

# KVK TIMES

VOL-3, ISSUE-6



भारत  
ICAR

भा.कृ.अनु.प. - कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र

भा.कृ.अनु.प. - केन्द्रीय रोपण फसल अनुसंधान संस्थान  
कासरगोड-671124, केरल, भारत

**ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA**  
**ICAR-CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
KASARAGOD-671124, KERALA, INDIA



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**KASARAGOD-671124, KERALA, INDIA**



**K. Balachandra Hebbar**

Director  
ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research  
Institute  
Kasaragod, Kerala



It gives me immense pleasure to note the release of the next issue of *KVK TIMES*, documenting the continued efforts and achievements of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under Zone XI, encompassing Kerala, Karnataka, and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. This publication stands as a valuable reflection of the dynamic and farmer-centric extension activities carried out across the zone.

At a time when Indian agriculture is facing complex challenges arising from climate variability, resource constraints, and market uncertainties, the role of KVKs in translating scientific knowledge into practical, field-level solutions has become increasingly critical. The initiatives showcased in this issue highlight the focused efforts of KVKs in promoting climate-resilient practices, integrated farming systems, efficient resource use, and entrepreneurship-led livelihood enhancement.

KVK Kasaragod, in collaboration with State Departments, Local Self-Governments, and line departments, continues to play a proactive role in strengthening extension outreach through innovative approaches, value chain interventions, and capacity-building programmes. The consistent documentation of such grass-root level activities through *KVK TIMES* not only captures regional successes but also collaborative learning and field-level appraisal of interventions across KVKs.

I am pleased to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of scientists and extension personnel of all member KVKs, whose close engagement with farming communities has resulted in tangible improvements in productivity, income, and resilience. Such collective efforts reinforce the relevance of the KVK system as a catalyst for sustainable agricultural development.

I place on record my appreciation to Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone XI, and his team for their continued guidance and leadership in strengthening the extension ecosystem. I congratulate ICAR-KVK Kasaragod for bringing out this issue of *KVK TIMES* and wish the publication continued success in inspiring innovation, collaboration, and excellence in agricultural extension.

K. Balachandra Hebbar



ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone XI

भा.कृ.अनु.प.- कृषि तकनीकी अनुप्रयोग अनुसंधान संस्थान, जोन XI

MRS, HA Farm Post, Hebbal, Bengaluru 560 024

एम.आर.एस, एच.ए. फार्म पोस्ट, हेब्बाल, बेंगलुरु ५६० ०२४

Fax: +91-80-23410615

Email: director.ataribl@icar.gov.in

## V. Venkatasubramanian

Director

ICAR–Agricultural Technology Application Research

Institute, Zone XI

Bengaluru



Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) continue to play a crucial role in empowering farming communities by providing timely technological backstopping and need-based extension support. By integrating scientific knowledge with field-level experience, KVKs are effectively addressing the twin goals of enhancing productivity and ensuring profitability, while keeping sustainability at the core of agricultural development.

The KVKs functioning under ICAR-ATARI, Zone XI, covering the states of Kerala and Karnataka and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, have consistently demonstrated their strength in implementing farmer-oriented interventions. The activities documented in this issue of KVK TIMES reflect the collective efforts of scientists and extension personnel in promoting innovative practices, strengthening market linkages, encouraging value addition, and fostering entrepreneurship among farmers and rural youth.

The philosophy of “*Learning by doing*” and “*Believing through seeing*” remains central to the KVK system. Through frontline demonstrations, capacity-building programmes, and close engagement with Farmer Producer Organizations, KVKs are expanding their role beyond conventional extension to become catalysts of rural transformation. The initiatives showcased in this issue highlight the impact of such efforts in improving farm income and enhancing livelihood security.

*KVK TIMES*, as a virtual knowledge-sharing platform, has gained momentum by systematically documenting monthly achievements of KVKs across the zone. The success stories and impactful interventions featured in this publication provide valuable opportunities for shared learning and field-based technical refinement, while also motivating extension professionals to strive for excellence.

I appreciate the dedicated efforts of all 48 KVKs in Zone XI and congratulate ICAR-KVK Kasaragod for bringing out this issue of *KVK TIMES*. I also place on record my appreciation for the sincere efforts of the scientists and staff involved in planning, execution, and documentation of extension activities that contribute to the strength of this publication.

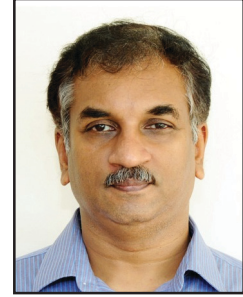
I am confident that *KVK TIMES* will continue to serve as an effective platform for sharing innovations, strengthening collaboration, and advancing the cause of farmer-centric agricultural development.

V. Venkatasubramanian



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a matter of great pleasure to present the December 2025 issue of *KVK TIMES*, the monthly e-publication that documents the significant activities, innovations, and achievements of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning under Zone XI, covering Kerala, Karnataka, and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

I whole heartedly thank Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod for his constant support and encouragement in all efforts of KVK to serve farming community.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru for his wholehearted support and encouragement in bringing out the *KVK Times*. I am also thankful to Dr. Binoo P. Bonny, Director of Extension, KAU for her invaluable advice and support.

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all KVKs of Zone XI for sharing their experiences, innovations, and success stories for inclusion in this issue. I express my deep gratitude to the Team members of KVK Kasaragod for their sincere efforts in compiling and editing the *KVK Times*. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Dr. B.T Rayudu, Principal Scientist and all staff members of ATARI Bengaluru for their immense support and cooperation. I also thankfully acknowledge the staff members of CPCRI Kasaragod for their contributions.

I am confident that *KVK TIMES* will continue to motivate extension professionals, foster collaborative learning, and contribute meaningfully to strengthening the agricultural extension system for the benefit of farming communities.

With immense pleasure, I present the 6<sup>th</sup> issue, Volume 3 of *KVK Times* covering the period of 1-31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025.

**(Manojkumar T. S.)**  
Principal Scientist and Head  
ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod

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# ALAPPUZHA

## World Soil Day celebrated

Aligning with the global theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”, KVK-Alappuzha jointly with ICAR–CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam celebrated World Soil Day-2025 with a comprehensive set of academic, outreach, and field-oriented activities on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 25. About 100 participants including 70 registered participants (65 UG and PG students from four colleges and five interns/apprenticeship trainees)



and staff members of Regional Station and KVK attended the programme. Dr. Sam T. Kurumthottal, Retired Professor & Head, Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, Vellayani delivered an insightful and inspiring inaugural talk elaborating on soil degradation issues in Kerala, challenges of urbanization, impact of land-use changes, and the need for continuous soil monitoring. Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head, ICAR–CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam gave the presidential address and Dr. P. Muralidharan, Head, KVK delivered the keynote address focusing on the importance of recycling the waste generated in the cities in an effective way and enriched students’ understanding of soil biodiversity, nutrient cycles, soil profile characteristics, and soil conservation measures. Dr. A. Abdul Haris, and Dr. A.



Joseph Rajkumar, Principal Scientists also addressed the gathering. An inter-college quiz competition and poster and collage competitions were conducted on the topic ‘importance of healthy soils’ for the students and staff members. A guided field-cum-lab visit was conducted for the students to demonstrate systematic soil sampling and testing procedures by Dr. K.



Sajnanath, SMS, KVK. Certificates and prizes were distributed to winners of the quiz and poster competitions in the valedictory function. The participant students acknowledged their learning experience and exposure in their enthusiastic feedback.



## Rashtreeya Kisan Diwas Celebration

'Rashtreeya Kisan Diwas' was celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 25 in collaboration with Mararikulam (N) Krishi Bhavanduring the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' in the second fortnight of December. A capacity building programme on 'In situ composting of farm wastes' followed by method demonstration of composting using EM solution was conducted in farmer's field. Dr. K.Sajnanath, SMS, KVK while explaining the relevance of *Swachhta activities* in the farm and home for a healthy life, exposed the participant farmers to government schemes in this regard. Different methods of composting



which could be easily adopted were explained and the ill effects of burning of bio-wastes in public places were highlighted. The participant farmers actively involved in the hands on activities. Gramapanchayath member Sri N.K. Babu also addressed the gathering. All the participants were provided with 1litre of EM solution to take up the composting at their homesteads. A total of 38 persons including department officials and peoples representative attended the programme.

On the same day, another programme was organized in the ICAR-CPCRI-KVK campus in which about 80 persons including farmers participated. Sri M. S. Rajeev, SMS, KVK explained provisions of the new *Viksit-Bharat* Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VBGRAMG) to the participants narrating the



significance of the mission in terms of outcome-mode and rural infrastructure enhancement in the village. Pamphlets on the same were also distributed. Smt. Aneesa, M.S, Principal Agricultural Officer, Kollam, and Dr P. Anithakumari, PS also addressed the farmers on the occasion. In the afternoon session, participants visited the exhibition stall, KVK, and experimental plots of the institute and interacted with scientific and technical staff gaining first-hand exposure to ongoing research and field-level innovations



## Gearing up Prosperity through Power Weeder

KVK-Alappuzha has initiated several steps to encourage and facilitate SC families involved in agriculture and allied activities for their socio-economic development through the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. Under the scheme, Mrs. Sujatha and her husband, a SC family from Thamarakulam Panchayath who are involved in different agriculture production activities was selected for supporting, based on the recommendation from Krishi Bhavan, field visits and



considering their track record on production activities in the previous years. This family manages a diverse range of crops including vegetables, betel vine, tubers, banana, and seasonal paddy, across both owned and leased lands. Among the operations, land preparation remained their primary bottleneck. The family previously relied on expensive hired labour and rented machinery, which increased production costs and caused

scheduling delays. To facilitate self-reliance and reduce operational costs, KVK provided the family with a 6HP, two geared power weeder purchased under SCSP programme. The couple proactively attended a three-day agricultural machinery training session also. This maneuverable machine would equip the family to manage land preparation independently. The power weeder was handed over to Mrs. Sujatha on 16.12.25 at KVK by the Dr. P. Muralidharan Head, KVK in the presence of the co-ordinators of the programme, Dr. T. Sivakumar and M. S. Rajeev, along with other KVK staff members.



# BAGALKOTE

## Follow-up Field Visit to FLD on Pulse Booster in Pigeon Pea:

A follow-up field visit to the Front Line Demonstration on Popularization of Pulse Booster in pigeon pea was conducted on 3rd December 2025 at Hadagali village of Hungund taluka. The performance of the demonstrated technology was reviewed, and farmers were advised on crop management practices to enhance productivity.



### Demonstration on Soil Sample Collection:

On 3rd December 2025, a problematic soil field at Hadagali village of Hungund taluka was visited. During the visit, farmers were demonstrated the scientific procedure for soil sample collection to enable accurate soil testing and appropriate nutrient management.



### Follow-up Visit under OFT on Nutrient-Rich Pearl Millet:

On 4th December 2025, a follow-up visit was conducted under the OFT on “Assessment of Nutrient-Rich Pearl Millet Varieties to Enhance Nutritional Security among Women” at Hallur village of Bagalkote taluk. Detailed interviews were conducted to understand the daily dietary habits of participating women and to assess their acceptance of pearl millet rotis in regular meals. In convergence with the Department of Health, basic biometric measurements and physical examinations of the OFT beneficiaries were conducted during the visit. The activity aimed to monitor the nutritional status of the women and to document health improvements resulting from the intervention.



### Geo-Plotting Demonstration under CFLD Oilseeds:

A follow-up visit to CFLD oilseeds (groundnut) fields was conducted on 4th December 2025, during which geo-plotting of beneficiary fields was demonstrated to ensure accurate documentation and monitoring of the demonstration plots.



### Participation in Maha Kisan Mela, Hyderabad:

During the month, Dr. Gurudath Hegde, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Bagalkote, successfully participated in the Maha Kisan Mela held at Hyderabad as a panel expert and in his capacity as General Secretary of the Asian PGPR Society.



### World Soil Day Celebration at Karadigudda:

On the eve of World Soil Day, ICAR–KVK Bagalkote, in association with the Department of Agriculture, organized a World Soil Day programme at Karadigudda village of Badami taluka. The programme created awareness among farmers, students, and the local community about the importance of soil health. As part of the World Soil Day programme, an essay-writing competition was conducted for students to encourage understanding of soil-related themes. Prizes were distributed to the winners.



### Off-Campus Training on Horticultural Crops:

On 6th December 2025, an off-campus training programme on horticultural crops along with World Soil Day celebration was conducted at Halagali village of Mudhol taluka, focusing on improved cultivation practices.



### Capacity Building Programme on AI-Based Crop Analytics:

Dr. Venkanna Balaganur, Animal Scientist, KVK Bagalkote, participated in a five-day training programme on “Smart Farming Advisory: Empowering KVK with

AI-Based Crop Analytics” conducted at UAS, Bangalore, to enhance digital advisory services.



### Training on Millet Processing and Value Addition:

KVK Bagalkote organized the second batch of a six-day training programme on “Millet Processing, Value Addition and Millet-Based Bakery Products” from 8th to 13th December 2025 at the Bakery Training Unit, UAS Dharwad, under the Empowering SC Farm Women programme. Twelve farm women from Bagalkote district participated, and the programme included practical demonstrations on millet-based bakery products.



### Natural Farming Training Programme under NMNF:

The five-day Natural Farming Training Programme (NMNF) for CRPs and Krishi Sakhis (First Batch) was conducted at ICAR–KVK Bagalkote from 15th to 19th December 2025. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Venkateshulu, Director of Extension, UHS Bagalkote, with participation from officials of the Department of Agriculture. Around 30 Krishi Sakhis and CRPs from Mudhol, Jamakandi and Badami taluks participated in the training. As part of the programme, on 18th December 2025, a field visit was conducted to a natural farming farmer’s field at Sunaga village of Bilagi taluka, where participants observed the preparation and application of natural inputs such as Jeevamrutha, Panchagavya and other plant growth-promoting liquid formulations. The programme concluded with a closing ceremony and distribution of certificates to the participants.



**Distribution of Inputs under FLD on IPM in Tomato:**  
On 17th December 2025, inputs were distributed under the FLD on Integrated Pest Management for tomato pin worm by the Scientist (Horticulture), KVK Bagalkote.



**Observation of Swachhata Pakhwada:**  
KVK Bagalkote observed Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th to 31st December 2025 by taking a Swachhata Pledge involving scientists and staff.



**Participation in Totagarika Mela:**  
KVK Bagalkote participated in the Totagarika Mela 2025–26 organized by the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, held from 21st to 23rd December 2025.



**Farmers' Day Celebration:**  
Farmers' Day was celebrated on 23rd December 2025 at ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bagalkote with active participation of farmers and farm women. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Dr. M. V. Manjunath, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Shri Arjun Galagali, Progressive Farmer from Kainkatti village of Badami taluka, participated as the guest. During the programme, progressive farmers and farm women were honoured in recognition of their contributions to agriculture. A live telecast of “G Ram G Viksit Bharat” was also arranged at the KVK campus. About 90 farmers and farm women actively participated in the celebration.



**On-Farm Testing on Liquid Jaggery Technologies:**  
On 30th December 2025, an On-Farm Testing (OFT) on “Assessment of Efficiency and Acceptability of Liquid Jaggery Technologies” was conducted at farmers' field to evaluate improved processing methods under field conditions.



# BALLARI

## 25<sup>th</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of ICAR-KVK, Ballari

The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ballari, successfully organized its 25<sup>th</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting on December 15, 2025, providing a strategic platform to evaluate the previous year's agricultural progress and finalize the action plan for the upcoming cropping seasons in the district.

The event was formulaically inaugurated with the watering of a plant by Dr. Hanumanthappa, the honourable Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur. In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor briefed the committee on the fundamental purpose of the SAC and during his presidential address, he emphasized the unique challenges of Ballari's District. He directed KVK scientists to design specialized training programmes focused on multiple cropping systems to strengthen farmer income and also said that future plans must be based on the real problems farmers face in their fields.

Furthering this, Dr. A.R. Kurubar, Directorate of extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, highlighted the critical role of KVK in bridging the gap between laboratory research and field-level implementation. He urged the scientist have to remain focused on resolving immediate field problems and accelerating the adoption of modern technologies to enhance the economic stability of the farmers. Adding a localized perspective, Mr. Somesunder, the Joint

Director of Agriculture for Ballari, highlighted that 1.13 lakh hectares in the district fall under the Tungabhadra command area and majority of farmers are exclusively cultivating paddy and they relying heavily on chemical inputs and it leads to soil degradation and environmental impact, he emphasized that there is an urgent need for widespread awareness campaigns to reduce the chemical inputs in the crops. These initiatives aim to educate the farming community on the benefits of sustainable practices, specifically encouraging a strategic changeover toward the use of organic fertilizers and natural pesticides to ensure the long-term health of the land.

The technical session featured a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Palaiah P., Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Ballari, who detailed the action taken report and the diverse activities conducted during 2024-25. Earlier, the gathering was welcomed by Dr. Rajeswari, Scientist (Home Science). The meeting witnessed hearty participation and valuable input from several dignitaries, including Dr. Ravi Shankar, Officer-in-Charge of the College of Agriculture, Hagari, Dr. Ramesh, Professor (Veterinary) college of agriculture Hagari, representatives from various line departments and local progressive farmers. Further, Dr. Ravi, S., Scientist (soil science) has offered the vote of thanks to SAC members and Dr. Naveen Kumar P., Scientist (Agricultural Extension) KVK Ballari has narrated the programme.



# BENGALURU RURAL

## INFORMATION FOR - KVK TIMES OF ICAR - KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT

(1<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025)

### 1. Field day on Finger millet variety ML-322 demonstration:

ICAR –KrishiVigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural District organized field day on ‘Introduction of finger millet var. ML-322 for late *Kharif* season’ at Anighatta village of Devanahallitaluk in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Devanahallitaluk on 28.11.2025. Dr.Ningaraju, G.K., Scientist (Agronomy) suggested to farmers to take medium duration Finger millet variety ML-322 released by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore which is resistant to blast disease and suitable for sown in August month. Dr.Veeranagappa, P., Soil scientist advised the farmers to grow green manure crops like sunhemp, diancha, sesbania during May – June and incorporation will be done in the flowering stage of the crop. These practices enhance the soil fertility as well as reduced the dependency on chemicals. The demonstrating farmers were opined that, the finger millet variety ML-322 is a medium duration variety which will take up to 100-110 days for harvesting, among other varieties it is performed the best recorded significantly higher number of earheads per plant (3 to 3.5), higher in fingers per earhead (6 to 7) and finger length is upto 7.4 cm and doesn’t recorded the blast disease, which will help to obtain good yield and higher income. The programme was witnessed by the Anighatta and surrounding villages farmers and farmwomen.



### 2. Field day on management of spindle bug in Areca nut – demonstration:

ICAR – KrishiVigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural District conducted a field day on ‘Demonstration of Spindle bug management in Arecanut’ in the field of Mr.Pavan Kumar, farmer of Gollahalli village,

Doddaballapurataluk on 11.12.2025. The demonstrations were conducted by Dr. G. Eswarappa, Scientist (Apiculture), explained the demonstrated technologies viz., spraying of *Thiamethoxam* 25 WG (25 g granules / 100 l water) and 20 days after spraying of *Azadirachtin* 10000 ppm (2ml / L) for the management of spindle bug severity in Areca nut garden. Dr.Supriya, Scientist (Plant protection) explained that, the leaf spot disease has been observed in areca nut crops, in the early stage of the disease appears as small brown spots on the leaves and nuts. Gradually, these spots increased in size and the affected shoots turned yellow, resulting in stunted growth of areca nut plants and reduced nut yield. Spraying of *Propiconazole* 25% EC @ of 1 ml / L for the management of leaf spot. The coordinating farmer Mr.Pavan Kumar shared his opinion with the other farmers on whether the pest has been brought under control due to the demonstrating technologies. Totally, 45 farmers and farmwomen were aware about the technology demonstrated in the field day programme.



### 3. Field day on Demonstration of Climate resilient practices in Redgram

Organized field day on demonstration of climate resilient practices in pigeon pea sponsored by SC-SP programme, GoI, at Kottigemachenahallivillage of Doddaballapurataluk on 18.12.2025. Dr.Ningaraju, G.K., Scientist (Agronomy) demonstrated the climate resilient practices of Redgram cultivation in the 10 farmers’ field. Dr.Hanumantharaya, B.G., Senior Scientist & Head suggested farmers to follow climate resilient practices in the present agricultural scenario. The farmers opined that, seed treatment with *Rhizobium* (400 g) and spraying of pulse magic (10 g / L) resulting in got more branches and good yield. Dr.Gopal, Y.M., Scientist (Agriculture Extension) and Dr.Supriya, S., Scientist (Plant Protection) were participated in the field day programme.



4. Skill training on **‘Waste to Wealth: Preparation of value added products from flower waste’** under SC-SP programme sponsored by NAARM, Hyderabad

The ICAR-KrishiVigyan Kendra (Bengaluru Rural) Hadonahalli has organized the six days training programme on **“Waste to Wealth: Preparation of value added products from flower waste”** as part of the project titled **“Waste to Wealth: Conversion of flower waste into Agarbathi and Dhoop”** sponsored by ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 at ICAR-KVK Hadonahalli (Bengaluru Rural District) to impart skill for unemployed farm women and youth. The training programme covered practical session on dried flower skills, hands on training on collection,



segregation, drying and pulverization of flower waste, utilizing flower waste into Agarbatti and dhoop making, value addition and waste utilization of flower waste, value added products from flower waste (Biodegradable bowls, cups, table mat, mouse pad etc.), agarbatti specifications and standards (BIS & ISI), branding and marketing, dried flower skills such as Patpourri, silicagel, pressing, flat art etc, agarbatti essential oil dipping process, labelling and packaging, entrepreneurship development skills, etc.

Dr. Hanumantharaya, B.G, Senior Scientist & Head and PI, Dr. Gopika C. Muttagi, Scientist (Home Science) and Co-PI of the training programme encouraged the trainees to take the advantages of the technologies and develop skills to make utilization of flower waste in a sustainable and effective manner and also highlighted about the present status and future scope for value added products from flower waste.

