

# AN INTERPRETATION CENTRE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

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**ABSTRACT** - With rapid urbanization, cities are facing challenges related to food security, environmental degradation, and public health. An interpretation centre for urban agriculture can serve as a platform to educate and inform the public about the importance of growing food in cities and the various techniques and methods for urban agriculture. The centre can showcase different types of urban agriculture practices and provide hands-on experiences and workshops to encourage people to grow food in their homes and communities. In addition, the centre can demonstrate the social and economic benefits of urban agriculture, such as improving community health, creating local jobs, and reducing carbon footprint.

**Key Words:** urbanization, agriculture, carbon footprint.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Agricultural interpretation centre play a crucial role in educating people about the history, present and future of agriculture. In India, agriculture has been the backbone of the economy for centuries, and it continues to be the primary occupation of a majority of the population. However, with the rapid urbanization and industrialization of the country, many people, especially those living in cities, have lost touch with their agricultural roots. Moreover, in today's urban context, where the majority of our population is disconnected from the rural way of life, agriculture museums serve as a bridge between urban and rural communities. This is where agriculture museums come into picture.

Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and demonstrations, an agriculture museum can help visitors understand the science behind agriculture, its historical and

cultural significance, and the challenges faced by farmers today.

By showcasing innovations and best practices in agriculture, creating such a space can inspire visitors to adopt sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in their own lives, where agricultural interpretation centre is not just a repository of artefacts and information, it is a dynamic space for learning, discovery, and engagement. It is a place where people can connect with their food, their land, and their community, and gain a deeper appreciation of the vital role that agriculture plays in our lives.

## 2. OPPORTUNITIES

India is a predominantly agrarian country, with more than 50% of the population engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The agriculture sector in India has witnessed significant advancements in recent years due to various initiatives taken by the government and private sector.

**Advancements in agriculture technology:** In recent years, agriculture technology has played a crucial role in advancing the agriculture sector in India. Several startups have emerged in this field, focusing on developing innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by farmers; these include precision farming, sensor-based irrigation systems, drone-based imaging, and data analytics, among others.

**Digital agriculture** has also emerged as a significant trend in recent years, with the government launching various initiatives to promote it. These include the use of mobile apps for farming-related activities, eNAM (electronic national agriculture market), and the National Farmer Database. These

initiatives aim to provide farmers with easy access to information, markets, and credit.

**Sustainable agriculture** has become a critical focus area in recent years, with the government implementing several programs to promote it. These include initiatives such as the Soil Health Card scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) these programs aim to promote sustainable farming practices, reduce the use of harmful chemicals, and conserve natural resources.

**Organic farming** has emerged as a popular trend in recent years, with the government launching various schemes to promote it. These include the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), the Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region, and the National Programme for Organic Production, these initiatives aim to promote organic farming practices and help farmers to market their produce better.

**Agricultural exports** have been a significant focus area for the Indian government, with various initiatives launched to promote them. These include the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, the National Agricultural Export Policy, and the Market Access Initiative. These initiatives aim to promote Indian agricultural produce in international markets and increase export earnings.

### 3. LIMITATIONS:

Despite the significant advancements, Indian agriculture faces several challenges, including climate change, soil degradation, water scarcity, and low productivity due to outdated farming practices. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the agriculture sector, particularly in terms of supply chain disruptions and reduced demand for some agricultural products.

### 4. AIM:

To promote sustainable agriculture practices, improve food security, and create a more resilient and sustainable environment in the urban fabric

## 5. DESIGN APPROACH BASED CHALLENGES

The design approach of an interpretation centre should be using the storyboard as a guide, the designer should then proceed to evaluate and allocate exhibition spaces according to the storyboard theme and other visual and communication needs.

The following are the important factors to be considered while designing, along with the local building by-laws and other regulations has and when required.

- Site Selection
- Site zoning
- Indoor and Outdoor circulation
- Exhibit space
- Natural and Artificial lighting and ventilation
- Services

## 6. DESIGN PROPOSAL

USER	ACTIVITY	SPACES
VISITOR	VISUAL EXPERIENCES HANDS ON EXPERIENCE SHOP READ FOOD & BEVERAGE SANITATION	EXHIBIT WORKSHOPS STORE LIBRARY CAFETERIA TOILET
ADMIN/ STAFF	WORK MONITORING MEETING BEVERAGE/FOOD SANITATION	RECEPTION BOX OFFICE CURATORS OFFICE DIRECTORS OFFICE SERVICE ROOM CCTV ROOM MEETING ROOM STAFF REST SPACES PANTRY STAFF TOILET
SERVICE STAFF	WORK SERVICES FOOD & BEVERAGE SANITATION	STORE JANITOR HELPER MAINTENANCE ROOM STAFF TOILET
WORKMEN	RESTORATION SERVICES FOOD SANITATION	STORE STORE PROPS COLLECTIONS WORKSHOP PANTRY TOILET

Figure 1: Project details

## 7. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT:

The centre will be a platform to experience the farming culture and its advancements through the years, keeping urban farming as a keen interest; centre will be a space for learning and as a resource to motivate people to take a step towards sustainable practises.

