



SKILLING PRIMARY SECTOR

NATIONAL SKILL CONFERENCE 2018

14th and 15th November 2018 at USI, New Delhi

Primary sector is the first sector which has been the means of survival of the original humankind. The hills and forests it is the tribal, in the plains it is the farmers and in the coastal areas it was the fishermen. Then only the secondary sector and tertiary sector emerged, and these two sectors are very much depended on the primary sector for their existence.

Even today majority of the population in this country still depend on the primary sector for their survival. Tribal people constitute 8.6% of the nation's total population, over 104 million people according to the 2011 census. The Economic Survey 2017-18, which was released in Parliament ahead of the Union Budget 2018 had indicated that agriculture employs more than 50 per cent of the total workforce in India and contributes around 17-18 percent to the country's GDP with more than 60% people depending directly or indirectly. However, various studies reports that this is on a declining trend. Still the sector remains the mainstay of the rural economy and remains the largest employment provider in the country. The number of fishermen families in India is 8,74,749 with a total of population 40,56,213 and fishing in India is a major sector of livelihood employing 14 million people. In addition to this there is a group called traditional artisans who have been playing a supportive role who are engaged in caste based occupation for the survival of the society.

According to the World Bank Compilation report 2017, 66.46% of the total population still living in to rural areas in India. Taking a cue from the Government of India's skill mission of skilling more than 400 million youth by 2020 over 60% of these youth are in rural areas and depend on primary sector at present.

Today skilling the Indian population has become one of the primary agendas of the country and various policies, structures and systems have been created for it. The number of stakeholders involved as well as use of resources in skill training has also tremendously increased.

However out of the 42 sector skill councils only one is on agriculture. But the paradox is that it is not reaching adequately to the primary sector. Most of the focus and efforts are being put in the secondary and tertiary sector. Making things the skills in the primary sector has not even covered under the understanding of technical skills. Not only that most of these primary sector engagements are corporatized and fully controlled by them and going for cash crops upsetting the food security. Consequently, traditional workers are either eliminated from the sector or become wage earners who are considered as unorganised workers. Nobody has made serious efforts in seeking the potential primary sector in generating the alternative energy. Along with this the use technology for the upgradation of the primary sectors has also been not looked at considerably

Most of the people who are engaged in the primary sector for their livelihood is staying in the rural areas and remote locations. The existing training facilities are not accessible to them both in terms of locations and capability. Most of them are also living below the poverty line. It is also becoming more and more non-remunerative and those who are working there do not want to continue and migrating to cities making the urban poverty situation worse. In India, interstate migration doubled between 2001 and 2011 compared to the previous decade, growing 4.5 per cent annually. Of recent the suicide tendency of the farmers is also increasing. It is also reported that 80% of the farmers who are committing suicide are depending on cash crops. They are also exposed to various modes of economic exploitation.

Hence this conference will focus on highlighting the importance of skilling in primary sector and recognise skills in primary sector. It will also seek various possibilities and strategies of skilling in primary sector. Thus, encourage various stakeholders for strengthening primary sector through skilling and creating employment opportunities.

14th and 15th November 2018

**The United Service Institution of India
Rao Tula Ram Marg (Opposite Signals Enclave)
Vasant Vihar PO, New Delhi - 110 057**

Land Mark (its 2 km from Shankar Vihar Metro station and 4 kms from Airport)