A total of 30 SC farm women and men were participated in the training programme. Participants were from Doddaballapura, Nelamangalataluks of Bengaluru Rural districts.

Dr. Sangama, retired principal scientist, IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. Gopika C. Muttagi, Scientist (Home Science), ICAR-KVK, Hadonahalli, Dr. G. R. Smitha, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. S. Bhuvaneshwari, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. Hanumantharaya B. G., Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Hadonahalli, Dr. Shrikant H. S., Assistant Professor, IABM, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru, Dr. Pavan Kumar, Assistant Professor, College of Horticulture, UAHS campus, GKVK, Bengaluru were participated as the resource persons during the 6 days training programme.

The valedictory function was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 with distribution of certificates to the participants. Dr. Y. N. Shivalingaiah, Directorate



of Extension, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru inaugurated the valedictory function and briefed about the skills and points required for success in entrepreneurship. Dr. M. Balakrishnan, Chairman SC-SP, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM was the chief guest briefed about the schemes available for the start-ups, employment opportunities in waste to wealth helps the youth to enhance their economic condition by this type of trainings and strategies to be adopted to combat labour scarcity issues in the district. During the valedictory



function Scientists and non-teaching staff of ICAR-KVK also participated in the event. The programme ended with Vote of thanks.

Sd/-

**Senior Scientist & Head**

# BIDAR

## CELEBRATING THE HANDS THAT FEED THE NATION: FARMERS DAY 2025 AT ICAR-KVK BIDAR

**Contributors: Mrs. Jyothi S Kamthane, Dr. Barikar Umesh, Dr. Shivkumar, Dr. Chandrakanth, ICAR-KVK Bidar**

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar in collaboration with IFFCO and MYRADA, Bidar jointly celebrated **Farmers Day–2025** on **23rd December 2025** at the ICAR-KVK Bidar campus with great enthusiasm and farmer participation. The programme aimed to recognise the invaluable contribution of farmers to the nation’s food security and rural economy while also updating them on recent policy initiatives and development programmes.

More than **110 farmers and farm women** from different villages of Bidar district actively participated in the event. The programme served as an excellent platform for interaction between farmers, extension agencies and development organisations. Participants were provided with **information leaflets** related to improved agricultural practices, government schemes and institutional support services to strengthen farm-based livelihoods.

A special session was organised to brief farmers about the **“VB Gram Bill”**, highlighting its objectives, benefits and role in strengthening village-level development, infrastructure and farmer welfare. The session helped farmers understand how the bill would support sustainable agriculture, improve access to services and empower rural communities.

As a mark of respect and encouragement, **progressive farmers and farm women were honoured** for their achievements and contributions to agriculture and allied sectors. The recognition motivated fellow farmers to adopt innovative and scientific farming practices.

The event also featured a **live telecast of the address by the Hon’ble Union Agriculture Minister, Government of India**, which inspired farmers and reinforced the importance of their role in building a self-reliant and developed India.



The joint celebration by ICAR-KVK Bidar, IFFCO and MYRADA reflected the strength of institutional collaboration in empowering farmers through knowledge sharing, policy awareness and recognition. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to support farmers in achieving sustainable and profitable agriculture, contributing to the vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.

## “HEALTHY SOIL, WEALTHY FARMERS”:ICAR-KVK BIDAR CELEBRATES WORLD SOIL DAY AT MASKAL

**Contributors: Mrs. Jyothi S Kamthane, Dr. Barikar Umesh, Dr. Shivkumar, Dr. Chandrakanth, ICAR-KVK Bidar**

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar celebrated **“World Soil Day”** with great enthusiasm at **Maskal village on 5th December 2025**, highlighting the vital role of soil in sustaining agriculture and farmers’ livelihoods. Around **80 progressive farmers** from Maskal and nearby villages actively participated in the programme and interacted with the scientists.

The programme was **presided over by Dr. Umesh Barikar, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Bidar**, who emphasized that soil is not just a medium for crop growth but a living ecosystem that must be protected and nourished. He explained that maintaining soil health through balanced fertilization, organic matter addition, and scientific management is essential for sustainable and profitable farming. He urged farmers to adopt soil testing before applying fertilizers to avoid nutrient imbalance and degradation of soil fertility.

Dr. Chandrakanth, Scientist (Soil Science), educated farmers on the **importance of soil testing**, proper methods of soil sample collection, interpretation of soil test reports, and judicious use of fertilizers based on soil health cards. He highlighted how regular soil testing can reduce input costs and improve crop productivity.

Dr. Shivkumar, Scientist (Plant Pathology), explained the **relationship between soil health and**



**crop resistance to pests and diseases.** He stressed that healthy soils support beneficial microorganisms which naturally suppress many soil-borne diseases.

Kumari Anita Wagh briefed the farmers on the **importance of water testing**, quality irrigation practices, and how saline or poor-quality water can affect soil structure and crop yields.

The programme created awareness among farmers about the theme of World Soil Day — **“Soil and Water: A Source of Life”** — and motivated them to adopt scientific soil and water management practices for sustainable agriculture. The event concluded with an interactive session where farmers clarified their doubts and pledged to protect soil for future generations.

## **RIDGES AND FURROWS FOR HIGHER RETURNS: A SUCCESSFUL FIELD DAY ON PIGEONPEA AT HILALAPURA**

**Contributors: Mrs. Jyothi S Kamthane, Dr. Barikar Umesh, Dr. Shivkumar, Dr. Chandrakanth, ICAR-KVK Bidar**

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Humanabad, successfully organized a **Field Day on the “Ridges and Furrow Method of Sowing in Pigeonpea”** at **Hilalapura village of Humanabad Talukon 15-12-2025** with the objective of demonstrating improved agronomic practices to enhance productivity and sustainability in pigeonpea cultivation.

The programme witnessed the active participation of **more than 90 farmers** from nearby villages, reflecting the growing interest among farmers in adopting climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming technologies. The ridges and furrow method was demonstrated in the field, highlighting its advantages such as better moisture conservation, improved root development, efficient nutrient uptake and reduced waterlogging during heavy rainfall.

Dr. Chandrakanth, Scientist (Soil Science), delivered an informative lecture on **Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) in pigeonpea.** He emphasized the importance of soil testing, balanced use of chemical

fertilizers along with organic manures, biofertilizers and micronutrients to maintain soil health and ensure sustainable crop yields. He explained that proper nutrient management not only increases productivity but also reduces the cost of cultivation and improves soil fertility in the long run.

Dr. Shivkumar, Scientist (Plant Pathology), spoke on **Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM)** in pigeonpea. He educated farmers on the identification of major pests and diseases such as pod



borer, wilt and sterility mosaic disease, and advised eco-friendly management practices including seed treatment, use of resistant varieties, biological control agents and need-based application of pesticides.

Farmers interacted actively with the scientists, clarified their doubts and shared their field experiences. The field day proved to be a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, practical learning and motivation for farmers to adopt improved technologies. The programme concluded with a strong message to promote scientific cultivation practices for achieving higher productivity, profitability and sustainability in pigeonpea farming.

## **“EMPOWERING BLUE ENTREPRENEURS: ICAR-KVK BIDAR TRAINS FISHERY FPO MEMBERS ON PRODUCTION AND MARKETING”**

**Contributors: Mrs. Jyothi S Kamthane, Dr. Barikar Umesh, Dr. Shivkumar, Dr. Chandrakanth, ICAR-KVK Bidar**

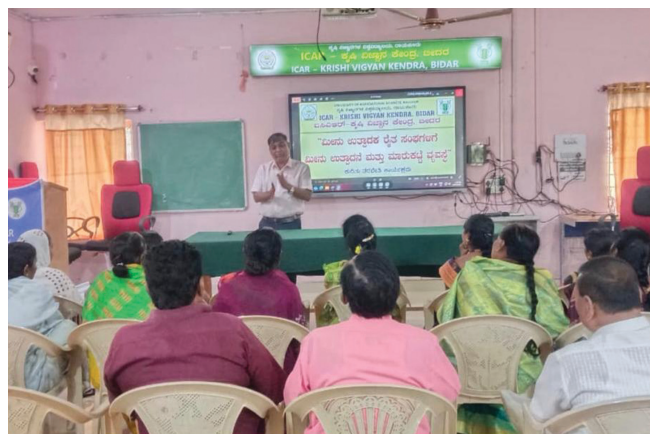
ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar organised a two-day intensive training programme on **“Fish Production and Marketing Systems”** for members of Fishery Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries on **21st and 22nd December 2025.** The programme was aimed at strengthening the technical, managerial and marketing capacities of fish farmers and

promoting sustainable and profitable aquaculture in the district.

The training programme was presided over by **Dr. Umesh Barikar, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK Bidar**, who highlighted the growing importance of fisheries as a livelihood option and a source of nutrition. He elaborated on the role of Fishery FPOs in improving collective input procurement, access to quality seed and feed, adoption of improved technologies, and better market linkage. He also emphasized that FPOs have a major responsibility in ensuring transparency, quality assurance, collective bargaining and income enhancement for their member farmers.

**Dr. Chandrakantha, Scientist (Soil Science)** delivered a detailed lecture on improved fish production technologies, including pond preparation, water quality management, soil and water testing, species selection, stocking density, feeding practices and nutrient management for higher productivity. He stressed the importance of maintaining optimum pond ecology for sustainable fish growth and disease prevention.

**Dr. Shivkumar, Scientist (Plant Pathology)** covered **Integrated Fish Health Management and Marketing Systems**, focusing on prevention and management of common fish diseases, biosecurity measures, hygienic harvesting practices and post-harvest handling. He also discussed value addition, grading, cold



chain, branding and direct marketing strategies to fetch better prices and reduce middlemen exploitation.

A total of **75 fish farmers and farm women** actively participated in the programme. Interactive sessions, group discussions and experience sharing enriched the learning process. Participants appreciated the practical orientation of the training and expressed confidence in adopting the new practices in their ponds and FPO operations.

At the end of the programme, **certificates were distributed** to all participants. The training significantly contributed to empowering Fishery FPO members with scientific knowledge and marketing skills, paving the way for enhanced fish production, improved income and sustainable fisheries development in Bidar district.

# BELAGAVI-1

## EVENT :1

### **PARTICIPATION IN FIVE-DAY TRAINING PROGRAMME ON “SMART FARMING ADVISORY: EMPOWERING KVKs WITH AI-BASED CROP ANALYTICS”**

ICAR-BIRDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Belagavi-1 (Tukkanatti), Parashuram M. Patil, Scientist (Horticulture), attended the five-day training programme entitled “*Smart Farming Advisory: Empowering KVKs with AI-based Crop Analytics*” conducted from 08 to 12 December 2025 at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), GKVK, Bengaluru. The programme was organized with the objective of enhancing the technical and extension competencies of KVK scientists in the application of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in agriculture.

The training covered a wide range of relevant and emerging topics, including digital agriculture ecosystem in India, fundamentals of artificial intelligence, machine learning and deep learning applications in agriculture, data requirements for AI-based agricultural solutions, AI-based pest and disease diagnosis, remote sensing fundamentals, GIS tools for agricultural data interpretation, early-warning systems for crop health, price prediction models, smart irrigation systems, farm automation tools, AI chatbots and voice-based advisory systems, yield prediction models, digital decision support systems, weather-based forecasting, drone technologies in agriculture, and strategies for integrating AI tools into KVK extension workflows. The sessions were delivered by experienced academicians, scientists, and industry experts through lectures, case studies, and interactive discussions.

The knowledge and insights gained from the training were systematically shared among the scientists of ICAR-BIRDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Belagavi-1 (Tukkanatti), through internal meetings and technical

discussions. The focus was on adapting the learned technologies to local farming situations and integrating them into ongoing extension, training, and advisory activities of the KVK.

## EVENT :2

### **METHOD DEMONSTRATION ON PRUNING AND BORDEAUX PASTE APPLICATION IN MANGO UNDER SCSP PROGRAMME.**

ICAR-BIRDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Belagavi-1 (Tukkanatti), organized a method demonstration on pruning and Bordeaux paste preparation under the Front-Line Demonstration on the calendar of operations in mango at Shelapur village under the KVK SCSP programme. The programme was conducted by Shri P. M. Patil, Scientist (Horticulture), with the objective of enhancing farmers’ knowledge and skills on scientific orchard management practices in mango. During the demonstration, the importance of proper pruning for



maintaining tree structure, improving light penetration, enhancing air circulation, and facilitating better flowering and fruiting was explained in detail.

Practical training was also provided on the preparation and application of Bordeaux paste, highlighting its role in protecting mango trees from stem borer infestation, fungal infections, and sunburn, thereby improving plant health and longevity. As part of the programme, pruning equipment such as saws and secateurs were distributed to the beneficiary farmers, along with recommended nutrients and pesticides as per the mango calendar of operations. The programme enabled farmers to adopt timely and scientific management practices, contributing to improved productivity and sustainable mango cultivation in the SCSP operational area.



# BELAGAVI-II

## 1. Training programme on “Large and Small Livestock Entrepreneurship”

KVK, Belagavi-II has organized a three-day training programme on “**Large and Small Livestock Entrepreneurship**” in collaboration with Centre of Excellence in Animal Husbandry (CEAH), Bengaluru from **01.12.2025 to 03.12.2025**. The programme was inaugurated by

Dr. Holabasappa Theggi, Joint Director (Training), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department, Centre of Excellence in Animal Husbandry, Bengaluru, as the chief guest and he explained about the explained the role of farmers in animal nutrition, milking and other practices and informed the farmers about the facilities and activities of the centre for the benefit of milk producers and importance of farmers producer Organization (FPOs).

Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, Mattikopp, presided over the programme and said that scientific dairy farming, quality milk production, processing, value addition and other activities related to animal husbandry will increase the income of farmers and dairy farming will become a profitable sideline.

S.M. Warad, Scientist (Soil Science), welcomed the dignitaries and gave the introductory speech, saying that India is the first country in milk production and more importance needs to be given to producing quality milk and milk products. Dr. Gururaj V. Koujalagi, Scientist (Animal Science) performed vote of thanks. Praveen Yadahalli, Scientist (Horticulture), Dr. Bhavini Patil, Scientist (Home Science), Dr. Mallappa Sajjan, Assistant Director, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Bailhongal and Dr. Virupaksh Addanagi, Senior Veterinary Officer, Bailhongal were present.



## 2. Celebration of World Soil Day

KVK, Belagavi-II, Celebrated World Soil Day on 5.12.2025 at KVK campus in association with Department of Agriculture, Belagavi and Paradeep Phosphate Ltd., Hubballi. The programme was inaugurated by Shri H.D. Kolekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Belagavi. During the inaugural address, he suggested the farming community to care soil for restoring it's health to maintain potential for sustainable food production.

During the presidential address, Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist and Head expressed that soil is natural body which nourishes crops with supply of essential nutrients and this soil is facing threats of becoming unproductive due to mismanagement. Hence, he advised farmers to judiciously use both fertilizer and water in agriculture.

During his opening remarks, S.M. Warad, Scientist (Soil Science) said that World Soil Day is celebrated across the world on December 5; to create awareness on the inherent capacity of soil for sustainable food production to the increasing population and for sustainable soil management practices, reduce erosion a pollution and enhance water infiltration and storage. Soils also preserve soil biodiversity, improve fertility



and contribute to carbon sequestration, playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change.

This World Soil Day 2025 focuses on urban landscapes with the theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities.” Beneath asphalt, buildings and streets lies soil that, if permeable and vegetated, helps absorb rain water, regulate temperature, store carbon and improve air quality. But when it's sealed with cement, it loses these functions, making cities more vulnerable to flooding, overheating and pollution, he added. During the technical session, he interacted with farmers on Soil fertility management through Natural farming practices.

Shri C.I Hugar, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Belagavi and Shri Gajaraj Bhandekar, Zuari hub Ltd, Hubballi, Shri Rajashekhar Bhat and Shri Manjunath Kusugal, BTMs, ATMA Project and KVK Scientists Shri Praveen Yadahalli, Dr. Gururaj Koujalagi and Dr. Bhavini Patil were present. Dr. S.S. Hiremath, Scientist (Plant Protection) welcomed and G.B. Viswanath, Scientist (Agronomy) extended vote of thanks.

### 3. Farmer's Day 2025

a. Celebration on 'Farmer's Day 2025' programme and Awareness Programme on 'Viksit Bharat- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025' in collaboration with Paradheep phosphate Ltd. During the programme, Shri Duryodhan Aihole, Hon'ble MLA, Raibag constituency and Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist & Head and other dignitaries participated in the event. More than 650 farmers witnessed the programme.

b. Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist and Head served as a Resource Person in the Farmers Day Celebration and Farmer-Scientist Interaction programme organized by Department of Agriculture, Belagavi and Jilla Krishika Samaja, Belagavi, Taluka Krishi Samaja, Belagavi, Institute of Agricultural Technologist (IAT), Agriculture Department (ATMA) at Department of Agriculture, Belagavi. During the programme, Highlighted cultivation practices of *Rabi* crops of Belagavi district.

c. Celebration of 'Farmer's Day 2025' programme and Awareness Programme on 'Viksit Bharat- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025' in collaboration with Dept. of Agriculture, Savadatti and Krishik Samaj Savadatti. During the programme, Shri Vishwas Vaidya, Hon'ble MLA, Yallamma Savadatti constituency, Shri H.D. Kolekar, JDA, Sri Saleem Sangatras, DDA, Dept. of Agriculture, Belagavi, S.M. Warad, Scientist (Soil Science) and dignitaries participated in the event. More than 160 farmers witnessed the programme.

d. Celebration on 'Farmer's Day 2025' programme in collaboration with KLE College of Agricultural Sciences, Tenikolla. During the programme, Shri Veerabhadrappe Desai, Progressive Farmer, Murgod, Shri Shankargouda Patil, Technical Officer, Dr. Gururaj Koujalagi, Scientist (Animal Science), Faculties from Agricultural College, Tenikolla and students participated in the event.

e. Celebration of international farmers day programme was organised in collaboration with Chidananda Basav Prabu Kore Sahakhari Sakkare



Sakkare Kharkhane, Nanadi. Shri Mallikarjun Kore, Chairman addressed gathering about VB - G RAM G. Dr S.B Khandgavi, Managing Director briefed on importance of intercropping in sugarcane and Dr.S.S. Hiremath, Scientist (Plant Protection) explained modern cultivation of Chia. More than 50 farmers and factory staff members were participated.

### 4. Participated in Exhibition

KVK, Belagavi-II exhibited stall in the programme 'Integrated Soil Health & Water Management in Sugarcane Growing Areas' organized by Zilla Panchayat, Belagavi, Department of Agriculture, Belagavi and Sugar Factories of Belagavi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura Districts. Showcased portable technology demonstrations viz., salinity and alkalinity management, trash management, intercropping in sugarcane, drip irrigation, ring pit method, seedling production, planting of single eye bud, two eye bud sets in sugarcane and 10 different varieties of sugarcane.

During the programme, Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka, Shri N. Chaluvarya Swamy, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Satish Jarkiholi, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department of Karnataka, Shri Shivanand Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Sugar and Agricultural Marketing of Karnataka, Shri Ashok Pattan, Hon'ble MLA, Ramdurg constituency, Shri Y.S. Patil, IAS, Commissioner for Agriculture, GoK, Dr. Selvakumar S, IAS, Principal Secretary to the



Government, Department of Agriculture, Karnataka visited KVK exhibition stall.

Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist and Head interacted with all Ministers and highlighted sugarcane variety SNK-13436 released by UAS, Dharwad and KLEKVK, Mattikopp. Agriculture Minister expressed his views about KVK to the Chief Minister and requested him to visit KVK immediately as one of the Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Karnataka I ever visited.

## 5. Sponsored Training Programme on Turmeric Cultivation and Value Addition

A training programme on “Turmeric Cultivation Technology and Value Addition” was jointly organized by ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mattikopp and the Karnataka State Spices Development Board, Hubballi on 30.12.2025 at Asundi village of Savadatti taluk. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ramachandra K. Madival, General Manager, Karnataka State Spices Development Board, Hubballi. Addressing the gathering, he urged farmers to diversify crops by adopting horticultural crops along with food grains. Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist & Head highlighted the scope of turmeric cultivation as an alternative crop in sugarcane-growing areas and advised farmers to use bio inputs.

Technical sessions were conducted by Praveen Yadahalli, Scientist (Horticulture), S.M. Warad, Scientist (Soil Science), Dr. S.S. Hiremath, Scientist (Plant Protection), and Dr. Bhavini Patil Scientist (Home Science). Around 150 farmers from Asundi and surrounding villages participated in the programme

## 6. Participated in Sugarcane Seminar

Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist and Head served as a Resource Person in the Seminar on ‘Improved Sugarcane Cultivation Practices for getting more than 100 ton yield’ at Nirani Sugars Ltd. Unit-I, Mudhol, Bagalkot district and delivered lecture on ‘Integrated Management of Pest and Diseases in Sugarcane’. More than 500 sugarcane growers benefited.



## 7. Capacity building programme on AI-Based Smart Farming Advisory

Praveen Yadahalli, Scientist (Horticulture) and Shankargouda Patil, (Farm Manager) ICAR–KLE Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Belagavi–II, successfully

attended a five-day training programme titled “Smart Farming Advisory: Empowering KVK Scientists with AI-Based Crop Analytics” conducted from 8-12th December 2025. The training was organized by the Staff Training Unit (SAME TI – South) under the Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), GKVK, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The programme focused on enhancing the capacity of KVK scientists in the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI)–based tools and analytics for crop monitoring, decision support systems, smart advisory services, and data-driven extension approaches. The sessions covered emerging trends in smart farming, use of digital platforms, crop data interpretation, and integration of AI technologies for improving farm productivity and sustainability. Participation in this training has strengthened the technical and advisory competencies of the scientist, which will be effectively utilized in farmer advisory services, on-farm demonstrations, capacity building programmes, and technology dissemination activities of the KVK. The knowledge gained will contribute to promoting precision agriculture and smart farming practices among farmers in the operational area of ICAR–KLE KVK, Belagavi.



