Strategic perspectives for human resource requirements in agriculture and horticulture sectors in India

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This study regarding the strategic outlook for human resource needs in India's agriculture and horticulture sectors for the next 20 years addresses the evolving economy's competitive skill requirements. Supply projections were made considering factors like historical growth, seat availability, graduation delays, placement rates, replacement needs, adjusted stock, etc. Demand projections were made considering historical growth of the sector, attrition rate, vacancies, contractual employment, new job roles, etc.

In 2020, the available stock of agriculture graduates was 301,295 against a demand of 414,592, and horticulture graduates were 34,300 against a demand of 119,635. By 2040, the supply-demand gap is expected to narrow to 8% for agriculture and 21% for horticulture. The study's insights will help shape higher education, support evidence-based policy-making, and assist in implementing the National Education Policy 2020.

Keywords: Agricultural education, horticulture, human resource needs, skill requirements, strategic outlook.

resource needs in agricultural education as a whole allows for effective workforce planning. In the Indian context, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi and a few state governments have conducted periodic studies to assist educational institutions, Government bodies and policymakers in addressing the potential gaps in skilled manpower. By doing so, they ensure a steady supply of trained professionals capable of meeting the evolving demands of the agricultural sector. The present study has been carried out to project the human resource requirements in agriculture and horticulture sectors in India in the next 20 years. The outcome of this study will again help educational institutions align their curricula and programmes with the current and future needs of these sectors. This promises that students are equipped with the right skills and knowledge, making them more employable and relevant to the evolving agricultural landscape. The projections will also act as a guide for policymakers and decision-makers, aiding them in formulating strategies to enhance the quality and relevance of agricultural higher education. By identifying both the current and future