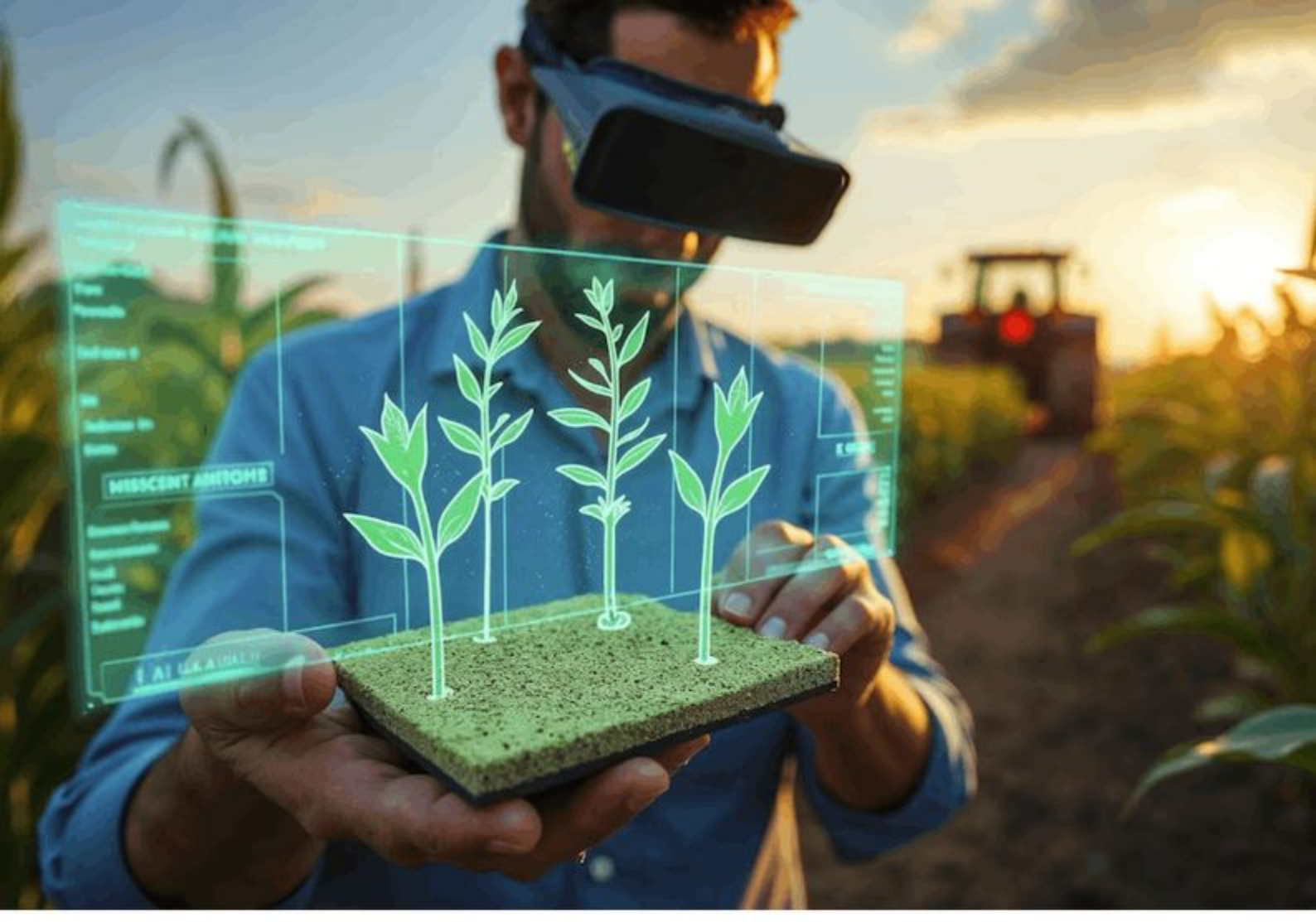
From Concept to Impact: SSDM's Strategic Moves in AgriTech Revolution

To truly lead the Agritech revolution, the State Skill Development Mission must transition these concepts into actionable programs through a **Decentralized Skill Delivery through District Skill Development Plan model:**

- **Establish 'Village Agritech Labs'**: Instead of relying solely on centralized training institutes, we must utilize local ITIs and skill development centers to host "living labs." Here, youth can experiment with IoT-based farming in their own distinct soil and climate conditions.

- **Micro-Credentialing for the Gig Economy:** Agritech interventions are often seasonal. We should offer short-term, industry-vetted modular certifications that allow youth to work as "Agri-Consultants" in a gig-economy model.

- **International Alignment:** Expand international mobility partnerships specifically for Agritech. By aligning our DSDP curriculum with global standards, we ensure that a local certification is a valid passport to global employment.



Cultivating Tomorrow's Fields : 360° AgriTech Approach for Food Security

Technological transformation in agriculture requires collaboration across multiple sectors. A successful AgriTech ecosystem must integrate the following elements:

- **Government policy support** – creating an enabling regulatory environment.
- **Research and innovation institutions** – driving breakthrough technologies and knowledge.
- **Startup incubators and accelerators** – nurturing new ideas and solutions.
- **Farmer organizations and cooperatives** – facilitating collective growth and adoption.
- **Skill development agencies** – preparing a workforce for the evolving agricultural landscape.

Kerala has already begun building such an ecosystem through targeted innovation programs, startup initiatives, and agricultural research collaborations.The intersection of food security and technology is where the next generation of mass employment will be generated.Integrating AgriTech modules into training programs, collaborate with startups to provide hands-on learning opportunities, and ensure every initiative promotes sustainability, water conservation, and climate resilience in alignment with SDG targets By transforming our labor force into a tech-savvy, environmentally conscious network of professionals, we are not just filling job vacancies—we are securing the future of our food systems.. Let our operational mandate be clear: **No farmer left behind, no technology untapped.**

Department of Labour and Skills
Government of Kerala

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