## 8. Participated as Resource Person

Dr. Gururaj Koujalagi, Scientist (Animal Science) participated as Resource Person during capacity building programme on “The Importance of Animal Husbandry in Natural Farming” was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Bailhongal at Gudikatti village under the ATMA scheme on 05.12.2025.

In the introductory address, Mr. Chandakant Maradi, Block Technical Manager, ATMA Bailhongal Taluk, explained the background of World Soil Day and highlighted the importance of soil conservation, soil fertility management, and sustainable farming practices. The programme was inaugurate by Mr. Basavaraj Dalawai, Assistant Agriculture Director, Department of Agriculture, Bailhongal, addressing the gathering, about the importance of soil, essential nutrients required for soil health, soil conservation methods, use of farmyard manure, green leaf manure, crop rotations, integrated

farming systems, and the responsibility of farmers to protect soil resources. He emphasized adopting natural farming practices and reviving traditional farming methods.

Dr. Gururaj Koujalagi, explained the significance of animal husbandry in agriculture. He encouraged farmers to engage more in livestock rearing and to prepare Beejamruta, Jeevamruta, and Ghanajeevamruta using cow dung and cow urine, thereby supporting natural farming and improving farm income. During the programme, Smt. S.S. Malagi, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Mr. Gangappa Talawar, Panchayat Vice-President, Gudikatti, Shri Basappa Sannakki, Krishi Sakhis, farmers and farmwomen were present.



### 9. Off Campus Training Programme

G.B. Vishwanath, Scientist (Agronomy), Conducted off campus training programme and method demonstration on Lentil seed treatment at Muchandi village, Belagavi Taluk under Pilot Project on ‘Crop Diversification’ funded by NBSS&LUP, Bengaluru. He explained the importance of seed treatment in terms of crop and soil health, crop growth & yield parameters, reducing the cost of cultivation and in increasing the economic returns and also briefed about the precautions to be taken while treating the seed, methods to be followed *i.e.*, FIB and integrated crop management practices in lentil. Initially, farmers were provided with seed treatment chemical and bio fertilizers.



### 10. Participated in Natural farming Exhibition

KVK, Belagavi-II participated and exhibited a stall in the “National Seminar cum Exhibition on Natural Farming” during 10- 11 December 2025 at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru to showcase innovations, best practitioners and stakeholders in Natural farming. S. M. Warad, Nodal Officer and Scientist (Soil Science) participated in the event, exhibited and shared the efforts of KVK in implementation and transfer of Natural farming technologies through demonstration, trainings and extension activities to create awareness on Natural farming. The farmer innovations and farmer success stories were also highlighted. The event has provided an excellent platform to share outcomes of demonstrations and farmers innovations in developing inputs in the field of Organic farming and Natural farming.



# BRAHMAVAR (UDUPPI)

## On Farm Testing of Green Mussel Culture technologies

Green Mussel culture is widely practiced in Sastana fishing village of coastal Udupi based on traditional technologies. However, these farmers' practices are prone to crop loss, diseases and low yield in addition to poor quality shells. Technologies developed by CMFRI on raft culture and rack culture methodologies are proven methods of scientific cultivation of mussel culture in coastal area. To test the feasibility of these technologies in Udupi district an on farm testing trial was taken up for culture of green mussel culture using both raft culture and rack culture technologies in Sastana area of Udupi District. Women beneficiaries were selected in order to develop entrepreneurship and employability among rural unemployed women in the region. Inputs such as green mussel seeds in the form of ropes were distributed to interested women farmers. Training was also organized to educate them to understand the basics of green mussel culture and the principles of new technologies.



## Farmers' Day 2025



Farmers Day 2025 was celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Kendra on 23.12.2025 in collaboration with Zonal Agriculture and Horticulture Research Station Brahmavara and Marine Products Exports Development Authority, Mangalore. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Subhrmanian, Assistant Director, MPEDA, Mangalore. He spoke about the importance of observing Farmers' Day celebrations, their role in India's food security and GDP. Dr. Bhoomika, H.R., Scientist, Horticulture presided over the ceremony. She spoke on profit oriented agriculture and horticulture and called upon the farmers to minimise the cost of production. Dr. Naveen, N. E., Scientist, Agronomy as a chief guest spoke on the latest varieties and technologies that farmers can adapt for sustainable agriculture in our region. A training program on personal hygiene and cleanliness was also organised for the seafood processing and handling personnel. Mr. Subramanian, Asst. Director discussed in detail of the practices and principles of personal hygiene while handling food. SCSP beneficiaries were given personal hygiene kit. Dr. Sadananda Acharya, Scientist, Fisheries compered the program.

# KOZHIKODE

## Natural Farming farmers training

Training programmes on Natural farming were organised in 3 clusters viz. Chekkiad, Thalakkulathur and Panthalayani from 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) with the funding support of SAMETI. The concept, principles of Natural Farming and plant protection aspects in natural farming were dealt by Dr. K.M Prakash and Dr. K. K Aiswariya, respectively. Demonstrations on Bio preparations like Jeevamritham, Beejamritham, Ghanajeevamritham, Neemastram, etc. were also conducted. Bio preparation Jeevamrutham and neem seedlings were distributed to the farmers.



Demonstrations on bio preparations



Distribution of Jeevamrutham and neem seedlings to farmers

## SwachhtaPakhwada

SwachhtaPakhwada was observed by KVK Kozhikode from 16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. The programme started with Swachhta Pledge on 16<sup>th</sup> December followed by series of daily activities including cleaning of KVK administrative office building, surroundings, demonstration plots, Collection of plastic bottles and using it for Jeevamrutham packing; Awareness programme on “Waste to wealth – with Natural farming” at Thalakkulathur; Signature campaign for farmers and staff at KVK, Vilangad, Kakkur, Kothode;



Signature campaign on Swachhta



Collection of plastic bottles and using it for Jeevamrutham filling

Swachhata thematic paintings competitions for trainees; Waste management through Vermi-composting and demonstration to farmers and students; Swachhta awareness through Social media campaign, etc.. The valedictory programme was organized at KVK on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

## Kisan Diwas celebration

Kisan Diwas was celebrated at KVK Kozhikode on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025. A training programme on mushroom cultivation was inaugurated by Dr. P. Ratha Krishnan, Principal Scientist and head and also felicitated Mr Satheesh Kumar, Kakkur and Mr Lineesh, Valliyumpara farmers. Dr. K.K Aiswariya SMS

plant protection coordinated the event with practical demonstration on mushroom cultivation by Mr Satheesh Kumar. A talk on financial literacy was delivered by Mrs. Alphonsa Bose, **Financial Literacy Counsellor** of Perambra block was also held.

In addition, two off-campus training programmes on farm mechanization were organized at Maruthonkara

Grama Panchayat in which 61 farmers participated. All the framers were apprised about the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill2025 (VB- G RAM G) and pamphletson it were distributed tothem. Special address on Kisan Diwas by **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Hon'ble Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister was live streamed to the farmers at KVK.



Mr. Satheesh Kumar being honored during Kisan Diwas celebration



Kisan Diwas celebration at KVK

# CHARMARAJNAGAR

## FIELD TO FUTURE: IMMERSIVE OFF-CAMPUS TRAINING 2025

On December 19, 2025, an impactful off-campus training program was successfully conducted for farmers in Hondarabalu village, focusing on the crucial theme of “**Importance of Soil Testing and Application of Soil Test-Based Fertilizers.**” Expertly led by Dr. Hanamantappa Meti, Scientist (Soil Science), the session highlighted the pressing need to address soil health challenges now and in the future through informed and sustainable practices. Dr. Meti delivered clear, practical guidance on essential topics, including proper soil sampling techniques with key dos and don'ts, the benefits of following Recommended Doses of Fertilizers (RDF) for optimal crop growth and higher yields and strategies to avoid excessive fertilizer use

that can lead to problematic soils. He also emphasized the value of balanced fertilization for long-term soil productivity and stressed the importance of maintaining hygiene and safety during agro-chemical handling. The program wrapped up with an engaging interaction between the farmers and the scientist, where participants enthusiastically shared their interest in adopting practices like crop rotation and growing green manure crops in the pre-monsoon season to naturally rejuvenate the soil. Farmer-focused initiative stood out for its practical insights, clear communication and empowering approach, equipping participants with actionable knowledge to achieve healthier soils and more productive harvests.

Author: Dr. Hanamantappa Meti, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR KVK, Chamarajangara



Off-Campus Training conducted at Hondarabalu village, Chamarajanagara

# CHARMARAJNAGAR

## DAESI Course 2025-26 inaugural programme

ICAR-KVK, Chikkamagaluru organized the one year Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) 2025-26 inauguration programme for TP No.3241 and 3338 in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and MANAGE, Hyderabad for input dealers of Chikkamagaluru district.

Dr. Thirumalesh M., Joint Director of Agriculture, Chikkamagaluru highlighted the farmer's friendly horticultural technologies for enhancing the higher production and profitability for the farmers and suggested to create good linkages with the Block Level Officials and KVK.

Mr. Ashok Kumar D.L. Jilla Krishika Samaja and Director Hopcoms, Chikkamagaluru stressed that input dealers will play a crucial role in improving farm productivity, providing quality inputs, reducing environmental impact and boosting rural livelihood. emphasized the importance of the DAESI scheme in transforming active agricultural input dealers into Para-Extension Professionals and enhancing the Agricultural Extension System.

Dr. Srinivasa V., Dean (Horticulture), College of Horticulture, Mudigeresaid that trained input dealers should understand the hardships and losses of farmers



and respond to their problems. He suggested that instead of focusing on profit, they should prioritize the welfare of farmers by giving them the best inputs for their crops.

SreePoornesh H.K., President, Mudigere Farmers Producers Organization focusing on the soil fertility and soil conservation practices in order to achieve sustainable agriculture. Additionally, he emphasized that farmers will receive real-time scientific advice through the DAESI initiative.

Dr. A.T. Krishnamurthy, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Chikkamagaluru spoke about the programme aims to transform the agriculture input dealers into the para extension professionals thereby strengthening the agriculture extension system. This will enable the inputs dealers to serve the farming community.

In this inaugural programme Dr. Prashantha G.M., Scientist (Soil Science) and Co-ordinator DAESI, briefed that the course will be a great success if there will be a good collaboration among the trainers, the trainees and the farmers and also advised the candidates to utilize the opportunity of the course for their knowledge upliftment and addressed the candidates to motivate themselves for successful completion of the course.

Mr. Ramachandrapa, Facilitator (DAESI) suggested that input dealers play a crucial role in lowering the price of agricultural produce and everyone should strive in this direction.

ICAR, KVK Scientists Dr. Suchithra Kumari M.H., Scientist (Plant Protection), Dr. Sureshkumara B., Scientist (Horticulture) were presided on the dais and 80 input dealers participated in the programme.

Dr. Sneha Shigihalli, Scientist (Home Science), ICAR-KVK, Chikkamagaluru hosted the programme.

# CHIKKABALLAPURA

## World Soil Day: Healthy soil for Healthy cities

World Soil Day was celebrated on 5-12-2025, by ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura in collaboration with the College of Sericulture with the theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities.” The programme aimed to create awareness about the critical role of soil in sustaining urban and rural ecosystems and improving quality of life. Dr. K. Sandhya, Scientist (Soil Science) explained the

importance of soil health in cities, emphasizing scientific waste management practices to prevent soil degradation and environmental pollution. She highlighted the need for segregation of waste, composting and proper biodegradation of organic wastes to enhance soil organic matter and microbial activity. The programme highlighted that maintaining healthy soils is essential for building sustainable, resilient and healthy cities for future generations.



World soil day

## “From Pledge to Practice: Swachhta Pakhwada Initiatives by ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura”

Swachhta Pakhwada was observed from 16–31 December 2025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura in accordance with ICAR guidelines, during which all the scheduled activities were successfully carried out. The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. Manohar K N, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), who provided overall guidance and coordination. Various activities including Swachhta Pledge, cleanliness drives, awareness programmes, waste management campaigns,

plantation drives, community outreach, plastic waste reduction initiatives, recycling of organic waste and Swachhta awareness among farmers and rural youth were carried out throughout the fortnight. Special emphasis was laid on community participation, shramdaan activities and promotion of clean and green practices. The observance aimed at creating awareness on hygiene, sanitation and sustainable waste management practices. The successful conduct of Swachhta Pakhwada reaffirmed the commitment of ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura to cleanliness, environmental protection and societal well-being.



Swachhta pledge



Swachhta awareness



Cleaning of office premises



Awareness on kitchen gardens

### “Honouring Farmers – Strengthening Agriculture”

Kisan Diwas 2025 was celebrated on 23-12-2025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura with the active participation of farmers from Chikkaballapura and Kolar districts. On this occasion, Dr. M. Papireddy, Senior Scientist and Head, explained the significance and historical importance of Farmers’ Day, highlighting the vital role of farmers in ensuring food security and sustainable development. Progressive farmers from both districts were felicitated in recognition of their

innovative practices and contributions to agriculture. They shared their experiences on challenges faced in farming, adoption of improved technologies and the economic benefits achieved, inspiring fellow farmers. An interactive session enabled farmers to discuss practical issues and solutions, fostering knowledge exchange. The programme emphasized farmer empowerment, innovation and profitability, reinforcing ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura’s commitment to strengthening the farming community.



Honouring Farmers - Strengthening Agriculture

### Training Programme on Improved Production Technologies of Oilseed Crops

An on-campus training programme on improved production technologies of oilseed crops was organized on 12-12-2025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura to strengthen farmers’ knowledge on scientific oilseed cultivation. Mr. Vishwanath, Scientist (Agronomy), explained the importance of oilseed crops in ensuring nutritional security, enhancing farm income and

reducing the country’s dependence on edible oil imports. He highlighted improved production technologies including selection of high-yielding varieties, optimum sowing time, balanced nutrient management, efficient water use and integrated pest and disease management. The benefits of adopting recommended practices for improving productivity, profitability and sustainability were emphasized. Farmers actively interacted and clarified their field-level problems, making the programme effective and farmer-oriented.



Training Programme on Improved Production Technologies of Oilseed Crops

### **Awareness Training Programme on Soil Health Management**

An on-campus awareness training programme on soil health management through restoration, nutrient management and amelioration was conducted on 18-12-2025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura. Dr. K. Sandhya, Scientist (Soil Science) explained the importance of maintaining soil health for sustainable agricultural productivity. She highlighted soil restoration practices such as improving organic matter content,

enhancing soil biological activity and conserving soil moisture. The session also focused on scientific nutrient management based on soil testing, balanced use of fertilizers and integrated nutrient management approaches. She further elaborated on soil amelioration techniques for problem soils, including the use of organic amendments and soil conditioners. The programme created awareness among participants on adopting sustainable soil management practices to improve soil fertility, crop productivity and long-term farm profitability.



Awareness Training Programme on Soil Health Management

### **Training Programme on Value Addition and Capacity Building of Farm Women**

Dr. Soumya Hiregoudar, Scientist (Home Science), conducted an off-campus training programme on value addition and capacity building of farm women was organized at Kagathi village. She emphasized the importance of value addition in enhancing income and livelihood security of farm women. She explained various value-added products from locally available

agricultural produce, processing techniques, quality improvement, packaging and basic marketing strategies. The training focused on skill development, entrepreneurship opportunities and strengthening the economic capacity of farm women through small-scale enterprises. The programme encouraged participants to adopt value addition as a means for income generation and self-reliance, contributing to women empowerment and rural development.



Training Programme on Value Addition and Capacity Building of Farm Women

### Millet recipe competition

Dr. Soumya Hiregoudar, Scientist (Home Science), ICAR-KVK, Chikkaballapura, participated as a judge in the recipe competition organized by Department of agriculture, Chikkaballapura on 29-12-2025. The competition witnessed active participation of rural

women who prepared more than 80 millet recipes using locally available ingredients evaluated the entries based on nutrition, hygiene, innovation and presentation. She also highlighted the importance of production, processing and value addition of millets, balanced diets, food safety and the scope for food-based self-employment.



Millet recipe competition

### Nutri-garden for year round nutritional security

An on-campus training programme on nutri gardens was conducted on 17-12-2025 at ICAR-KVK, Chikkaballapura. Dr. Soumya Hiregoudar, Scientist (Home Science) explained the importance of household nutrition, year-round availability of vegetables and

balanced diets through kitchen/nutri gardens. Participants were trained on crop selection, layout, seasonal planning and sustainable management practices. The training aimed at improving nutritional security and promoting healthy food habits among farm families.



Nutri-garden for year round nutritional security

### **Training Programme on Integrated Management of Fall Armyworm in Maize**

An on-campus training programme on Integrated Management of Fall Armyworm in maize was conducted on 29-12-2025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura. Dr. Amoghavarsha Chittaragi, Scientist (Plant Protection) explained the occurrence, identification and damage symptoms of fall armyworm in maize. He emphasized

integrated management strategies including cultural, mechanical, biological and need-based chemical control measures. The importance of timely monitoring, use of pheromone traps, conservation of natural enemies and adoption of recommended plant protection practices was highlighted. Farmers actively participated in the discussion and gained practical knowledge to effectively manage fall armyworm and minimize yield losses in maize.



Training Programme on Integrated Management of Fall Armyworm in Maize

### **Training Programme on Coconut Tree Climbing**

An on-campus training programme on coconut tree climbing was conducted on 29-12-025 at ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapura. The programme was conducted by Dr. Praveena Kumar, Scientist (Horticulture), with the objective of developing skilled manpower for coconut harvesting and plantation management. The training

focused on safe and efficient coconut tree climbing techniques using modern climbing devices, safety measures, harvesting practices and basic plant protection operations. The hands-on demonstration helped participants gain practical skills and confidence. The programme contributed to livelihood generation, timely farm operations and improved management of coconut plantations in the region.



Training Programme on Coconut Tree Climbing

# CHITRADURGA

## EVENT REPORT 1

### FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION – 23.12.2025

Farmers Day was celebrated on 23.12.2025 at KVK, Babbur Farm, Hiriyur in the remembrance of 5<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Chowdary charan singh. During his tenure from 1979 to 1980, he has launched various schemes to help the farming community. With Farmers song, the programme was started.

Dr.Parashuram chandravanshi, Senior scientist and Head welcomed the gathering and gave information about the purpose of conducting the programme. Dr. Suresha.D. Hekabotte, Dean, mentioned that farmers need to concentrate on the marketing aspects so their income is enhanced. Dr. Sharanappa Jangandi, ADR, addressed farmers and mentioned about the nature of the chowdary singh, because of which today also he is remembered.



Event Report prepared by Dr.Preethi, Scientist(Agri.Extension), ICAR, KVK, Chitradurga.

## EVENT REPORT 2

### Capacity Building Training Programme for SC farmers and farm women – 18.12.2025

ICAR KVK Chitradurga conducted one day Capacity Building Training Programme for SC farmers and farm women on 18.12.2025 to impart the skills to the farmers and farm women of SC farmers so that they can make use of the skills they have obtained for their economic empowerment.

Dr.Mahantesh.P.S. Scientist (Horticulture) welcomed the gathering. Dr.Parashuram Chandravanshi, Senior Scientist and Head, explained about the Importance and purpose of conducting this training programme. Dr. Suresha D Ekabotte, Dean, College of Horticulture in his presidential remarks mentioned that this is an important programme which is a need of the hour,

Ragovert Agro Indida Limtied CEO Sri, Shashikumar motivated the farmers by saying they must be economically empowered, they must utilize the service of the different organizations working for the farmers' welfare. Farmers who were present in the programme shared their experiences.

On this occasion, progressive farmers and farm women of chitradurga district were felicitated. Sri Arun kumar, Gram panchayat member said that for country's welfare, farmers' development is most important. He also appraised the service rendered by the KVK to the farming community. Dr. Mahantesh, delivered vote of thanks, Dr. Preethi compiled the programme. All the Staff of KVK attended the programme. Total 129 farmers, farm women, Krishi sakhi and pashu sakhi participated in the programme.

wherein farmers can make use of the skills they have acquired in this training programme.

Dr. Sharanappa Jangandi, ADR, ZAHRS, Hiriyur mentioned that adoption of the skills acquired in this training programme is most important along with the participation in the programme. Dr. Saraswathi.J.M. delivered vote of thanks. Dr. Preethi compiled the programme. All the staff of the KVK were present. Totally 30 farmers participated in the programme.

Post-Inaugural function, there were Technical session in which the resource person Dr. Nandish.M.S., Associate Professor (Agricultural Micro Biology) delivered a lecture on Introduction to Bio Composts, its preparation, importance of usage of Bio fertilizer in the agriculture. Mainly preparation of Vermi compost and Areca husk compost information was disseminated to the farmers, later on Method demonstration on the same was conducted by involving the participants.



Event Report prepared by Dr.Preethi, Scientist(Agri.Extension), ICAR, KVK, Chitradurga.

### EVENT REPORT 3

#### **Training programme on Cultivation, Post-Harvest management and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants**

An On-Campus training programme was conducted by Home Scientist on 26.11.2025 at KVK, Babbur Farm, Hiriyur about Cultivation, Post-Harvest management and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants in collaboration with IIHR-Bangalore. The Self Help Group members, farm women, Diploma students and college students and other interested women participated in the training programme. The main agenda of conducting training programme was to create awareness about the Medicinal Plants which can be used as remedy for health issues especially women problems and their cultivation practices. Hundred and twenty women attended the training programme and actively gathered the information from the resource persons. Dr.

Shivakumar, Ayush Doctor and the Dr. Smitha, Principal Scientist from the IIHR, Bangalore explored the in-depth information about the above mentioned training topic. The Ayush Doctor explained the pre-seasons for health issues and how the medicinal plants will help to cure the diseases. The Principal Scientist provided the information on how the medicinal plants after harvest can be used for entrepreneurial activities and preparation of value added products was explained along with methodology. Because, at present health issues are rising enormously and home remedies are getting importance. So, these aspects can be encased from the interested women to start their own business with expected profit. Dr. Smitha briefed about the value added products of medicinal plants which are already existed in the market were explained to the forum with live samples. The trainees expressed that, the information is very useful to maintain good health at their families as well as to start an enterprise.