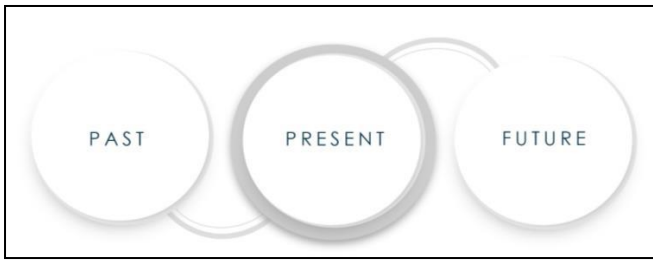


Figure 2: Design Concept

## 8. SPACE THAT WILL DEFINE THE CENTRE:

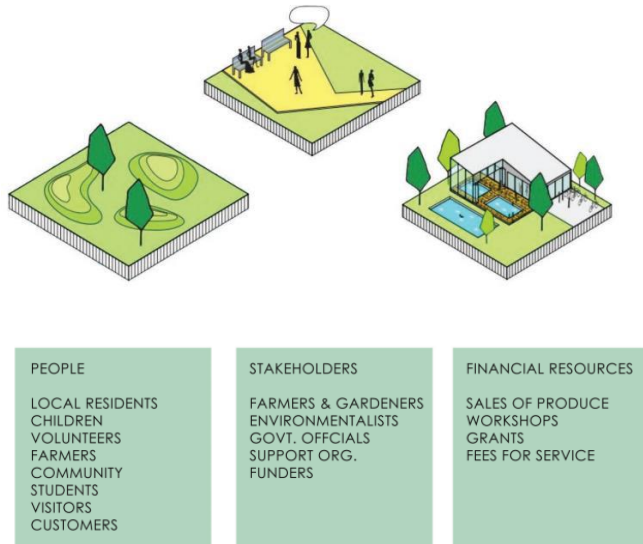


Figure 3: Design Concept

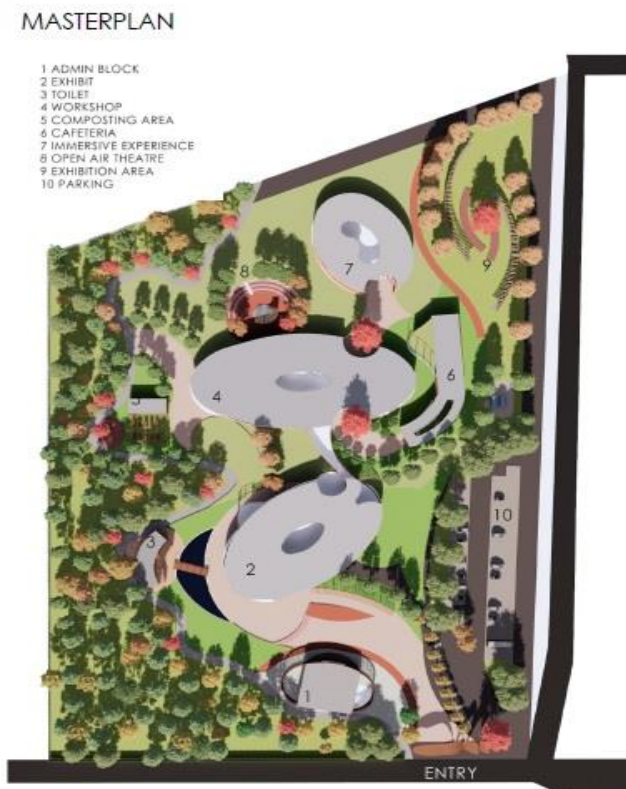


Figure 4: Design Concept

## 8. CONCLUSION:

Agriculture museums play a crucial role in educating people about the history, present and future of agriculture In India, agriculture has been the backbone of the economy for centuries, and it continues to be the primary occupation of a majority of the population.

However, with the rapid urbanization and industrialization of the country, many people, especially those living in cities, have lost touch with their agricultural roots. Moreover, in today's urban context, where the majority of our population is disconnected from the rural way of life, agriculture museums serve as a bridge between urban and rural communities. This is where agriculture museums come into picture.

Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, and demonstrations, an agriculture museum can help visitors understand the science behind agriculture, its historical and cultural significance, and the challenges faced by farmers today. By showcasing innovations and best practices in agriculture, creating such a space can inspire visitors to adopt sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in their own lives. Where agricultural interpretation centre is not just a repository of artefacts and information; it is a dynamic space for learning, discovery, and engagement. It is a place where people can connect with their food, their land, and their community, and gain a deeper appreciation of the vital role that agriculture plays in our lives.