



Industry Participation in Strengthening VET: Innovations and Experiences: Agriculture Skill Council of India Experience

Dr. Satendar Arya

ABSTRACT

Economic development, social advancement and labour welfare of in 21st century India is crucially dependent on a strong skill base. Skill development has to start at the early stages of education. Government of India has brought about many progressive reforms in the skill ecosystem in the last few years that aim to make the country Skill Capital of the World. Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and other sector skill councils are an important part of that vision. ASCI plays a crucial role in spreading quality vocational education among the young generation of the country. ASCI works as a nodal agency of government to create awareness about agricultural skills, develop standard agricultural curriculum, maintain the quality skill development programmes through effective monitoring and assessment, and generate demand for apprentices and skilled labour among all sections of the employers. ASCI's focus is not only to meet the domestic demand for the skilled labour force in agriculture but also to export skilled workers to other countries that are facing labour shortage. It focuses on to build the skill base among student communities beginning from the final years of school education.

The industry is an important partner of ASCI in this endeavour. ASCI makes continuous interaction with the industry across a wide range of its activities. From curriculum and content development, the establishment of the Centres of Excellence, to organising job fairs, facilitating the intake of apprentices, the industry has remained a close partner and also extended vital support in all its endeavors. Our experience says a greater industry involvement is a win-win situation for all. From ASCI's part, there has always been an effort to make skill provision tailored to the need of the industry.

On the other hand, ASCI provides all support to the trainees and apprentices to find a job placement according to their aspirations, skills, and capacity. Thus for the last six years, ASCI has successfully established itself as synonymous with quality assurance in skilling, cutting edge training modules, and promoting a credible learner-centric, market-driven training model.

Keywords: Skill Capital, ASCI, Learner-Centric, Market-Driven

BRIEF CV

Dr. Satender Arya is presently heading the Agriculture Skill Council of India as CEO. Under his leadership Agriculture Skill Council of India was awarded Best Sector Skill Council for the Year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

He has development Sector experience in Skill Development Category Management, Food and Agri Supply Chain, International Business, New Business Development and Vendor Management functional areas. He has handled multifarious responsibilities with leading MNCs and Indian Corporates and has extensive and in depth expertise in business strategy and planning, financial budgeting and successful implementation of challenging projects.

He has done Business development across geographies, business divisions and strategic projects and has an ability to deal with diverse and global cultural environments. He was instrumental in getting Industry and other Stakeholders support across various segments of Agriculture Sector and all due diligence done through before Sector Skill Council got approved. Prior to joining Agriculture Sector Skill Council, Dr. Arya had Pan-India exposure in handling Dairy, Staples, Fruits & Vegetables categories and in establishing supply chain of fruits and vegetables.

He has experience of exports of Agro-chemicals and Bulk drugs to Europe, Middle East and Asian countries. In depth understanding of operational intricacies while working in / with Chinese companies. He has served National Skills Foundation of India as Chief Executive Officer, Reliance Retail as Assistant Vice President and Express Well International Ltd. Mumbai as the Country Manager (India). He is Ex-Member of Executive Council of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT, New Delhi).