#### EVENT REPORT 4

### **KVK Placement of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture students from CoA, Shivamogga**

Final Year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students from CoA, Shivamogga were placed at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under Rural Agriculture Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) for practical fieldwork, exposing them to rural farming practices, technology transfer, and farmer-scientist interactions.

Totally 16 students from College of Agriculture, Shivamogga were placed in KVK Hiriya for 13 days from 1.12.2025 to 13.12.2025. They were informed about the Genesis of KVK and growth in the country,

Concepts of ATARI, Mandates and objectives of KVK, Problem identification for action plan, preparing action plan, Concept of OFT/FLD trainings (on/off campus), Other extension activities (spl.programmes), Concept of revolving funds, Farm management, Field activities of KVKs/ demonstration. Classes on Soil and Water testing was taken along with Practicals of scientific collection of soil samples, demonstration of vermi-compost preparation, nursery management, Bakery products preparation, identification of Pests and Diseases in major agricultural and horticultural crops, Meteorological Department, Weather Observatory, FMPTI, Bee Rearing, Video documentation has been done.



Event Report prepared by Dr.Preethi, Scientist(Agri.Extension), ICAR, KVK, Chitradurga.

#### EVENT REPORT 5

### **KVK Placement of Horticulture training students from Horticulture Department, Aiyana Halli, Chitradurga**

Horticulture retraining students from Horticulture Department were placed at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for practical fieldwork, exposing them to rural farming practices, technology transfer, and farmer-scientist interactions.

Totally 16 students from Horticulture department were placed in KVK Hiriya for 11 days from 25.11.2025 to 5.12.2025. They were informed about the Genesis of KVK and growth in the country, Concepts of ATARI,

Mandates and objectives of KVK, Problem identification for action plan, preparing action plan, Concept of OFT/FLD trainings (on/off campus), Other extension activities (special programmes), Concept of revolving funds, Farm management, Field activities of KVKs/ demonstration. They were also be enlightened with both theoretical as well as practical Classes on Soil and Water testing were taken along with Practicals of scientific collection of soil samples, demonstration of vermi-compost preparation, nursery management, Bakery products preparation, identification of Pests and Diseases in major agricultural and horticultural crops, Meteorological Department, Weather Observatory, FMPTI, Bee Rearing, Video documentation. Field visit to nearby progressive farmers has been done.



Event Report prepared by Dr.Preethi, Scientist(Agri.Extension), ICAR, KVK, Chitradur

## EVENT REPORT 6

### ICAR KVK Chitradurga stall at Agri Fair 2025 at UAS, Mandya

Agriculture Fair 2025 was organised by University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya from December 5<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The venue of event was at VC farm, Mandya Campus. KVK stall displayed Agriculture and Horticulture crops, information charts on different crops, millets, nutritive value of millets, and success story of farmers. Bakery products prepared from KVK Bakery production unit were displayed and even the sale of the same has been done. Dr.Parshuram Chandravanshi, Dr.S.Onkarappa, Dr.Mahantesh.P.S, Dr. Preethi and Dr. Saraswathi.J.M., participated in the

Krishimela. Krishimela received encouraging responses from the farmers' community in the Karnataka.

Important attractions in the krishimela were display of advanced technologies developed by the universities, display and sale of different varieties of seed/planting material, exhibition and sale of value added products, culture show, agri-input exhibition and sale and live demonstration units of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries and many more. Around 3 lakhs farmers cumulatively for all the three days visited the stall and obtained the information on various agricultural & horticultural crops, cultivation practises, nutritive value, procedure of value addition and various value added products.



Event Report prepared by Dr.Preethi, Scientist(Agri.Extension), ICAR, KVK, Chitradurga.

## EVENT REPORT 7

### WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION – 5.12.2025

World soil day was celebrated on 05 12 2025 at KVK, Babburu Farm, Hiriyur World Soil Day 2025, celebrated December 5th, emphasizes the theme “**Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities,**” highlighting urban soils' vital role

in food security, water filtration, climate resilience (carbon storage), and biodiversity, urging action against sealing and pollution to build greener, more livable cities for a sustainable future.

Dr. Parshuram chandravanshi Senior Scientist and Head welcomed the gathering and gave information about the vital role of healthy soil for life, food security,

and ecosystems, advocating for sustainable management to combat soil degradation, pollution, importance lies in shifting focus to urban ecosystems, recognizing that soil beneath our cities is crucial for supporting life, even as rural soils face threats from degradation and climate change, making sustainable management essential for future well-being.

Dr. Sharanappa Jangandi, ADR, addressed farmers and highlights soil's importance in nutrient cycling, water filtration, carbon storage, and food production, while combating issues like soil

degradation. Dr. H. C. Prakash, Rtd. PG Dean, and Professor of Soil Science GKVK Bengaluru, participated as resource person and presented importance of **"Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities,"**

IFCO Marketing officer motivated the farmers by saying they must be economically empowering then must utilize the service of different organization's working for the farmer's welfare. Dr. D Ravi Kumar, Associate Professor of Soil Science and Dr. Jayaprakash R. Assistant Professor of Soil Science were also participated Farmers who were present in the program shared their experiences.



# DAKSHINA KANNADA

## 1. Honorable Member of Parliament inaugurates the Soil Testing Laboratory

### Contributors:

- 1) Dr. Mallikarjuna L Scientist (Soil Science)
- 2) Dr. T J Ramesha Senior Scientist and Head

The inauguration of the new Soil Testing Laboratory at the Primary Farmers' Cooperative Society, Kadaba, was conducted with great significance on 24.11.2025. The facility was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Member of Parliament **Captain Brijesh Chowta**, who appreciated the cooperative society's initiative in adopting scientific approaches for promoting advanced and sustainable farming. He highlighted that equipping the society with modern soil testing instruments would empower farmers to make more informed decisions on crop nutrition and soil management. The programme was graced by **Sullia MLA Ms. Bhageerati** and **District Union Cooperative**



## 2. Awareness programme on export opportunities for Arecanut

### Contributors:

- 1) Dr. Kedarnath, Scientist (Plant Protection)
- 2) Dr. T J Ramesha, Senior Scientist and Head

Awareness programme on export opportunities for arecanut was organized on 17.12.2025 at SamajaMandirMoodbidre by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with ICAR-KrishiVigyan Kendra (D.K) Mangaluru and Department of Horticulture Mangaluru, RaitaJanya Farmer Producer Company and Agricultural Information Exchange Centre, Moodbidre. Dr. T. J. Ramesha, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Mangaluru highlighted about the mandated activities of the organisation and welcomed

**President Shri Shashikumar Rai Balottu**, who participated as chief guests and expressed their support for strengthening grassroots-level agricultural services. The **Senior Scientist and Head**, along with the **Soil Scientist of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada**, provided comprehensive technical guidance in establishing and operationalizing the laboratory. This laboratory marks the **third soil testing unit** set up under the guidance of KVK at the Taluk and Hobli levels, reaffirming the commitment to improving soil health assessment facilities across the region.

Prominent attendees included **Shri Rakesh RaiKedanji**, President of Kadaba Taluk KrishikaSamaja, and **Shri Raghu S. M.**, Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Puttur Subdivision. The programme was presided over by **Shri Ramesh Kalpure**, President of the Primary Farmers' Cooperative Society, Kadaba, who delivered the welcome address and opening remarks. A total of **82 farmers and farm women** actively participated, reflecting strong community interest in scientific soil management and cooperative-driven agricultural development.

the participants Assistant General Manager Mr. Dharma Rao . APEDA briefed about quality production and the export opportunities for arecanut. KVK Scientists namely Dr. Rashmi R., and Dr. Kedarnath and Dr. Pooja and Dr.Karanth of APEDA participated as resource persons and provided technical information about best management practices to be adopted in arecanut for promotion of export.



# DAVANAGERE

## Input Distribution Under SCSP /TSP Scheme

ICAR-TaralabaluKrishiVigyan Kendra conducted training programme on **Improved Production Practices in Onion and use of Micronutrients in Chickpea** for the beneficiaries of SCSP/TSP scheme at **Basappanahatti village of Kaledevarapura**. Dr. Basavanagowda M.G. gave details on **Production of Agrifound Light Red Onion variety, methods of seed treatment and cultural practices to be followed on Onion crop**. Mr. Mallikarjuna B.O., Agronomist provided details on **use of Chickpea Magic in Chickpea and also management of Pest and Diseases in pulses**. Seeds of AFLR Onion seeds, Chickpea Magic



nutrients were provided to the beneficiaries under the scheme.

**Dr. Basavanagowda M.G.**

**SMS (Horticulture)**



# DHARWAD

## Celebration of Kisan Diwas by ICAR-KVK, Dharwad

ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, organized Kisan Diwas for honoring the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and recognizing farmers' vital contributions to the nation's food security and development. An exhibition of innovative Technologies was organized for farmers through Sneha Tanda (BSC Agri students group). Many officers of university, Dean (Agri) college of Agriculture, Associate director of Extension, UASD, Nodal officer of KVK's, UASD, Nodal officer SAMETI (North), Senior scientist and Head, KVK, Dharwad and all Scientist were present in the program. More than 250 farmers, farm women from different talukas of Dharwad district and officials, staff of KVK and University witnessed the programme.



### Training on “Vegetable seed production and conservation of Desi vegetable seeds”

On campus training programme on ‘Vegetable seed production and conservation of Desi vegetable seeds’ was organised by Scientist Horticulture, ICAR-KVK, Dharwad on 17.12.2025 in association with Paripoorna NGO, Dharwad. Hands on techniques of bagging and seed collection in vegetables were given to 35 women farmers of Navalgund village.



### Training on “Orchard Establishment and management practices in fruit crops”

On campus training programme on ‘Orchard Establishment and management practices in Mango, Arecanut and Coconut was organised by Scientist Horticulture, ICAR-KVK, Dharwad on 19.12.2025 in

association with ATMA, KSDA, Karwar. Exposure visit to different demo units of KVK was organized to 40 farmers of Karwar district.



### Training on “Popularisation of solar operated machines used in various field activities from startups of RKVY RAFTAAR, UAS Dharwad”

On campus training programme on Popularisation of solar operated machines used in various field activities from startups of RKVY RAFTAAR, UAS Dharwad in collaboration with SDM NGO, Hubli on 12.12.2025. A method demonstration on solar nipping machine for nipping of bengalgram crop was carried out.



# ERNAKULAM

## Fruit gardens established in schools to promote environmental awareness among students

The KVK, in association with Prof. K. V. Thomas Vidyadhanam Trust organized a programme to establish fruit gardens in school campuses as part of promoting environmental conservation and green learning among students. The programme was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at S.D.P.Y. K.P.M.H.S. School, Edavanakkad, covering 20 selected schools from Ernakulam district.

The initiative aims to instil environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility among students by encouraging tree planting and hands-on learning in horticulture. By establishing fruit gardens within school premises, students gain opportunities to observe plant growth, understand ecological benefits, and appreciate the role of trees in environmental protection.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri B. Kashi Vishwanathan, Chairman, Cochin Port Trust, who stressed the importance of tree planting and conservation-oriented initiatives for environmental sustainability. The Vypeen MLA Shri. K.N.Unnikrishnan presided over and Prof. K. V. Thomas, Chairman, Vidyadhanam Trust and special representative of Kerala Govt. at New Delhi welcomed the gathering. Dr. Shinoj Subramannian, Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR–KVK Ernakulam, explained the concept and implementation of the initiative, highlighting its educational, nutritional, and environmental benefits.

Each participating school received 10 quality tree saplings, consisting of two each of Mango, Jackfruit, Guava, Lime, and Neem. Required inputs such as organic manure, liming materials, tree guards, and a brief guide on planting and maintenance were also supplied. These tree gardens are expected to enhance campus green



cover, provide shade, yield fruits, and serve as living learning resources for students.

KVK Ernakulam will provide technical guidance and follow-up support to ensure proper establishment and maintenance of the fruit gardens in the participating schools.

*(Authors: Shoji Joy Edison, Smita Sivadasan and Shinoj Subramannian)*

## Self-farming for safe food: pesticide-free curry leaf cultivation promoted among school students

The KVK, in association with Prof. K. V. Thomas Vidyadhanam Trust organised a school-level awareness programme on self-farming for safe food, with a focus on pesticide-free curry leaf cultivation, on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Vaduthala. The programme aimed to sensitize students to the importance of growing essential food ingredients at home to ensure food safety. Curry leaves, being widely used in daily cooking, are often exposed to pesticide residues when procured from markets. Encouraging students to cultivate curry leaf plants at home was highlighted as a simple and practical step towards safe, chemical-free food consumption.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Madhu S. Nair, Chairman and Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard Limited, along with Smt. K. Rameetha, Scientist, National Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (DRDO). The function was presided over by Shri A. Gopalakrishnan, Chief Sevak, Chinmaya Mission



Educational and Cultural Trust. Dr. Shinoj Subramannian, Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR–KVK Ernakulam, emphasised that self-farming of commonly used food items such as curry leaves plays a crucial role in reducing dietary exposure to chemical residues, while also nurturing responsible food habits among young learners.

Around 2,000 curry leaf saplings were distributed to students. In addition, fruit tree saplings were planted in the school campus as part of the broader environmental and green-learning initiative. KVK

Ernakulam will continue to provide technical guidance to support students and schools in adopting safe, sustainable, and self-reliant food practices.

*(Authors: Shoji Joy Edison, Smita Sivadasan and Shinoj Subramannian)*

## **NITI Aayog Conducts Evaluation of KVK Ernakulam**

A third-party evaluation of the KVK-Ernakulam was conducted by NITI Aayog on 5 and 6 December 2025 as part of the initiative for strengthening KVK system across the country. KVK Ernakulam is among the 90 KVKs identified nationwide for this assessment.

The evaluation focused on assessing the effectiveness, outreach, and impact of KVK programmes at the field level. As part of the process, structured interviews were conducted with 36 farmers from three villages—Kadungallur, Karumaloor, and Varappuzha. In each village, both KVK partner farmers and farmers with no prior association with KVK were interviewed to obtain balanced and independent feedback on KVK interventions.

In addition, a detailed recorded interview with the Principal Scientist and Head of the KVK was conducted on 11 December 2025. The interaction covered key aspects such as the relevance and effectiveness of KVK programmes, constraints faced in implementation, administrative and financial requirements, and suggestions for further strengthening KVK activities.

The evaluation is expected to provide valuable insights to NITI Aayog for policy-level decisions and strategic interventions aimed at enhancing the performance and impact of KVKs across the country.  
*(Authors: F.Pushparaj Anjelo, Shoji Joy Edison, Smita Sivadasan and Shinoj Subramannian)*



## **KVK Facilitates interdisciplinary student project in agriculture through expert mentoring**

The KVK-Ernakulam facilitated an online mentoring programme for students of the Government Engineering College, Idukki, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, with the objective of promoting interdisciplinary projects and attracting young professionals to agriculture as a field for innovation and technological application.

The programme supported Computer Science and Engineering students working on an innovative project to detect banana pseudostem weevil infestation through sound-based identification techniques, under the guidance of Dr. Madhu K. P., Professor. ICAR–KVK Ernakulam acted as the connecting and coordinating agency by linking the student team with subject-matter experts from the ICAR–National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR–NBAIR), Bengaluru, and by providing local-level technical and institutional support.

The mentoring was provided by Dr. Subaharan, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Germplasm Conservation and Utilisation, ICAR–NBAIR, Bengaluru, who guided the students on the biology, behaviour, and management aspects of the banana pseudostem weevil relevant to their project. Shri J. Mathew, Senior Administrative Officer, ICAR–NBAIR, also participated in the programme.

Dr. Shinoj Subramannian, Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR–KVK Ernakulam, stated that the KVK considers such collaborative and interdisciplinary initiatives crucial for attracting young talent to agriculture and for integrating modern engineering and digital tools into agricultural research and extension.

The programme demonstrated the effective role of KVKs as a bridge between research institutions and students, enabling practical, technology-driven solutions to address emerging challenges.

*(Author: Shinoj Subramannian)*



# GADAG

## CELEBRATION OF WORLD SOIL DAY

ICAR–K.H.PatilKrishiVigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Gadag, celebrated World Soil Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 with the theme “*Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities.*” The programme was inaugurated by Dr. HolabasappaTeggi, Joint Commissioner, Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH), Bengaluru, who emphasized the importance of soil as a natural resource, the declining organic carbon content, and the need for fertilizer application based on soil test recommendations. Smt. Chetana Patil, Joint Director of Agriculture, Gadag, highlighted the need to prevent topsoil erosion to improve soil fertility. Dr. Jagadish Matti, Veterinary Doctor, Department of Animal Husbandry, Gadag, stressed that healthy soil produces quality food and emphasized the importance of providing nutritious feed and fodder to livestock.

KrishiPandit awardee Smt. SudhaBevinamarad shared her experiences in soil and water conservation and acknowledged the support of KVK, Gadag. The programme was presided over by Dr. Sudha V. Mankani, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR–KVK, Hulkoti, who encouraged farmers to reduce chemical fertilizers and adopt organic and natural farming practices. Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. ManjuprakashPatil, and Dr. VinayakNiranjan welcomed the guests.

**[Contributors: Dr. Manjuprakash Patil, SMS (Ag. Extension), Shri N.H.Bhandi, SMS (Soil Science), and Dr. Sudha V. Mankani (Senior Scientist & Head)]**



## DEMONSTRATION OF DRONE SPRAYER

Demonstration of Drone Sprayer was organized by ICAR-KVK, Gadag in collaboration with ICAR-DCR, Puttur from 16 to 18 December, 2025 in six villages of Gadag District viz., Nagavi, Gadag, Beladhadi, Brahmanandapura, Shingatrayerkeri and

Shivajinagar. Dr. VinayakNiranjan, SMS (Agri. Engg.) explained about utility and effectiveness of drone sprayer and insisted farmers to make use of the drone technology for spraying of agro chemicals in field crops. Dr. Chetanbabu R.T, SMS (Agronomy) enlightened about compatibility of different pesticides and liquid fertilizers with drone sprayer and provided advisory about use of water-soluble fertilizers for integrated nutrient management in different field crops using drone. Drone sprayer was demonstrated in Bengalgram, Safflower, Tuberoses and Gaillardia crops in different farmers' fields for spraying of liquid fertilizers. Mr. Lalankumar and Mr. Vikhyat from ICAR-DCR, Puttur coordinated the demonstration of drone sprayer and gave insights regarding evolution of drones in agriculture. They also explained about process of obtaining Remote Pilot Training (RPT) and self employment opportunities for rural youth involving drone sprayer. More than 140 farmers and rural youth witnessed the drone demonstrations across six villages and provided their feedback about the drone technology.

**[Contributors: Dr. Vinayak Niranjan, SMS (Ag. Engineering) & Dr. Chetanbabu R.T, SMS (Agronomy)]**



## FARMERS DAY CELEBRATION AT ICAR–KVK, GADAG

ICAR–K.H.PatilKrishiVigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, organized the Farmers Day celebration, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025. The program was inaugurated by Shri Shivakumar S., Director, SBI–ASF RSETI, Hulkoti and expressed that farmers buy agricultural inputs at retail prices but sell their produce at wholesale rates and emphasized that there is an urgent need for farmers to reach a stage where they can fix the price of their produce.

Shri S.K.Mudlapur, former scientist and DAESI facilitator, highlighted the evolution of agriculture and



discussed the challenges faced by farmers. Smt. Sudha Bevinamarad, Krishi Pandit Awardee and progressive farmwoman, shared her inspiring journey and encouraged farmers to utilize the technical support of KVK, Hulkoti. A felicitated organic farmers Shri. Vidyadhar Ramani highlighted the key role of KVK scientists in promoting organic farming and restoring soil fertility in the district.

## DEMONSTRATION OF FOXTAIL AND PEARL MILLET AND VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS

The production, cultivation, and consumption of millets play a crucial role in mitigating drought effects and reducing lifestyle-related diseases. In this context, high-yielding and nutrient-rich varieties Foxtail millet HN-46 and biofortified Pearl millet VPMV-9 were successfully demonstrated in the adopted villages of Gadag district. Both varieties exhibited significant positive impact in terms of yield and farmers' income. Building on this, value-added products such as biscuits, murukku, dosa, paddu, and pancakes from Foxtail millet, and Pearl Millet products including kodubale, dosa, paddu, murukku, and Manchurian. The farm women appreciated the variety and taste of the products, noting that previously they consumed these millets only two to three times a year in the form of roti and holige.

Further, feedback collected using a 10-point hedonic scale indicated that all products were highly appreciated, with farm women giving the highest score of 10, reflecting "extreme liking." Many women expressed their intention to regularly include these millet-based products in their daily diet and serve them to their families, highlighting the success of the intervention in promoting nutritional security, dietary diversification, and income generation among rural households

**[Contributors: Dr. Sudha V. Mankani (Senior Scientist & Head)]**

The programme was presided over by Dr. Sudha V. Mankani, Head, KVK, Hulkoti, who emphasized that healthy soil produces quality food and ensures better human health. During the celebration, the live telecast of Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan's address on VB GRAMG 2025 was shown to farmers and informational handouts were distributed. On the occasion, five progressive farmers were felicitated.

Shri N. H. Bhandi gave the introductory remarks. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Manjuprakash Patil, Dr. Vinayak Niranjana welcomed the participants, and Dr. Chethan Babu R. T. proposed the vote of thanks. Shri Ramesh Nayak, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Gadag, progressive farmers, and about 150 farmers participated in the programme.

**[Contributors: Dr. Manjuprakash Patil, SMS (Ag. Extension), Shri N.H.Bhandi, SMS (Soil Science), and Dr. Vinayak Niranjana SMS (Ag. Engineering)]**



## AWARDS GALORE FOR KVK, GADAG

The staff of ICAR-KVK, Gadag and contact farmers of KVK were recognized for their contributions and awarded by different Institutions during special occasions.

