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title: Need to make agricultural education job-oriented.

**DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM):** Crores of educated and technically qualified young persons are unemployed. They go to employment offices again and again where vacancies are displayed and there they submit their applications. But they do not get employment because creation of employment is nil in both government and no-government sectors. Thousands compete for a single post, hence youth of the country is frustrated and their number is increasing day-by-day.

These frustrated young persons are being exploited by anti-social and anti national elements and many unemployed youth are turning towards crimes and terrorism. Educated skilled and unskilled young persons are migrating to foreign countries in search of employment and better life. This brain drain is due to lack of employment opportunities in our country.

Half of India's population is directly dependent on agriculture. However, when we analyse the level of education imparted for agriculture, it gives a disappointing picture. Agricultural education is part of some school curriculum till higher secondary, however, there is little emphasis on it from the Government and the school authorities. The majority of students are those who leave their regular education and end up in agricultural domain. However, there are neither sufficient avenues to study agriculture nor are any examinations which can help to monitor their performance. Thus, we are stuck in traditional ways of agriculture. Today, agricultural education is available both as an optional subject and vocational course. However, just two percent of higher secondary students take up agricultural education. There is an urgent need to focus on agricultural education, especially in relation to job and skill development. The country today is debating the introduction of entrepreneurship in education. However, linking entrepreneurship to agriculture can bring the much needed innovation to provide transformational results in this sector.

Creating a vibrant syllabus for agricultural education for schools and linking it to job creation will not only increase basic knowledge but also make students naturally interested for advanced courses in agriculture and thereby a better career.