**a. Best Extension Scientist award to Dr. Sudha V. Mankani**

Dr. Sudha V. Mankani, Senior Scientist and Head of ICAR-K.H. PatilKrishiVigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, was felicitated with the prestigious State-level “Dr. R. Dwarakinath Best Extension Scientist Award” by the Alumni Association (Reg.), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, on 11th October 2025. This recognition honors her over three and a half decades of dedicated contributions in agriculture, food and nutrition, and extension services, through which she has significantly empowered farming communities, promoted sustainable agricultural practices, advanced nutritional security by introducing biofortified millet varieties, established nutrigardens, and enhanced the well-being of rural women through targeted nutritional activities, establishing herself as a role model in agricultural extension.



**b. Award from the Institution of Engineers (India) to Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjan**

Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjan, SMS (Ag. Engineering) was one of the recipients of “The Eminent Engineer Award - 2025” conferred upon by The Institution of Engineers (India) for his significant contributions in popularizing agricultural engineering technologies. He received the Award during 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of IEI, Local Centre at Munirabad on 31-10-2025 in the presence of Mr. Shashidhar, President of IEI Local Centre and other members of IEI local committee.



**c. Best Innovative Farmer Award - 2025 from ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad**

Mr. Shekrappa Takrappa Lamani, one of the progressive farmers in Mahalingapur village of Gadag District was also the participant in NICRA project implemented by ICAR-KVK, Gadag. Mr. Shekrappa was awarded with prestigious “Best Innovative Farmer Award” during 41st Foundation day of ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad for his active involvement in the adoption of prominent climate resilient technologies namely, Borewell Recharging, In-situ Moisture Conservation with Compartmental Bunding, Conservation Furrows and Use of Climate Resilient Crop Varieties.



**d. Best Poster Presentation Award at National Conference**

Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjan, presented a research paper entitled “Performance Evaluation of UAV Sprayer in Comparison to Existing Spraying Equipment in Bt. Cotton Crop” at the National Conference on Comprehensive Crop Management through Drone Technology in Agriculture organized by UAS, Dharwad. The poster presentation was adjudged as “Third Best Poster Presentation” under the theme of “Utilization of Drones for Field Operations”.



# GANGAVATI (KOPPAL)

ICAR-KVK Koppal organised World Soil day on 05.12.2025 and the programme was inaugurated by Dr. Yenjerappa S.T. Special officer, College of Agriculture, Gangavathi, Dr. J. Vishwanath, retired, Professor (Soil science), Shri Channappa malagi, president of Krishika Samaja, Shri. Kanakappa Malagavi, Yuva Krishika Samaja, Dr. Raghavendra Yaligar, Senior Scientist and Head. Dr. Vishwanath J addressed the programme soil health is very much precious for our planet's survival. Over 95 percent of our food comes from soils. Besides, they supply 15 of the 18 naturally occurring chemical elements essential to plants. However, in the face of climate change and human activity, our soils are being degraded. Erosion disrupts the natural balance, reducing water infiltration and availability for all forms of life, and decreasing the level of vitamins and nutrients in food. Our soils has low organic carbon due to this yield of the crop variety is mainly depends on chemical fertilizers, judicious use of chemical fertilizers affects the soil health and environmental pollution. Sustainable soil management practices, reduce erosion and pollution, and enhance water infiltration and storage. They also preserve soil biodiversity,



improve fertility, and contribute to carbon sequestration, playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change. But when we think about soil, we almost always associate it with the countryside and nature. We rarely stop to consider that urban soil is also fundamental. This World Soil Day 2025 focuses on urban landscapes with the theme "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities." Beneath buildings and streets lies soil that, if permeable and vegetated, helps absorb rainwater, regulate temperature, store carbon, and improve air quality. But when it's sealed with cement, it loses these functions, making cities more vulnerable to flooding, overheating, and pollution. Healthy urban soils contribute

to food production, water purification, carbon storage, temperature regulation, and biodiversity conservation. As cities expand, preserving soil health becomes essential for climate resilience, urban planning, and sustainable development. KVK soil testing laboratory tested about 10,000 soil samples during 2025, Shruithi N, Technical officer (Soil science) gave the lecture on importance of soil health card, procedure involved in the collection of soil from the field and distributed the soil health card to the farmers. More than 75 farmers were participated in this programme.

Activity 2: ICAR-KVK Koppal organised World Farmer's day on 23.12.2025 and the programme was inaugurated by Shri. Shekargowda mooli patil, District Krishik samaja, Shri. Channappa Malagi, Shri. Kanakappa Malagavi, Shri J.D Krishnamurthy, Joint Director of Agriculture, Shri. Yogeshwar, Senior Assistant director of Horticulture, Shri. Mahesh kurahatti, Regional Manager, Paradeep Phosphates, Progressive farm woman Smt. Mahantamma and Senior Scientist and Head. Dr. Raghavendra Yaligar welcomed the guest and gave the introductory remarks about the programme. The day observed to commemorate birth anniversary of Choudary charan singh who was India's fifth prime minister to honour and appreciate all the responsible farmers for their contributions to society. During the programme 10 progressive farm women were honored to appreciate their significant achievements in agriculture. Many farm women were earn income by practicing integrated farming systems, Natural farming, Value addition to their farm produce and growing of remunerative crops in their marginal lands. Smt. Mahantamma, farm women adressed the programme with difficulties she faced in the agriculture how to overcome with problems and importance of integrated farming systems it reduces financial stress, lowers dependence on informal credit and provides a safety cushion during difficult times. Gave the information and benefits about Ji Ram Ji central government scheme and distributed the pamphlets. During the programme more than 90 farmers and farm women were participated.



# GONIKOPPAL KODAGU

## Soil health awareness programmes

Soil health awareness programmes were conducted on campus to educate farmers on the importance of soil in crop production. A brief overview was given on soil and its physical, chemical and biological properties, essential plant nutrients and the need for proper fertilisation for healthy crop growth. The principles of 4R nutrient stewardship—Right source, Right rate, Right time and Right place—were explained in detail. Participants were made aware of the negative effects of over- and under-fertilisation on soil health, crop yield and the environment. The programmes also covered soil sampling and sample collection methods, correct fertilizer application techniques, identification of common nutrient deficiency symptoms and the importance of liming in acid soils for improving nutrient availability and fertilizer use efficiency.



## Foot and Mouth Disease vaccination and animal health camps

ICAR-KVK Kodagu, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH & VS), Ponnampet, organized a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination and Animal Health Camp at Kutta, Mugutageri, and Srimangala villages.

A total of 167 animals were vaccinated against FMD and were also provided with deworming medication and probiotic syrup as part of the health intervention. The camp was successfully organized under the guidance and active involvement of Dr. Suresh S. C., SMS (Livestock), KVK Gonikoppal, and Dr. Girish B. G., Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), VH Ponnampet. Overall, 41 farmers benefited from the camp. The expenditure for conducting the programme was met under the ATMA 2025 scheme.



## Lumpy Skin Disease vaccination and animal health camps

KVK Gonikoppal, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH & VS), Ponnampet, organized a Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccination and Animal Health Camp at T-Shettigeri and Kirgur villages.

A total of 103 animals were vaccinated against LSD and were also provided with deworming medication and probiotic syrup. The programme was successfully conducted with the active involvement of Dr. Suresh S. C., SMS (Livestock), KVK Gonikoppal, and Dr. Girish B. G., Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), VH Ponnampet. Overall, 35 farmers brought their animals for vaccination and infertility check-up, and benefited from the services provided during the camp.



# HIREHALLI

## Farmer–Scientist Interaction on Importance of Improved Technologies in Agriculture and Horticulture on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

A Farmer–Scientist Interaction Programme on the theme “Importance of Improved Technologies in Agriculture and Horticulture” was successfully organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at ICAR–KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK), Hirehalli, Tumakuru, in collaboration with ATMA and the Department of Agriculture, Tumakuru.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. Loganandhan, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK Hirehalli. In his inaugural address, Dr. Loganandhan highlighted the crucial role of modern technologies in transforming Indian agriculture and horticulture. He emphasized the growing importance of precision farming, crop monitoring, pest and disease surveillance, and efficient input management. At the same time, he stressed the relevance of traditional farming knowledge, natural farming, and organic farming practices for sustainable agriculture, soil health improvement, and environmental conservation. He urged farmers to adopt a balanced approach by integrating modern technologies with traditional and eco-friendly farming practices.

Following the inauguration, a series of technical sessions were conducted by subject matter specialists:

- Shri K. N. Jagadish, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension), delivered a detailed lecture on the application of drones and artificial intelligence in agriculture. He explained the use of drones for crop spraying, mapping, yield estimation, and precision input application. He also shared insights on AI-based decision support systems and introduced technologies developed by ICAR–Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) relevant to farmers.



- Shri Ramesh P. R., Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), delivered a technical talk on the importance of soil health in enhancing crop productivity. He emphasized the role of soil organic carbon (SOC) in improving soil fertility, water-holding capacity, and nutrient availability. He also elaborated on soil management practices under natural farming and organic farming systems.

- Smt. Radha R. Banakar, delivered an informative lecture on the importance of post-harvest technologies in the present-day agricultural scenario. She highlighted value addition, processing, reduction of post-harvest losses, and market-oriented approaches to improve farmers’ income.

The programme witnessed active participation of 63 farmers and farm women, who actively interacted with scientists and clarified their doubts on modern technologies, soil management, and post-harvest practices.

The programme was organized in collaboration with ATMA and the Department of Agriculture, Tumakuru, and was coordinated by Shri Vinay, Deputy Project Director (DPD), ATMA, Tumakuru, and Shri Shashidhar K. N. The interaction programme proved to be highly beneficial in enhancing farmers’ awareness of improved technologies and sustainable farming practices.

## Recognition of KVK Supporting FPO by Prime Minister’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’

Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has covered the efforts of ShivagangaKalanjiaJeevidam 10K Honeybee Producer Company, Tumakuru FPO in the 128<sup>th</sup> episode of Mann Ki Baat, telecast on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2025. He appreciated their activities and mentioned that this FPO motivated many members to join.

ICAR-KrishiVigyan Kendra, Hirehalli, Tumakuru in Karnataka, support ShivagangaKalanjiaJeevidam 10K



Honeybee Producer Company, Tumakuru. This FPO was established on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 at Gulur, Tumakuru district. This is entirely a women participating FPO implemented by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, supported Jeevitham Ltd, DHAN Foundation NGO. At present there are 1,500 shareholders in the FPO, all are women.

In the year 2023, about 220 Honey Bee boxes were provided to them by KVK, under SCSP, TSP schemes.

Each member was given two boxes and periodical support was provided by the KVK staff. This FPO is excelling in scientific bee keeping and sale of honey. They created a brand viz., ShivagangaKalanjiaJeevidam and sell at the rate of Rs. 400 per kg.

Since 2023, they produced more than 3 quintals of honey and marketed the same, apart from their own consumption. Bee keeping helped them in increasing their crop yield (Finger Millet, Coconut, Arecanut, Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers) to the tune of 15-20%. The additional income that the women get helped them in improving their livelihoods. The honey they consume helped in their health development and that of their children. Honorable Prime Minister appreciated their activities and mentioned that this FPO motivated many members to join.

Sri Suresh Gowda ji, Honorable MLA, Tumakuru Rural Constituency, visited the FPO on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 2025 and appreciated their efforts for being mentioned in the PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' Programme. He sanctioned Rs.10 lakhs from his fund for their business development.

# IDUKKI

## Second batch Institutional Training on Natural Farming in Idukki District Clusters

ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Idukki successfully organized three additional second batch Institutional Trainings for farmers under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) during November 2025 with an aim to promote sustainable, low-cost and eco-friendly farming practices in the district. The programmes were conducted at Two major farmer clusters on 02.12.2025 in Peerumedu I Cluster in Azhutha Block and Mlappara Cluster in Azhutha Block on 02.12.2025. The programme emphasized the significance of adopting farm-based inputs such as Jeevamrith, Beejamrith, Ghana Jeevamrith, botanical extracts, mulching, and other organic approaches for restoring soil ecosystem functions.

The KVK team assured the farmers of ongoing guidance through field visits, demonstrations, farmer-to-farmer learning, and technology backstopping. The training programmes collectively contributed to enhancing the capacity of farmers in Idukki district to move towards greener agricultural practices aligned with national priorities.

The programme was coordinated by Ms. ManjuJincy Varghese, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science) and Ashiba A, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy), KVK Idukki.



**World Soil Day celebration at ICAR–KVK Idukki**  
ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Idukki, organized the *World Soil Day* celebration on 05 December 2025 at the KVK campus with the objective of promoting awareness on the importance of healthy soil for sustainable agriculture and human well-being. World Soil Day 2025, on 5 December, focuses on urban landscapes with the theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”, and invites everyone – from policymakers to citizens – to build greener, more resilient, and healthier cities. The theme promotes the fundamental role of urban soil

The programme was chaired by **Sri. Shaji K. Kakkad**, Management Representative, Bapooji Sevak Samaj. **Dr. R. Marimuthu**, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK

Idukki, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of soil conservation, scientific nutrient management, and farmer-friendly soil health practices in ensuring productivity and environmental sustainability. As part of the event, a **Farmer Seminar on “Importance of Soil Health”** was conducted. The technical sessions were handled by **Dr. Sudhakar S**, SMS (Plant Protection), who emphasized the role of soil biodiversity in pest suppression and sustainable crop health, and **Smt. ManjuJincy Varghese**, SMS (Soil Science), who discussed soil fertility management, soil testing, integrated nutrient management, and best practices for long-term soil sustainability.

The programme witnessed active participation from farmers of nearby villages. The sessions helped create a deeper understanding among farmers about maintaining soil health, adopting balanced fertilizer usage, and promoting eco-friendly agricultural practices. The event was **sponsored by Corteva Chemicals, Idukki, and Greenstar Fertilizers Limited, Idukki**, whose support contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the programme. The programme concluded with an interactive discussion and vote of thanks, marking a meaningful observance of World Soil Day 2025 at KVK Idukki.



## FACT–KVK Idukki jointly organized Crop-Specific Farmers’ Meet for farmers of Idukki district

With the support of FACT (Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.) Kottayam and Ernakulam units, the ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki organized a **Crop-Specific Farmers’ Meet and training programme for 100 farmers from Idukki district** at Santhanpara. The programme, held at the KVK Seminar Hall, was arranged with the objective of enhancing agricultural productivity and introducing scientific farming practices.

The programme was inaugurated by **Sri Prakash C. Kuratty**, Zonal Manager, FACT, Karnataka and **Sri Shaji K. Kakkad** presided over the function. Experts delivered sessions on topics such as **soil health, fertilizer management, and plant protection**.

The training programme was coordinated by Ms. **ManjuJincy Varghese**, Subject Matter Specialist, Soil Science, **Dr. Sudhakar Soundarajan**, Subject Matter Specialist, Plant Protection from ICAR–KVK

Idukki, along with Mr. Rajan (FACT Kottayam) and Mr. NaheemulMashood(FACT Ernakulam). The participating farmers were provided opportunities for **interaction and clarification of doubts**. The organizers highlighted that such training programmes play a crucial role in promoting **scientific, safe, and sustainable agricultural practices**.



### Development of Nutrigarden for ST Farmers under TSP Programme 2025 at Adimali by KVK Idukki

As part of the TSP programme of KVK Idukki 2025, 12 ST farmers were selected for the development of a nutrigarden at Ozhuvuthadam in Adimali. About 50 cents of area was selected for growing more than 15 annual and perennial vegetable crops. Planting materials of crops belong to the solanaceous, cucurbitaceous, leguminaceous, brassicaceae etc along with moringa, curry leaves and papaya were provided. Inputs like seeds, lime, protray, vermicompost, neemcake, biocontrol agents were distributed for the initiation of nutrigarden development with a special focus for the market of Vishu in April. The land was cleared from weeds and lime application was done with the dosage of 2kg per cent. Soil sample was collected for soil sample analysis in KVK Idukki. The bed formation and the layout of the plot for each crops were demonstrated to the farmers by the experts in KVK Idukki. The seeds of solanaceous and cucurbitaceous crops were grown in protrays and the crops that not required nursery like amarathus and other root crops were sown directly in the farm. The farmers group is actively participating for the development of nutrigarden for a sustainable income and nutrients



**Implementation of TSP Project by ICAR–KVK Idukki: Establishment of Marketing Facilities in Freshwater Fish Farming at Kunjipettykudy**  
 ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki implemented a Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project of ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Ernakulam, entitled “Establishment of Marketing Facilities in Freshwater Fish Farming in Tribal Area – Kunjipettykudy”, for a tribal farmers’ group named “Krishikootam”, consisting of 25 Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers. The programme was chaired by Sri. Shaji K Kakkad, Management Representative Bapooji Sevak Samaj. Dr R Marimuthu Senior scientist and Head Officially welcomed the dignitaries. The programme was officially inaugurated by Dr. Chandrasekhar, Senior Scientist and TSP Nodal Officer, ICAR–CIFT, Ernakulam, in the presence of Dr. Lekshmi R. G. Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR–CIFT, Ernakulam. The initiative aimed at enhancing livelihood security of tribal farmers by strengthening value addition and marketing opportunities in freshwater fish farming. As part of the project, two days of intensive skill training were provided to the ST farmers by Sri Prabhu, retired officer of ICAR -CIFT, focusing on the preparation of various value-added fish products. The training covered practical preparation of fish cutlets, fish balls, fish nuggets, fish fingers, fish powder, fish pickle and many more using tuna, shrimp, and tilapia. Emphasis was given to hygienic processing, product diversification, and market-oriented preparation techniques.



The training programme was conducted in a hands-on mode, wherein the farmers actively participated and prepared the value-added products themselves under expert guidance. This practical exposure helped build confidence and skills among the participants to adopt fish processing as an income-generating activity. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Preethu K. Paul, Project In-charge and Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension), ICAR–KVK Idukki. The project highlighted the importance of capacity building, value addition, and market linkage in promoting sustainable freshwater fish farming and improving the socio-economic status of tribal farmers in the region.

# MYSURU (JJSKVK)

## 1. Apiculture Skill training

A five-day beekeeping skill training program was conducted from December 1–5, 2025, in collaboration with the Agriculture Technology Management Agency(ATMA), Department of Agriculture, Mysuru. The event inaugurated Dr. Rajagopal, Rtd. Dean, Agriculture College who emphasized the crucial role of honeybees in sustaining human life and maintaining the biological chain. He noted that honey farming was introduced as a subject at the agricultural university in 1996 and recommended broader dissemination of beekeeping training to raise awareness among farmers.

Dr. B.N.Gnanesh, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, highlighted the significance of honey in Ayurvedic medicine. He explained that increased pollination through apiculture can lead to higher crop yields. He also mentioned that individuals without land can still engage in honey cultivation by using boxes placed with permission from landowners. The trainees encouraged fellow farmers within their communities to adopt beekeeping practices. A total of 42 farmers and farm women from various taluks in Mysuru district participated in the program. The programme has been organized by Dr. Y.P. Prasad, SMS (Plant Protection).



## 2. Memorandum of Understanding with ICAR IIHR, Bangalore

On 03.12.2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Director, ICAR Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru for sourcing technologies for production of Arka Banana Special, Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, AMC, and Arka Flower Agarbatti and Dhooop in large quantities at KVK. The technology production agreement aims to enhance crop yield, improve productivity, promote entrepreneurship and increase farm product returns. During the signing ceremony, Senior Scientist and Head Dr. B.N. Gnanesh and Subject Matter Specialists of

KVK Dr. GM Vinay, Dr. Y.P. Prasad and Dr. Deepak were present on the occasion.



## 3. Women's day in agriculture

Women's Day in Agriculture was held on 4th December 2025 at ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Suttur. Dr. Noor Fathima, Associate Professor at JSS Ayurveda College, encouraged farmers to make use of backyard plants for better health. Mrs. Gayathri, a progressive farmer, recommended growing fruits and vegetables at home. Dr. Ramegowda highlighted innovative practices Eranager Badaneby farmwomen and acknowledged women's contributions to agriculture. Mrs. Gayathri was honoured at the event. The event witnessed over 70 participants, including farmers, farm women, ayurvedic students, and faculty members. Smt. H.V. Divya, Subject Matter Specialist (Seed Technology) opened with remarks on the significance of women in agriculture.



## 4. Celebration of world soil day and Field daypaddy variety Sahyadri Kempumukthi

KVK marked World Soil Day and held a field festival for the Sahyadri Kempu Mukti rice variety at Nagarle village in Nanjangud Taluk on December 5, 2025. During the event, Dr. Dushyant, Director of Research at Koladi Shivappanayaka University of Agriculture and Horticulture, Shivamogga expressed concern over farmers' increasing use of chemical fertilizers and weedicides, which is harming soil health. He emphasized that just as people maintain their health



# KALBURGI 1

## PROGRAMME 1: 23<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-I conducted 23<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting held on 10.12.2025. Dr. A. R. Kurubar, Director of Extension, UAS, Raichur in his inaugural speech appreciated about KVKs activities and involvement of the line departments as well as farmers and also told that, the KVK's are the light house of knowledge for agriculture and line departments, FPO's and NGO's. So, further asked to collaborate with KVK for transfer of technologies of UAS, Raichur and allied farm universities for the welfare of the farming community. Dr. M. J. Chandregowda, Principal Scientist & Nodal officer, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru inaugurated the meeting and asked the members of SAC to give their valuable suggestions for improvement of KVK functioning. Further, told that the suggestions should be science based. At the outset, Dr. Raju G Teggelli, the Member Secretary and Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-I extended the warm welcome to Chairman and Director of Extension, UAS, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Dean, College of Agriculture, Kalaburagi; Associate Director of Research, ZARS, Kalaburagi; Associate Director of Extension, Kalaburagi; Heads of Department of Agriculture and Allied departments of Kalaburagi district; Krishi Sakhis, Women Self Help Groups, NGOs, Progressive farmers & Agri-Entrepreneur who are SAC members and special invitees attended to 23<sup>rd</sup> SAC meeting.

In this program, Dr. Zaheer Ahamed, Scientist (Pathology), Dr. Yusufali Nimbargi, Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. Shreenivas, B. V., Scientist (Soil Science) and Dr. Sanmathi Nayak A.T.S., Scientist (Horticulture) presented noted the suggestions came out for individual scientists. The program, line department's officials, progressive farmers, staffs of KVK, ZARS and College of Agriculture, Kalaburagi were actively participated. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Yusufali Nimbargi, Senior Scientist, ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-I. Finally, all the participants sung national anthem.



## PROGRAMME 2: Natural Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) for CRPs/Krishi Sakhis

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-I, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Kalaburagi jointly organized a 5 days training programme on natural farming on 30.12.2025 to 03.01.2026 for Cluster Resource Persons (CRPs) and Krishi Sakhis for different talukas of Kalaburagi dist. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Raju G. Teggelli, Senior Scientist and Head, briefed about the KVK, mandated activities, importance of CRPs and Krishi Sakhis and their role in strengthening the agriculture sector at grass root level and stressed the importance of natural farming in future as well as now a days as well as create awareness on natural farming principles to the farming community and suggested will make available the improved technologies of at the door step of farmers. Dr. Shreenivas B. V, Scientist (Soil Science) highlighting the importance and role of natural farming in present days, soil health, nutrient management using soil health card and importance of using organic fertilizers to increase the organic carbon in soil. Dr. Yusufali Nimbargi, Scientist (Agronomy) encouraged the trainees to promote organic fertilizers, the use of agricultural waste and residue management, while Dr. Zaheer Ahmed (Pathology) focused on importance of pest and disease management in natural farming and recommended modern equipment like drone sprayers etc.



In this program, Dr. Yusufali, Scientist anchored, Mr. M. C. Patil, welcomed and Dr. Sanmathi Nayak, A.T.S, Scientist (Horticulture) concluded the program with a vote of thanks. Dr. Samad Patel, Joint Director of Agriculture, Smt. Anasuya Hugar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Sedam. The program, attended by 65 CRPs and 15 Krishi Sakhis from different Gram Panchayat of the district.

### **PROGRAMME 3: Resource Person at SBI-KITSERD and Abdul Nazir Sab Regional Centre by KVK Scientists**

A one-day training programme on different topics arranged for Rural Youths by SBI-KITSERD and Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Regional Centre, Kalaburagi in the month of December, 2025. ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-I scientists were participated as resource person. Dr. Sanmathi Naik, A.T.S, Scientist (Horticulture), KVK, Kalaburagi, was invited as a Resource Person to deliver training on the topic “Importance of Nutrition and Nutri-Gardening”. The training programmes were conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 for extension officials. During the sessions, the importance of nutrition security, dietary diversification, role of nutri-gardens in addressing malnutrition, and practical approaches for promoting household and community nutri-gardens were emphasized. Approximately 100 extension officials participated in the training and gained valuable knowledge to effectively disseminate nutrition-sensitive agriculture and nutri-gardening concepts at the field level.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 organized training programme on Soil Health Management at SBI-KITSERD center, Kalaburagi. Dr. Shreenivas, B. V., Scientist (Soil Science) explained about the importance of soil and water testing in Agriculture, soil health and procedures to estimate the both major and micro nutrients in the soil further emphasized about the generate and usage of soil health cards. More than 65 rural youths were actively participated.



### **PROGRAMME 4: Follow-up visit of the Front Line Demonstration (FLD)**

A follow-up visit of the Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on the thrips-tolerant onion variety Bhima Shakti was conducted at Gogi village of Kalaburagi taluka on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 by Dr. Sanmathi Naik, Scientist (Horticulture). During the visit, thrips incidence was recorded to be comparatively low

in the demonstrated plots. The crop exhibited better vegetative growth and healthy foliage, indicating tolerance to thrips under field conditions. Further assessment of growth parameters and yield performance will be undertaken at harvest to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the variety.



### **PROGRAMME 5: Field attachment programme of RAWE, AC, Raichur**

Students of the College of Agriculture (CoA), Raichur underwent a field attachment programme at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kalaburagi-I from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The programme was co-ordinate by Dr. Sanmathi Naik, A T S, Scientist (Horticulture). During the programme, students were exposed to KVK mandates, frontline extension activities, on-farm demonstrations, farmer trainings, diagnostic services, and digital extension initiatives. The attachment provided hands-on training in crop production, plant protection, horticulture, soil health management, and ICT-based advisory services, enabling students to effectively bridge theory with field-level practices. Students also gained practical exposure to horticulture nursery raising, propagation techniques and medicinal uses of medicinal and aromatic plants, terrace gardening as an entrepreneurship opportunity, vermicomposting, and soil testing methods. Overall, the programme enhanced students’ understanding of farmer-oriented extension approaches and real-time problem-solving within the KVK system.



# KALABURAGI-II (RADDEWADGI)

## 1. ICAR-KVK Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi) Scientists Participated in Horticulture Mela at UHS Bagalkot

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi) participated in the **Horticulture Mela** organized at the **University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS), Bagalkot** during **20–23 December 2025**. The KVK represented **University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur**, under the leadership of **Dr. P. Vasudev Naik, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi)**.

During the event, various **improved agriculture and horticultural technologies and extension activities** developed by **UAS Raichur** were disseminated to the visiting farmers, farm women, and other stakeholders. A dedicated stall was established for technology demonstration, advisory services, and interaction with the farming community. A major highlight of the exhibition was the introduction of **QR codes linked to different technologies of UAS Raichur**, enabling easy access to technical information.

The stall attracted **farmer, farm women's and stakeholders** who visited the exhibition and benefited from the dissemination of scientific information and improved technologies during the event.



## 2. Celebrated Farmers day at ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi)

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi), in collaboration with the **Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Krishika Samaj, Jewargi**, and **IFFCO**, organized **Farmers' Day** on **23rd December 2025** at the KVK premises.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by **Mrs. Prabhavati, Project Assistant**, who welcomed the dignitaries and participating farmers. **Dr. Gyanadev Bulla, In-charge Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-II**, provided an overview of the significance of Farmers'

Day and highlighted the contributions of **Chaudhary Charan Singh** towards the development of the farming community, expressing gratitude on the occasion. The programme was inaugurated by **Sri Basavaraj Patil, Vice-President, Krishika Samaj, Jewargi**, who emphasized the importance of adopting scientific technologies developed by agricultural scientists to enhance crop productivity and farm income.

The **Chief Guest, Sri Chandrakant Jivanagi**, stressed the need for farmers to adopt crop varieties suited to prevailing climatic conditions to improve their economic status and livelihood. **Sri Md. Samiyudding, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture**, encouraged farmers to adopt horticultural and vegetable crops for higher income generation and to serve as role models for other farmers in the region. **Sri Siddarud Patil, Field Officer, IFFCO**, explained the role of IFFCO and the use of its products such as **Nano Urea, Nano DAP, and other micronutrients**.

**Dr. Shobha Sajjan, Assistant Director of Veterinary Services**, advised farmers on improving milk yield through silage preparation and balanced feeding practices.

**Dr. Mallappa, Scientist (Agronomy)** delivered a lecture on **organic farming practices**.

**Mrs. Farzan, Senior Technical Officer**, explained the importance of **soil testing**, while **Mr. Sanjeevkumar Patil, Technical Officer (Computer)** highlighted the use of **agricultural mobile applications** for farm management and information access.

During the programme, **20 progressive farmers** were felicitated in recognition of their achievements and contributions to agriculture. The event witnessed the participation of **KVK staff, technical staff from the Department of Agriculture and ATMA**, and **more than 100 farmers and farm women**, who actively took part in the programme. The programme concluded with the **valedictory address by Mr. M. C. Patil, Technical Officer (Farm)**.



# KANDALI HASSAN

## World Soil Day-2025

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Hassan, Coromandel International Limited, and Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, celebrated **World Soil Health Day** on December 5, 2025, at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Hassan. The event was organized by **Dr. Arunkumar B. R.**, soil scientist, KVK, Hassan who gave introductory remarks and explained that **World Soil Day** is celebrated annually on December 5 to honor the birthday of **Bhumibol Adulyadej**, the King of Thailand and a strong advocate of soil conservation. Further, he also administered the **soil conservation oath** to all the participants during the program.

The **Deputy Director of the Agriculture Department, Mrs. Kokila**, inaugurated the event and emphasized that farmers should focus on maintaining soil health by enriching the soil with minerals, nutrients, and moisture. Mrs. Kokila also highlighted the negative impact of excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, which reduces soil fertility and crop yields, suggesting that soil testing should be used to guide fertilizer application and improve land health.



The **Chief Guest, Mr. Chandrasekhar**, Director of Clear In Institute, Hassan, spoke about the harmful effects of plastics used in farming, urging farmers to recycle plastic materials to prevent soil pollution. **Mr. Manu**, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Hassan, discussed the history of fertilizer use, explaining that while fertilizers were essential in the 1960s to boost food production, their excessive use today is harming soil health. He recommended using organic manure and green manure to maintain soil fertility.

**Mr. Madhusudhan**, Krishi Ranga, Aakashvani, Hassan participated as guest and explained that only 40% of India's soil is suitable for agriculture, while the remaining 60% is either acidic or alkaline, leading to reduced crop yields. He advocated for the adoption of **organic farming practices** to restore soil health. Further, **Mr. Omkaramoorthy**, Manager of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Hassan emphasized that a balanced use of organic and chemical fertilizers is essential for maintaining soil health while ensuring high yields.

Finally, **Dr. Sivashankar M**, Scientist (Home Science), KVK, Hassan has chaired the programme and during his presidential remarks he urged farmers to monitor and manage their soil, recalling the saying, "Soil is better for humans, but in the end, it is the soil that carries the burden, not humans."

### Contributor:

Dr. Arunkumar, B. R., Scientist (Soil Science)

# KANNUR

## The Programmes organized and celebrated by KVK Kannur, KisanDiwas and Off campus training

**The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kannur** successfully organized and celebrated National Kisan Samman Diwas on 23rd December 2025. The programme was inaugurated and formally welcomed by Dr. Meera Manjusha A. V., Programme Coordinator, KVK Kannur. During the programme, a live telecast of the Union Minister of Agriculture launching the VB-G-RAM G initiative was arranged. In addition, hoardings related to the VB-G-RAM G Bill were displayed at various locations within the KVK premises, and pamphlets on the VB-G-RAM G Bill were distributed to the participating farmers. A total of 120 participants attended the programme.

Ten students from the College of Agriculture, Padanakkad were attached to KVK, Kannur for learning the KVK module for RAWE programme from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The programme was inaugurated on the first day by Dr. Meera Manjusha A. V., Programme Coordinator, KVK, Kannur. The training schedule included on-campus sessions where students gained hands-on experience in mushroom value addition and soap making. On the third day, the students were given exposure through nearby farmers' field visits, followed by expert talks from KVK scientists who elaborately explained the ongoing schemes and projects of KVK. On the final day, the students visited an FPO, where they learned about membership formalities, progress in commodity value addition, and marketing strategies.

An off-campus training programme on mushroom cultivation and vegetable value-added products was conducted on 09.12.2025 as part of KVK's Entrepreneurship Development Programme at the



Model Child Rehabilitation Centre, Mattannur. The session led by Expert Dr. Manju K.P and Dr. Shruthi P

KVK Kannur organized the inauguration of the NICRA power tiller at Chengalayi Panchayat on 15.12.2025. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Meera Manjusha A. V., Programme Coordinator, KVK Kannur. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Jinu, Agricultural Officer, Chengalayi, followed by the presidential address by Ms. Greena P. G., Assistant Professor, KVK Kannur. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Anjali, Senior Research Fellow.

“A workshop on Marigold value-added products was conducted on 19.12.2025 at Sir Syed College, Taliparamba, and the session was handled by expert trainer Dr. Shruthi P., Assistant Professor, KVK, Kannur, with around 50 participants attending the programme.”

“An off-campus training programme on value addition of papaya was conducted on 17.12.2025 at Little Flower Hall, Paithal Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), led by expert Dr. Shruthi P., Assistant Professor, KVK, Kannur, in which around 45 farmers participated.”

A Mud Crab Fattening Training Programme was organized on 20.12.2025 in collaboration with KVK, Kannur; STEM Systems; and KUFOS, Cochin. The programme focused on advanced household-level farming techniques for producing export-quality green mud crabs. The training session was handled by Mr. Arun, who provided both theoretical instruction and hands-on experience. A total of 20 selected farmers from Kannur district participated in the programme.

“KVK Kannur displayed stalls at the XIX Flower Show held from 26.12.25 to 30.12.25, organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Mahe, at the College Ground, Mahe.”

# KASARAGOD

## Natural Farming training to farmers under NMNF by ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), CPCRI, Kasaragod, successfully concluded a series of one-day training programmes on 'Natural Farming' for farmers. The training programmes were conducted under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) and were sponsored by SAMETI and the Department of

provide both theoretical awareness and hands-on guidance regarding the core principles of NMNF. Participants focused on soil health restoration and the preparation of essential microbial formulations, including Beejamritham, Ghanajeevamritha, and Jeevamritha, as well as eco-friendly pest management techniques. A total of 435 selected farmers from 15 panchayats within the identified clusters actively participated in the training. The sessions empowered these farmers to implement key natural farming principles, such as maintaining 365-day green cover, practicing crop diversification, and completely avoiding agrochemicals. Through practical demonstrations, they gained a clear understanding of bio-



Agriculture Development & Farmers' Welfare of Kerala. The programme was specifically designed to create awareness and promote sustainable, chemical-free agricultural practices among selected farmers from the Kanhangad, Karadka, Manjeshwar, Kasaragod, and Parappa blocks of the Kasaragod district.

Dr. Benjamin Mathew, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), coordinated the sessions and served as the lead resource person. The training was tailored to

stimulant formulations and the use of various leaf decoctions for natural pest control.

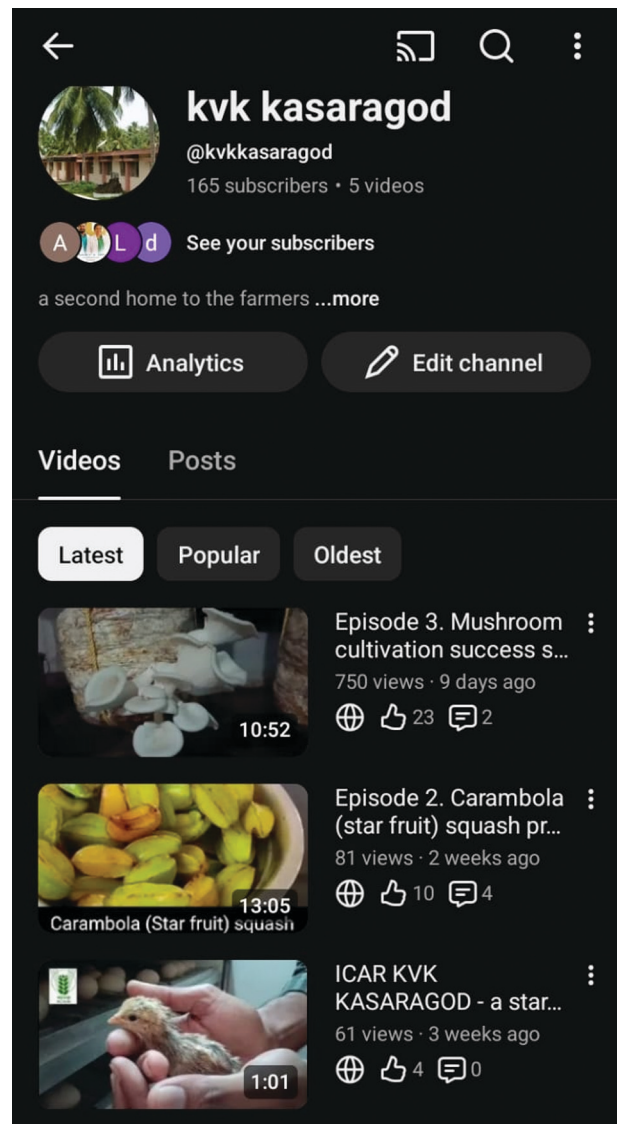
The training was well-supported by local administration, with the Assistant Director of Agriculture for each block, the Agricultural Officer of each concerned panchayat, and ATMA staff from each cluster. As a result of this initiative, the participating farmers expressed renewed confidence in transitioning toward more resilient, self-reliant, and sustainable farming systems.





## ICAR KVK Kasaragod launches its Youtube channel

ICAR KVK Kasaragod will be launching its Youtube channel named KVK Kasaragod, in January 2026 as a platform to showcase the success stories of its farmers as well as to disseminate agricultural and allied technologies to the farming community. The channel will be launched during the ICAR CPCRI Foundation day inauguration ceremony by the Hon. Director, Dr K BalachandraHebbar. The link to the curtain raiser video is <https://youtu.be/0ww5cH9yraU?si=FxKi9yqp4l3qfriD>



# KOLAR

## 1. Capacity Building Program for Tribal Farmers

ICAR–KVK Kolar organized a Capacity Building Program and Inputs Distribution Program for Tribal Farmers at KVK Kolar under the ICAR–IIHR Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) on 05.12.2025.

As part of the programme, vegetable seed kits, AMC, and neem soap were distributed to 53 ST farmers. Dr. T. H. Singh, Principal Scientist Dr. Jayanthi Malla, Senior Scientist, Dr. Shivanand V. Hongal, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR–KVK Kolar; and Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (Soil Science), organized the event. During the program, ICAR–IIHR scientists highlighted the importance of improved horticultural varieties, advanced technologies, and sustainable cultivation practices for enhancing the livelihood and welfare of tribal farmers. The event concluded with the formal distribution of inputs to all beneficiaries, encouraging them to adopt improved practices for higher productivity and income enhancement.



## 2. World Soil Day 2025

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar observed World Soil Day 2025 on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 with the global theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Kolar on 05.12.2025.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Smt. Javeeda Naseem Khanam Patil, Joint Director of Agriculture, by pouring enriched compost into the soil to symbolize the importance of soil enrichment. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. R. K. Mestha, Dean, College of Horticulture, Kolar, Dr. Manjula, Deputy Director of Agriculture; Dr. H. T. Singh, Principal Scientist, IIHR, Dr. Jayanthi Malla, Senior Scientist, IIHR, Dr. V. Nache Gowda, Former DR, UHS Bagalkot, ADA Manjunath, Sri Keshav Reddy,



Area Manager, Velagro, and Dr. Shivanand Hongal, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR–KVK Kolar, who presided over the function.

All the dignitaries highlighted the significance of soil health and emphasized the importance of celebrating World Soil Day to enhance awareness on sustainable soil management and its role in building healthy and resilient cities.

Dr. Sheela Rani, Assistant Professor, COH Kolar, served as the Resource Person and delivered lecture on soil sampling Techniques.

The programme also witnessed the participation of Dr. Shashidhar K. R., Mr. Gurunath, ATMA DPD Smt. Lakshmi, DD Chandana, Sri Chandrasekhar, and around 120 farmers from different parts of the district.

As part of the celebration, an Exhibition on Bio-agents, Demonstration Models on Soil Sampling, and Theme-based educational charts prepared by students were displayed for the benefit of the participants. Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR–KVK Kolar, coordinated the programme and delivered an expert lecture on the importance of soil health for sustaining healthy cities and improving the quality of life.

## 3. Awareness programme on “Management of mulberry and bivoltine silkworm during winter season”

KVK Kolar, CSB-REC Madivala and Dept. of Sericulture, ZP Kolar jointly organized an Awareness programme on “Management of mulberry and bivoltine silkworm during winter season” under the theme of Mera Resham Mera Abhiman at KVK premises on 06.12.2025. During the programme Sri Anjaneya Reddy, C.R, Deputy Director of Sericulture, ZP, Kolar inaugurated the programme. Dr. Shivananda V. Hongal, Head, KVK Kolar presided over the function. Dr. Parameshwar Naik., Scientist ‘C’ REC Madivala briefed about Quality cocoon harvest during winter season. Dr. Shashidhar K.R. Scientist (Sericulture) and

Dr.Manjunatha Reddy T.B. Scientist (Plant Protection) explained Pest and disease of mulberry and their management practice during the winter season. Sri N.Diwakar, Progressive seed farmers from Thoraganadoddi, Bangarpet participated as a resource person and shared their experience in Bivoltine cocoon production during the winter season. ADS Byregowda and Extension functionaries of DoSKolar& 60 Sericulture farmers from Kolar actively participated in the programme.



#### 4. Selection of Best Farmers for KrishiPandita Awards

The scientists of ICAR–KVK Kolar actively participated in the selection process for identifying Best Farmers for the KrishiPandita Awards in Kolar district on 17.12.2025, along with officials from the concerned line departments and scientists from UAS Dharwad. The selection was carried out through field-level assessment and evaluation of farmer achievements as per the prescribed guidelines



#### 5. ThotagarikeMela at UHS Bagalkot

ICAR–KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK), Kolar, put up an informative stall at the ThotagarikeMela organized at the University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS), Bagalkot, from 21<sup>st</sup>to 23<sup>rd</sup>December 2025. The stall showcased improved agricultural and horticultural technologies, disseminated technical information to farmers, and created awareness about various extension

activities and services offered by ICAR–KVK, Kolar. A large number of farmers, students, and other stakeholders visited the stall and benefited from the interactions with scientists.



#### 6. National Farmers Day 2025

KVK Kolar, KSDA Kolar, District KrishikSamaj, Kolarand College of Horticulture, Kolar jointly organized National Farmers Day at KVK premises on 23.12.2025. During the program Honorable Deputy Commissioner of KolarDr M.R. Ravi participated as chief guest and addressed the farmers role on food grain production. Joint Director of Agriculture SmtJavedaNaseemaKalam highlighted the celebration of birth anniversary of Former Prime Minister of India Sri ChoudharyCharan Singh. During the program DrManjunatha Reddy T.B. Scientist (Plant Protection) enlightened the benefits of VB-G-RAM-G and safe and judicious use of pesticides in agriculture. DrShashidhar K.R., Scientist (Sericulture) briefed on the importance of natural farming techniques in pest and disease management. Felicitated 13 Progressive farmers during the program.Around 250 farmers and 25 KSDA officials actively participated in the celebration.



# KOLLAM

## From Oven to Opportunity: Festive Flavours to Market Capacity Building on Cake Making & Bakery Enterprises under SCSP (2025–26)

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kollam, Kerala Agricultural University, successfully organized a **three-day capacity building programme on Cake Making and Bakery Enterprises** from **18 to 20 December 2025** under the **Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP–2025–26)**. The programme, titled “*From Oven to Opportunity: Festive Flavours to Market,*” was strategically aligned with the Christmas and New Year festive season, ensuring strong market relevance and immediate entrepreneurial opportunities for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.

The programme aimed to empower SC beneficiaries through skill-oriented, enterprise-focused training, enabling bakery enterprises as viable self-employment and income-generating options. Recognizing the increasing demand for festive and value-added bakery products and the scope for home-based and micro-level bakery units, the training emphasized market-driven production, quality standardization, food safety, and entrepreneurship development.

Implemented as an integrated capacity building initiative, the programme combined cake making and bakery enterprise training with an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) on millet-based baked products. Special emphasis was given to the utilization of locally available functional food resources, such as millets and jackfruit flour, to promote nutritionally enriched products with commercial potential.

The three-day programme followed a progressive, hands-on structure. On **Day 1**, the training focused on basic cake making, covering key aspects such as ingredient functionality, batter preparation, mixing



methods, oven temperature control, baking time optimization, and essential food safety and hygiene practices. **Day 2** emphasized product diversification in line with festive market demand, during which participants prepared cookies, brownies, steamed cakes, and baked cakes, with technical inputs on recipe standardization, cost-effective production, consistency in quality, and consumer acceptability. **Day 3** was dedicated to cake icing and decoration techniques aimed at enhancing product aesthetics, shelf appeal, and market value. The programme concluded with an exhibition of bakery products, including value-added items prepared using jackfruit flour, which showcased the participants’ skill acquisition, creativity, and overall learning outcomes.

Focused technical and enterprise-oriented sessions strengthened the participants’ entrepreneurial readiness. **Dr. Bini Sam**, Professor & Head, KVK Kollam, covered bakery equipment and infrastructure, including machinery selection for small-scale units, operations, maintenance, and cost considerations, while **Smt. Shamsiya A. H.**, Assistant Professor (Community Science) and Scientist-in-Charge, demonstrated food safety practices and millet- and jackfruit flour-based baking, highlighting their nutritional and commercial potential. The programme significantly enhanced technical skills, entrepreneurial awareness, and self-confidence, with participants showing improved proficiency in cake making, baking precision, icing, and decoration, along with a clear understanding of quality, hygiene, and market requirements. Overall, “*From Oven to Opportunity: Festive Flavours to Market*” served as a successful, need-based, and market-oriented capacity building initiative, integrating technical skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and functional food-based value addition, thereby reinforcing ICAR–KVKs’ mandate for inclusive rural entrepreneurship and socio-economic empowerment.

# KOTTAYAM

## Demonstration on use of trichocards as part of NABARD project

NABARD supported project on **Climate Smart Village development** is being implemented in **Thiruvarpur Panchayat, Kottayam**, to strengthen resilience in flood-prone areas. As part of the project, a training programme was organized for farmers on **soil test-based fertilizer application, scientific weed management, and eco-friendly pest and disease management practices**.

Special emphasis was given to the **use of trichocards in paddy** for controlling stem borer and leaf folder. A total of **40 farmers participated** in the programme. Trichocards of **trichogramma japonicum** and



**trichogramma chilonis** and bio control agents like pseudomonas and trichoderma were distributed to farmers, along with short-duration sweet potato varieties **Bhu Sona and Bhu Krishna** for crop diversification. Farmers were also given hands-on guidance on the correct placement and field usage of trichocards in paddy fields to ensure effective pest control.

### Training on value addition of fruits and vegetables

Training on value addition of fruits and vegetables for budding entrepreneurs was conducted at KVK Kottayam on 29.12.2025. Seventeen **participants** attended the programme. The trainees were equipped with practical skills in preparing a range of processed products, including **pineapple jam, grape syrup, sip-ups, lemon-dates pickle and grape squash**. The session aimed to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities by enabling participants to utilize locally available fruits and vegetables for income generation.

# LAKSHADWEEP

## Animal Health Camp organized by KVK-Lakshadweep at Kavaratti

KVK-Lakshadweep, ICAR-CMFRI organized four days long animal health camp at Kavaratti in various location under TSP of ICAR-CMFRI. The camp was organized with the objective of providing basic information on animals related to health, nutrition, breeding, feeding, management, control and prevention of diseases and other measures. In addition to that the objective was to provide free veterinary health check-up facility and free distribution of veterinary medicines. The animal health camp was organized with the support of FPO, KICPCoS Kavaratti. The camp comprised activities towards identification of diseases, practicing



ecto-endo parasitic control, providing dietary supplements and others related to goatery, dairy and poultry. About 1897 animals (dairy cows, goats, cat, duck, poultry birds and other pet birds) were treated and other supplements were provided benefitting 117 farmers and other stakeholders. There was a huge response for this activity and many farmers and animal growers requested to arrange periodically such camps. Animal health camp attracted wide publicity in islands. The support of Department of Animal Husbandry and the FPO were immense in mobilizing farmers and other stakeholders to reap the benefits of this camp. The camp was coordinated by Dr. V.M. Abdul Gafoor, SMS (Animal Science) of KVK. The approach for the camp and other coordinating activity of this camp was performed by Dr. P. N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK-Lakshadweep. The camp was attended by all the staffs of KVK.

# MALAPPURAM

## SCSP skill training programme on baking

A three day SCSP Skill Development Training Programme on baking of cakes, brownies, muffins, and doughnuts was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Malappuram on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November, and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The programme was organised with the objective of imparting practical skills in bakery based value addition and enabling SCSP beneficiaries to take up baking as a viable self employment option. The training focused on basic baking principles, standardised recipes, preparation techniques, baking procedures, hygiene, quality control, and introductory packaging practices, with strong emphasis on hands-on practical sessions.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lilia Baby, Assistant Professor (Community Science), KVK Malappuram. Participants showed active involvement throughout the programme and expressed confidence in initiating small-scale baking activities. The training contributed to improving technical confidence, entrepreneurial orientation, and awareness on small-scale bakery enterprises among the beneficiaries. As part of the training support, starter kits for baking were distributed to the participants, which included essential items such as mixing bowls, spatulas, brushes, cake tins, and related basic baking tools to facilitate immediate adoption of the skill.



## Capacity building of rural youth on fruit and vegetable value addition under ICAR-ARYA

Skill Development Programme on Fruit and Vegetable Value Addition was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malappuram from 16 to 20 December 2025 under the ICAR-ARYA 2025-2026 scheme. The

programme aimed to strengthen the technical and entrepreneurial competencies of rural youth in fruit and vegetable processing. A total of 45 participants attended the training. The training programme was coordinated by Dr. Lilia Baby, Assistant Professor (Community Science), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malappuram. The programme covered key areas such as novel processing technologies, food safety and FSS Act compliance, packaging technologies, dehydration techniques, nutritional enhancement of bakery products using fruits, and institutional support for entrepreneurship. Sessions were handled by experts from Kerala Agricultural University, the Department of Food Safety, the District Industries Office, and a successful food processing entrepreneur.

The training adopted a balanced approach combining theoretical sessions, interactive discussions, entrepreneur experience sharing, and hands-on practical training. Participants gained practical exposure to dehydration and value addition techniques, improved awareness on food safety regulations, and enhanced understanding of enterprise establishment procedures, including licensing and government schemes. The programme effectively motivated participants to explore self-employment opportunities in food processing and is expected to contribute to income generation, reduction of post-harvest losses, and promotion of youth led agri-based enterprises in Malappuram district.



## NMNF training programme for cluster farmers of Malappuram district

A series of Natural Farming cluster farmers training programmes (NMNF, 2025-26) were conducted by KVK Malappuram under the guidance of Dr. Sreena K. S., Assistant Professor and natural farming nodal officer. The trainings were organized in different clusters

across Perinthalmanna, Kalikavu, and Manjeri blocks with the objective of promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Each training batch consisted of 50 farmers, ensuring effective interaction and hands-on learning. The programmes were conducted on 02/12/2025, 03/12/2025, 05/12/2025, 06/12/2025, 17/12/2025, 18/12/2025, 19/12/2025, 20/12/2025, 22/12/2025, and 23/12/2025 at various locations within the selected blocks.

During the training sessions, special emphasis was given to reducing chemical inputs and improving soil health through natural methods. In addition, hands-on training on the preparation of bio-inputs used in natural farming was conducted at different blocks, enabling farmers to gain practical experience.



### PM Pranam- Seminar on INM and Composting Techniques held in collaboration with FACT Kozhikode region.

A one-day collaborative seminar on “Integrated Nutrient Management and Composting Techniques” was jointly organized by ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Malappuram, and The Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) at KCAEFT, Thavanur on 16/12/25. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Jayan P. R., Dean, KCAEFT, and the presidential address was delivered by Dr. Priya G. Nair, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Malappuram and Dr. Sreena K. S. served as the resource person, and the event was attended by scientists from KVK and KCAEFT, officials from the Department of Agriculture, Kerala, and representatives of FACT, highlighting balanced nutrient management, sustainable soil health, and eco-friendly composting practices while strengthening institutional collaboration for farmer-centric nutrient management technologies.



### Telecasting of inauguration function of VB G RAM G and Awareness programme

The telecasting of inauguration function of VB G RAM G programme and the awareness session for the same were done on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at Marancherry. The programme was meant for VB G RAM G scheme members and progressive farmers of Mrarancherry, Ponnani block. The address of Hon’ble Minister of Parliamentary affairs on VB G RAM G was viewed by the participants. Total 80 participants were attended the programme. The advantage and key features of the VBGRAM G scheme was explained by Dr. Swathi, B.S, SMS ( Horticulture) to the members and progressive farmers. A session on vegetable cultivation was also conducted along with this. The session aimed to provide information on scientific vegetable cultivation and pest and disease controls. Dr. Swathi. B. S, led the class and the trainers were given classes on watering schedules, nutrient management, and common pest-control techniques using organic methods. They were also provided with a training kit with essentials for starting the vegetable cultivation. The programme helped build confidence among the participants to start small kitchen gardens.



### Training on vegetable cultivation for NSS students

A training programme on vegetable production was organized for the students of the NSS, from MES College, Ponnani. The session introduced students to the importance of vegetable production. The session was conducted by Dr.Swathi B. S. (SMS, Horticulture). Students were taught about vegetable production, highlighted nutrient management practices and the role of organic manures in promoting plant health. Common pests and diseases of some common vegetables and their control measures were discussed. Students actively participated, asked questions, and showed a high level of curiosity throughout the session. The students also planted different vegetable seedlings in different groups. Overall, the training successfully encouraged students to appreciate pepper cultivation and motivated them to

apply the concepts in their college garden and future agricultural activities.



# MANDYA

## Celebration on “Farmers Day”

ICAR-KVK, Mandya organized “Farmers Day” on 23.12.2025, Dr. K.M. Harinikumar, Special Officer, UAS, Mandya inaugurated the programme and emphasized the purpose of celebrating the Farmers Day as it is marked with birth anniversary of BharathRathna Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, 5<sup>th</sup> Hon’ble Prime Minister of India as he himself was a farmer and urged farmers to adopt integrated farming system and learn e-marketing



techniques too for better life. Dr.Devagiri.G.M, Director of Research, UAS, Mandya enlightened about the contributions of Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh for the farming community as it was in his period the GDP increased upto 7% and implemented farmer friendly programmes which helped in upliftment of farmers. Dr. A.D. Ranganath, Associate Director of Extension, Dr. Basavaraju.B.S, Associate Director of Research, V.C.Farm, Mandya and all KVK Scientist and staff were present on the occasion, felicitations to farmers was done as an honor to farmers and to congratulate the farmers effort in feeding the nation. More than 122 farmers participated in the program.

# PALAKKAD

## Seven Days Skill Development Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation and Food Processing

From December 15th to 22nd, 2025, a comprehensive seven days Skill Development Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation and Food Processing was organized for 30 Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) farmers from the Palakkad district, covering panchayats such as Vallapuzha, Kulukkalloor, and Pattambi. Funded by NAARM, Hyderabad, the initiative aimed to empower small and marginal farmers through capacity building in agri-based entrepreneurship to counter declining farm incomes. The participatory methodology combined classroom lectures with extensive hands-on sessions led by experts like Dr. Sumiya K.V. and Dr. B. Pushpalatha, covering the production of oyster and milky mushrooms, fruit and vegetable preservation, masala powder formulation, and banana-based value addition. Beyond technical skills, the curriculum emphasized commercial readiness, including FSSAI regulations, branding, and marketing strategies delivered by Dr. Suhail Palakkod, alongside insights into the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund by NABARD. To bridge the gap between theory and practice, participants undertook an exposure visit on December 20th to KVASU and Kerala Agricultural University to observe large-scale industrial processing and incubation support. The programme concluded on December 22nd with a valedictory function where Shri M. Balakrishna, senior scientist and chairman SCSP Division, NAARM, distributed certificates and essential start-up kits—including electronic choppers and mushroom spawn—to facilitate immediate technology adoption. Post-evaluation results indicated a significant leap in technical understanding and entrepreneurial confidence, marking the programme as a successful model for socio-economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood security for marginalized farming communities.

Author: Dr. Lakshmy P.S  
Assistant Professor, KVK Palakkad



## Swachhta Pakhwada

KVK Palakkad observed **Swachhta Pakhwada** from 16/01/2025 to 31/01/2025 in line with **Central Government norms**, conducting a series of awareness and cleanliness activities. The programme included an **essay writing competition for students**, a **public rally promoting cleanliness**, **social media campaigns**, and **cleaning of KVK premises**. **Training classes and awareness sessions for farmers from different parts of Palakkad** were also organized, along with **day-to-day Swachhta activities**, highlighting public participation and sustainable cleanliness practices.

Author: Dr. Smijisha AS  
Assistant Professor  
KVK Palakkad



## Kissan Divas Celebration

In the occasion of National Farmers' Day (23/12/25) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Palakkad, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, organized a one-day seminar for selected natural farming farmers of Agali Panchayat at the EMS Hall, Agali Grama Panchayat. More than 650 farmers participated in the workshop, which was also attended by newly elected Ward Members and Block Panchayat Members from Agali Panchayat. The Programme Coordinator of KVK Palakkad, Dr. Israel Thomas, spoke on natural farming practices and the significance of National Farmers' Day. As part of the Farmers' Day celebrations, outstanding farmers of Attappadi, Shri Dharmaraj and Shri Manikandan, were honored with mementos. Dr. Jiji Allen and Dr. A. S. Smijish, Assistant Professors of KVK, handled sessions on various aspects of natural farming. Agali Agricultural Officer Shri Pravajith, along with other officials from the Department of Agriculture and officers from the

Attappadi Tribal Extension Centre, also attended the programme.

Author: Dr. Smijisha A.S  
Assistant Professor  
KVK Palakkad



### World Soil Day Celebration

KVK Palakkad organized a comprehensive farmer seminar and awareness program at Vallapuzha Grama Panchayat to observe World Soil Day. The event featured an expert-led technical session on soil health management by Dr. Thulasi V., Professor at RARS Pattambi, who provided farmers with actionable insights into maintaining soil fertility. Complementing this, Mr. Thomas Aneesh Johnson, Assistant Director of the Soil Survey Department, delivered a detailed explanation on the critical role of soil surveys in sustainable land use. To engage the younger generation, students from Padannakkad College of Agriculture curated an informative exhibition highlighting the intrinsic value of soil resources.

The celebration also fostered community participation through poster-making competitions for LP and UP students and essay writing for High School students. Dr. Israel Thomas, Programme Coordinator of KVK, distributed prizes to the winners, encouraging their environmental stewardship. The day's activities concluded with a symbolic tree-planting ceremony at Vallapuzha A.M. L.P. School, where fruit tree saplings were planted to promote local biodiversity. The event was supported by Dr. Lakshmy P.S. and staff from the Vallapuzha Agriculture Office, marking a successful collaborative effort in soil conservation advocacy.

Author: Dr. Lakshmy P.S.  
Assistant Professor  
KVK Palakkad



### Empowering Agriculture: Comprehensive Natural Farming Training in Palakkad

In a significant move toward sustainable agriculture, a series of intensive one-day training programmes on National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) were successfully conducted across the diverse landscapes of Palakkad district. This large-scale initiative reached deep into the ecological hubs of Attapady, including the regions of Agali, Pudur, and Sholayur, as well as the tribal and forest-fringe areas of Parambikulam in Muthalamada, Malampuzha, and Alathur. Organized in close collaboration with the Agricultural and Farmers Welfare Department of Kerala, the program aimed to bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern ecological practices.

The sessions successfully educated approximately 2,250 farmers, equipping them with the core principles and practical techniques required to transition away from synthetic chemicals. A major focus of the training was the hands-on demonstration and application of potent bio-inputs. Farmers received in-depth awareness on the production of Jeevamritham for soil enrichment, alongside botanical formulations such as Agniashtra and Bramastra for natural pest management. By fostering a community-led shift toward chemical-free cultivation, these programmes serve as a vital step in preserving the region's biodiversity and ensuring long-term food security for the state.

Author-Dr. Jiji Allen J  
Assistant Professor  
KVK Palakkad



# PATHANAMTHITTA

## 1. STRENGTHENING NATURAL FARMING PRACTICES THROUGH NMNF ONE-DAY TRAININGS

The **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable, economically viable and farmer-friendly agricultural practices. The mission focuses on reducing farmers' dependence on chemical inputs by encouraging the adoption of natural, on-farm resource based inputs, improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity and ensuring safe, nutritious food production while increasing farmers' net income. Under this mission, **ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra Pathanamthitta** organised a series of one-day training programmes across five clusters in Pathanamthitta district, covering Parakode, Mallappally, Konni, Koipuram and Ranni blocks. Each training programme was attended by 125 farmers, benefiting a total of 625 farmers from different agro-ecological regions of the district. The trainings were conducted in coordination with the **Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare** and **ATMA, Pathanamthitta**, ensuring effective mobilisation of farmers and convergence of departmental efforts. The sessions provided a comprehensive understanding of the concept, principles and benefits of natural farming as a sustainable alternative to conventional chemical-intensive agriculture.

A major highlight of the programmes was the hands-on experiential training on the preparation and application of concoctions such as *Jeevamritham*, *Ghanajeevamritham*, *Beejamritham*, *Neemastra* and *Brahmastra*. Practical demonstrations enabled farmers to acquire the skills needed to prepare these bio-inputs using locally available materials, thereby reducing input costs and promoting self-reliance at the farm level. Through these capacity-building programmes,



farmers were motivated to adopt sustainable, chemical-free farming practices that improve soil fertility, enhance crop resilience and contribute to long-term environmental and human health. The initiative under NMNF thus played a significant role in strengthening farmers' knowledge and accelerating the spread of natural farming practices across Pathanamthitta district. Dr. Vinod Mathew and Ms. Gayathri S of KVK, Pathanamthitta served as resource persons.

## 2. KISAN DIWAS CELEBRATION

As part of the SwachhtaPakhwada observance, Kisan Diwas was celebrated on 23 December at ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (CARD), Pathanamthitta by organising an online telecast programme at the KVK campus. The programme was aimed at honouring the contribution of farmers to national development while creating awareness on cleanliness, responsible citizenship and inclusive rural growth. The telecast focused on the theme “Viksit Bharat – G RAM G, which envisions a strong, self-reliant and prosperous rural India aligned with the national goal of Viksit Bharat @2047. The highlight of the programme was the **address by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, who interacted with farmers and outlined the Government’s vision for farmer-centric, inclusive and technology-driven agricultural development. The salient features of the initiative were explained in detail, with emphasis on providing 125 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households, ensuring timely wage payments with compensation for delays and strengthening the unemployment allowance provisions. The importance of these measures in enhancing livelihood security, reducing distress migration and ensuring dignity of labour in rural areas was highlighted.

Special attention was given to the concept of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP), prepared through Gram Sabha participation, which enables bottom-up planning and effective convergence of various government schemes. The role of technology-enabled governance, transparency and accountability in implementing rural development programmes was also discussed. These aspects were linked with the objectives of SwachhtaPakhwada, emphasizing clean villages, sustainable use of resources, and community participation in development initiatives. A total of 65 participants, comprising farmers, farm women and other stakeholders

actively attended the online telecast at KVK. The programme helped participants gain a better understanding of current national initiatives aimed at empowering farmers and rural communities, while reinforcing the values of cleanliness, collective responsibility and sustainable rural development. The observance of Kisan Diwas under SwachhtaPakhwada thus served as an effective platform for awareness generation, capacity building and farmer sensitization at the grassroots level.



### 3. TECHNOLOGY CLINIC ON RETORT PACKAGING AT KVK PATHANAMTHITTA

As part of the Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, District Industries Centre, Pathanamthitta in collaboration with ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (CARD), Pathanamthitta organised a Technology Clinic on Retort Packaging on 30 December 2025 at KVK. The programme aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of food processing entrepreneurs by introducing advanced retort packaging

technologies for ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products. A total of 80 entrepreneurs from across the district participated in the technology clinic. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. B. Biju Kumar, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Pathanamthitta. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. C.P Robert, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Pathanamthitta. In his address he highlighted the importance of adopting modern food processing and packaging technologies for improving product quality and reducing post-harvest losses. The technical sessions were handled by Dr. Rincy K. Abraham, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), who delivered detailed theory and practical on retort packaging focusing on product safety, shelf-life enhancement, quality retention and market potential. The technology clinic provided hands-on exposure to modern food packaging systems and highlighted the scope of value addition and commercialization in the food processing sector. The programme significantly contributed to strengthening entrepreneurial skills and promoting sustainable MSME development in the district.



# RAICHUR

## ICAR–KVK Raichur organized District-level National Farmers’ Day (Kisan Samman Diwas)

### Organisation of Millet Walkathon

As a beginning to National Farmers’ Day activities, **KSDA, UAS Raichur and ICAR–KVK Raichur** jointly organised a **Millet Walkathon** on **22.12.2025** to create awareness on the importance of millets for nutrition, sustainability, and climate resilience. The walkathon was inaugurated by the **Honourable Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, Sri N. S. Boseraju**. The programme was attended by **Sri Ishwara Kumar Kandoo, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Raichur; Dr. M. Hanumanthappa, Vice-Chancellor, UAS Raichur and Sri Prakash Chavan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Raichur**. Approximately **600 participants**, including **Agriculture Officers, KVK staff, university staff, farmers, and students**, actively took part in the walkathon, contributing to its grand success and reinforcing the message of millet promotion among the farming community and the public.



### National Farmers’ Day celebration

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Raichur organised in the **district-level celebration of National Farmers’ Day (Kisan Samman Diwas)** on **23.12.2025** in collaboration with the Karnataka State Agricultural Department held at the **UAS Raichur Auditorium**, which witnessed a large gathering of **more than 500 farmers** from different parts of Raichur district.

The programme was organised as a **joint initiative of UAS Raichur, Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA) Office, Raichur, and ICAR–KVK Raichur**, reflecting strong inter-institutional coordination and teamwork. Multiple events were conducted during the day, including **Millet Mela, Commercial Mela**, and a thematic session on **“Agriculture beyond Production: Processing, Value Addition and Branding.”** As part of the farmers’ day celebrations, **eight achiever farmers (five men and three women)** were felicitated in recognition of their exemplary contributions. The programme also included activities under the **Viksit Bharat Gram Awareness Programme**.

The event was graced by the presence of Honourable Vice-Chancellor, UAS Raichur, **Dr. M. Hanumanthappa, Sri Prakash Chavan**, Joint Director of Agriculture, Raichur, **Dr. Amaregouda A.**, Director of Research, UAS Raichur, **Sri Surendragouda Patil**, District Krishika Samaja and Honourable Board Member **Sri Mallikarjun D.**

# RAMANAGARA

## KVK Ramanagara celebrates Agricultural Education Day

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramanagara organised a program to create awareness about agricultural education among the children of the Government lower primary school of Halashettahalli village. Scientists (Home Science) Dr. Anitha, S. said that for good health nutritious food is very important, especially the consumption of vegetables and fruits that provide essential minerals, vitamins, fibre, antioxidants that provide immunity. She said that by building a scientifically nutritious garden around the school and developing the habit of growing it experimentally, the students should grow the nutritious fresh green vegetables they need daily and use them in their daily diet. She explained about the design of the garden. This will not only provide fresh vegetables but also reduce the daily vegetable cost. Dr. Sowjanya, S., Scientist (Agricultural Extension) said Indian Council of Agricultural Research has declared December 3 as "Agricultural Education Day" in memory of the birth anniversary of the first President of independent India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He explained the importance of this day and explained the activities of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, stating that agriculture plays a very important role in the development of the country. In the coming days, students should develop interest in choosing agricultural courses in large numbers and gave detailed information on how to choose various sub-skills of agriculture as an agricultural enterprise and earn more income. The school teacher Shiva Kumar, N., said that today's children are the future citizens of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra by getting information about the agricultural technology of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and implementing it in their lives and achieving good results in agriculture. During the program school teacher Padmanabha and 20 school children participated in this



## Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramanagara celebrates Farmers' Day 2025

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramanagara organized Farmers' Day on 23.12.2025. The program started with the farmers' song and was inaugurated by watering the plants. On the occasion of this special day, a training program on processing and value addition of Fieldbean, and beekeeping was organized. On this occasion, a live telecast program of the VB-G.Ram.G scheme was organized and its promotion was done in 25 Gram Panchayats. On this occasion, the award-winning state, district and taluk level farmers and farmer women from Bangalore South (Ramanagara) district were felicitated. Senior Scientist and Head Dr. Swetha, B.S. informed that the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh is celebrated as Kisan Diwas and several training programs are being organized at KVK to increase the entrepreneurship of farmers and the farmers should take advantage of it. Smt. Vijaya Savanur, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Magadi, shared her experience with the farmers and various facilities of the Department of Agriculture. Shri Prakash S., Assistant Horticultural Officer, Department of Horticulture, Magadi, said about integrated farming system and market-oriented agriculture. In the technical session, Dr. Anita, S., Scientist (Home Science) shared practical information on processing and value addition of Hetikidabele. Dr. Deepa Pujara, Scientist (Horticulture) gave information on beekeeping. Shri Jagadish gave practical information on beekeeping. Dr. Sowjanya, S., Scientist (Agricultural Extension) anchored the program. An agricultural exhibition was organized to highlight the program and awareness was created about cleanliness as part Swachhata Pakwada. Dr. Preethu, D.C., Scientists (Soil Science), Dr. Pramod, G., Scientists (Agriculture) and more than 200 farmers participated and made the program a successful



# SHIVAMOGGA

## World Soil Day 2025

World Soil Day -2025 was celebrated at ICAR-KVK, Shivamogga under the theme “Healthy soils for Healthy Cities”. At the outset, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, Shivamogga Dr. C. Sunil given the introductory remarks and welcomed all the invitees and farmers to the programme. The event was inaugurated by Dr. P.R Lokesh, Deputy Director of Agriculture and addressed on the excessive use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides which has led to deteriorate soil quality. He emphasized, the farmers to use more of organic manure and biofertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers to conserve soil health.

Dr. Thippeshappa, G.N., Professor of Soil Science talked about the importance of soil testing, balanced use of fertilizers, organic farming methods and soil conservation techniques.

The programme was chaired by Dr. Thippesh, D., Dean (Agri), COA, Shivamogga addressed on soil degradation and celebration of December 5<sup>th</sup> programme.

The programme was associated by Dr. B.C. Hanumanthaswamy, Associate Director of Extension, KSNUAHS, Shivamogga, Dr. Sudhakar, Head of Akashavani Bhadravathi, Sri Raghavendra, Progressive Organic Farmer.

Dr. Shilpashree, Y.P, Soil scientist at KVK effectively organized and hosted the programme.

During this programme, soil health cards were distributed to beneficiary farmers. All scientists and staff of Krishi Vigyan Kendra were participated in the programme and 85 farmers were participated.



## Capacity Training for FPO

ICAR-KVK-Shivamogga in collaboration with NCDC, Bengaluru organised one day training programme on ‘Strengthening of Market linkages for farmer’s producer organization (FPOs) and PACS for sustainability’ on 17.12.2025. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Hariprasad, G., Deputy Director, NCDC, Bengaluru and associated by Mr. Mayak Gola, Programme officer, NCDC, Bengaluru, Dr. Rudragouda F. C., Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. Sudhrani, N., Scientist (Home science), Dr. Manjunath, B. K., Scientist (Agril. Extension) and Dr. Rajendra Hegde. A total of 48 trainees were benefited from the training programme.



## SCP Skill Training

A three days capacity building program on ‘Scientific Poultry farming’ for SC farmers and farm women from 22.12.2025 to 24.12.2025 was organized by KVK, Shivamogga under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) scheme. The participants were educated about basics of poultry farming and its economic importance, different breeds of poultry, housing and management practices, feed and nutrition, common poultry diseases and their prevention, farm economics and marketing. Further, one month old (vaccinated) poultry chicks and feed were distributed to the participants as critical input to start the backyard poultry rearing. Totally, 42 SC farmer and farm women benefited from the training programme.



## National Farmers Day

KVK, Shivamogga celebrated National Farmers Day on 23rd December, 2025 at KVK, Shivamogga. During the programme, the poster and hand-outs related to Viksit Bharat Grameen Rojgar Yojana were released and live telecast of the launching of Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rojgar and Aajeevika mission (Gramin): VB G RAM G programme by Union Minister of Agriculture was organized. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Hemla Naik, DoE, KSNUAHS, Dr. G. K. Girijesh, D.E., KSNUAHS and Dr. Thippesh D., Dean, CoA, Shivamogga, Shri H. N. Nagaraj, President of Krishik Samaja, Shivamogga, Shri Chandrashekhar, Vice-President, Krishik Samaja, Dr. Kiran Kumar, JDA, Shivamogga, Shri Vinay Sai, M., Regional Manager, SBI, Shri Sharath Gouda, Regional Manager, NABARD, Shivamogga, Sri Lokesh, Director, IAT, Shivamogga, Dr.

C. Sunil, Senior scientist and Head, KVK, Shivamogga were graced the event. On this occasion, honoured seven progressive farmers and farm women of the Shivamogga district for their achievements in the agriculture field. In this programme, all KVK Staff, Agriculture dept staff, Farmers and farm women participated.



# THRISSUR

## Training on cake making

A training programme on cake making was successfully conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Thrissur, with the objective of enhancing participants' skills in bakery and value-added food preparation. The programme emphasized hands-on practical learning, enabling participants to actively engage in the preparation of a variety of popular cakes. Practical sessions covered the step-by-step methods for preparing plum cake, pudding cake, pineapple cake, and fresh cream cake, with special focus on ingredient selection, batter preparation, baking techniques, decoration, and hygiene practices. The training provided practical exposure to both traditional and contemporary cake-making methods, helping participants gain confidence to prepare quality bakery products for household use as well as entrepreneurial ventures.



## Enhancing Agri-Entrepreneurs' Income and Sustainability through Market Development for Banana By-products

An Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for FPOs on "Enhancing Agri-Entrepreneurs' Income and Sustainability through Market Development for Banana By-products" was conducted on 02.12.2025 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Thrissur. The programme aimed to create awareness and build the capacity of FPO members on value addition, diversification, and market opportunities associated with banana by-products. Participants were sensitized on the utilization of various banana plant components such as pseudostem, fibre, leaves, and over-ripe fruits for developing value-added products, thereby reducing waste and improving profitability. Sessions covered aspects of processing techniques, quality control, packaging, branding, and market linkage strategies to enhance income and ensure sustainability of agri-enterprises. The programme also emphasized entrepreneurship skills, collective marketing, and the role of FPOs in strengthening the banana value chain.



## Training and Input Distribution under TSP

Training and Input Distribution under TSP was conducted at Marottichal Malayan Unnathi on 24/12/2025. The programme was organized with the objective of enhancing the knowledge, skills, and livelihood opportunities of the tribal beneficiaries. Need-based training was imparted on improved agricultural practices, input utilization, and sustainable farming techniques. The training-cum-input distribution aimed at strengthening farm productivity, ensuring livelihood security, and promoting inclusive development among the tribal farming community under the Tribal Sub Plan.



## KVK Attachment Module for RAWE Students

The KVK attachment module for RAWE students from the College of Agriculture, Padannakkad conducted from 1/12/25 to 6/12/25 at KVK Thrissur. As part of the programme, students were oriented to the functioning of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, its mandates, and various extension activities. The module aims to provide hands-on exposure in technology dissemination, farmer-oriented trainings, frontline demonstrations, on-farm trials, and community-based extension programmes. Through this attachment, students gained practical insights into real-time agricultural problems, farmer interactions, and participatory extension approaches, thereby strengthening their experiential learning and professional competencies.



# TRIVANDRUM

## Training for Community Resource Persons under NMNF

ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Mitraniketan, Thiruvananthapuram conducted a five-day vocational training programme on Natural Farming for 11 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and 1 Farmer Master Trainer (FMT) from Thiruvananthapuram district under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), in collaboration with ATMA Thiruvananthapuram and the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Kerala, during 27.09.2025, 29.09.2025, 03.10.2025, 04.10.2025 and 06.10.2025 at ICAR KVK Mitraniketan.

The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Chithra G., Senior Scientist & Head. The training programme was coordinated by Smt. Jyothi Rachel Varghese, SMS (Agronomy), who handled sessions on natural farming concepts and principles, seed and planting material production, seed-to-seed protocols, soil fertility



management, cropping systems, biodiversity, and agroforestry. Sessions on farm implements and drip irrigation were handled by Er. Chithra G., SMS (Agricultural Engineering), while Dr. Devika I., SMS (Home Science) covered value addition, marketing, enterprise development, and export feasibility.

Hands-on training on bio-input preparation and establishment of Bio-Input Resource Centres was conducted by Smt. Renjini Lal V. V., KCP Mandiram, along with exposure to successful natural farming models. Pest and disease management sessions were handled by Smt. Bindhu R. Mathews, SMS (Plant Protection), supported by film shows and demonstrations. A field visit to a practicing woman farmer, Smt. Simi A. J., Kallode, Kuttichal P.O., provided practical insights.

The programme concluded with a valedictory function where Smt. Deepa V., Project Director, ATMA Thiruvananthapuram distributed certificates. Er. Chithra G., Senior Scientist & Head (In-charge) distributed training manuals and travelling allowance and Dr. Reghu Rama Das, Vice Chairman, Mitraniketan distributed training kits. Overall, the training enhanced the technical knowledge and practical skills of CRPs, strengthening their capacity to promote and support the adoption of natural farming practices among farmers in Thiruvananthapuram district under NMNF.

# TUMKUR-1

## Sanjeevini KSRLPS KrushiShaki training programme

ICAR-KVK-Tiptur, Tumkur-1 conducted Sanjeevini KSRLPS KrushiShaki training programme from 09-09-2024 to 14-09-2024 for 32krushishaki's of 2 batch. Dr. Govinda Gowda, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Tiptur inaugurated the programme and briefed about scope and importance of natural farming. Dr. Shivappa Nayak, Scientist (Animal husbandry) briefed about livestock production. Dr. Keerthi Shankar, K., Scientist (Horticulture) explained about Different types of farming system and seed treatment. Dr. Tasmiyakousar, Scientist (Agronomy) explained the different types of soil, soil and water analysis and soil health card. Mr. Manoj, Scientist (Plant protection) talked different Biological methods of pest and disease control. Mr. Drashan, M.E., Explained about different teaching methods, Certification and KVK role etc.



## Celebration of World coconut day

ICAR-KVK, Tiptur, TUMKUR-1 participated in National level World coconut day organized by Indian federation of working journalists at Tiptur and was inaugurated by Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Home Minister, Govt. of Karnataka. On the occasion of world coconut day one-day national seminar on Coconut was organized by the Indian Federation of Working Journalists. This event served as a platform to celebrate advancements in coconut and its related technologies. The ICAR-KVK, Tiptur, Tumkur-1 played a pivotal role in this celebration by showcasing coconut varieties, mechanization in coconut, production, IMP and IDM technologies along with value-added coconut products. Their significant contributions were recognized through the presentation of certificates to Dr. Govinda Gowda, V. Senior Scientist and Head, Dr. Keerthi Shankar K., Scientist (Horticulture) and Dr. Sindhu P. B., Scientist (Home Science), at the 78th National Council Meet in Tiptur, representing the collective efforts of the entire KVK team.



## Demonstration of drone spray on Agricultural crops

ICAR-KVK, Tiptur, TUMKUR-1 scientist (Horticulture) Dr. Keerthi Shankar, K., and scientist (Home science) Dr. Sindhu P.B were invited as resource persons for the programme "Demonstration of drone spray on Agricultural crops" organised by Department of Agriculture and IFFCO chaired by Sri Shadakshari, MLA, Tiptur. During this programme Dr. Keerthi Shankar scientist (Horticulture) delivered a lecture on importance of drone technology in agriculture field and Dr. Sindhu P. B. scientist (Home science) delivered a lecture on "value addition in ragi and its health benefits"



## FLD on Demonstration of Little Millet var. GPUL 6

ICAR-KVK, Tiptur, Tumkur-1 Scientist (Home Science) initiated FLD on Demonstration of Little Millet var. GPUL 6 and its marketing at Yelanadu village of Chiknayakanahallitaluk, Tumkur District. During this program information regarding ICM, marketing and its value addition was given. GPUL-6 seeds were distributed to 5 selected beneficiary farmer's..



# TUMKUR-2

## Healthy Soil for Healthy Cities: World Soil Day

World Soil Day 2025 was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Tiptur, Tumkur-I in collaboration with the **Department of Agriculture and Department of Horticulture, Tiptur**, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Tumkur, and J Farm Services, Tumkur District. The programme focused on creating awareness about the importance of soil health for sustainable agriculture and food security.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri K. Shadakshari, Honorable MLA, Tiptur Assembly Constituency, in the presence of Shri M.S. Yogish, President, Krishika Samaja, Tiptur, Shri Mohan, Vice President, Krishika Samaja, Shri Mahesh, BTM, Department of Agriculture; and Shri Manju H.S., Technical Officer, Department of Horticulture.

In his address, Shri K. Shadakshari emphasized that declining soil and water quality is a major reason for reduced soil productivity. He advised farmers to follow recommended fertilizer and pesticide practices while giving importance to organic farming for long-term soil health.

Dr. Tasmiya Kowsar, Scientist (Agronomy), KVK Tiptur, explained that World Soil Day 2025 is observed globally with the theme “Healthy Soil for Healthy Cities,” highlighting the role of soil in sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human well-being. Shri Shafi H.S., General Manager, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, stated that balanced use of organic and chemical fertilizers, including nano fertilizers, can reduce chemical fertilizer use by 25% and improve yields. He cautioned against imbalanced fertilizer use leading to nutrient deficiencies.

Presiding over the programme, Dr. Shankar M.H., Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Tiptur, spoke on the significance of World Soil Day and the need to protect soil health. Shri M.S. Yogish highlighted the importance of carbon sequestration in soil.

Scientists of KVK Tiptur - Dr. Darshan M.E., Mr. Manoj H., Dr. Ganavi, Dr. Satish H.S., and Mrs. Rathi and 125 farmers participated, making the programme a meaningful step towards promoting soil health and sustainable agriculture.



## Field Day on Ragi Variety ML-322: A Promising Option for Late Monsoon Conditions

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Tiptur, Tumkur-I organized a field day on the **ragi (finger millet) variety ML-322**, under the **Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)** at **Bullenahalli village, Chikkanayakanahalli taluk**. The programme aimed to demonstrate the performance of ML-322 under late monsoon conditions and to promote climate-resilient ragi cultivation among farmers.

During the field visit, **Dr. Tasmiya Kowsar, Scientist (Agronomy), KVK Tiptur**, explained that **ML-322** was developed as a suitable alternative to the popular variety **MR-6**. The variety is characterized by **resistance to blast disease, strong culms with non-lodging habit, and high adaptability to stress conditions**. ML-322 matures in **110-115 days** and has a yield potential of **12-14 quintals of grain per acre**, along with **4.0-4.5 tonnes of fodder per acre**, making it highly suitable for both grain and fodder purposes.

Farmers **Ranganath, Veerabhadra, and Kariappa** shared their positive experiences regarding the crop’s uniform growth, disease tolerance, and yield performance. **Farmer Vijayalakshmi** expressed appreciation for the variety’s suitability under delayed rainfall conditions.

More than **25 farmers** from **Bullenahalli, Honnebagi, and surrounding villages** participated in the programme and gained first-hand knowledge on the cultivation practices and advantages of ragi variety ML-322.



## Successful Adoption and Farmer-Led Seed Dissemination of Ragi Variety ML-322 under Village Adoption Programme

Extension scientist from ICAR- KVK Tiptur, Tumkur-I conducted a field visit to ragi fields at Paruvagondanahalli village under the Village Adoption Programme to assess the performance of the newly introduced ragi variety ML-322. The variety had been demonstrated during the previous season through Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs).

The ragi variety ML-322 exhibited excellent field performance, characterized by higher yield, superior grain quality, and good crop stand under local agro-climatic conditions. Owing to its consistent performance, participating farmers voluntarily retained seed from the previous harvest and adopted the variety again during the current season, indicating strong farmer confidence in the technology.

Further, the demonstrated success led to horizontal spread of the variety within the village, with neighbouring farmers procuring approximately 600 kg of seed from FLD farmers for cultivation. This farmer-to-farmer seed exchange highlights the rapid adoption and scalability of ragi variety ML-322 and reflects its suitability for wider dissemination in the region.



The field visit confirmed that ML-322 is a promising ragi variety for enhancing productivity and income under rainfed conditions, supporting sustainable millet-based farming systems in Tumkur district.

## Field Visit on Field Bean (HA-5) Demonstrations under Village Adoption Programme

An Extension Scientist, along with a Home Science Scientist from ICAR-KVK Tiptur, Tumkur-I, conducted a field visit to Field Bean (HA-5) demonstration plots at Paruvagondanahalli village under the Village Adoption Programme. During the visit, the scientists closely monitored crop growth, flowering behavior, and overall field performance.

Based on field observations, farmers were advised to apply Pulse Magic as a foliar spray at the recommended stage to reduce flower drop, enhance pod setting, and improve overall productivity. The visit facilitated timely technical guidance and reinforced the importance of scientific crop management practices for achieving higher yields.



## VIJAYAPURA - II

Authors: Dr. Prasad M.G. SMS (Animal Science),  
Dr. Shivashenkaramurthy M Senior Scientist and  
Head, kvkindi

**Event: One Day Scientific Dairy Farming  
Training Programme Sponsored by  
National Institute of Meat Research  
(NMRI), Hyderabad.**

### Technical sessions

The technical sessions, which spanned from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM, were structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dairy value chain. The morning session commenced with an in-depth lecture on **Scientific Livestock Management**, where Dr. Prasad MG emphasized modern housing designs, such as loose housing systems, and the selection of high-yielding breeds suitable for the local climate. This was followed by a detailed discussion on **Nutritional Interventions**, focusing on the physiological requirements of milch animals, the importance of bypass protein, and the strategic use of urea molasses mineral blocks to enhance productivity.

After the mid-day break, the focus shifted to **Animal Health and Clinical Diagnostics**. Participants were educated on the early identification of common diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS). Dr. Prasad MG provided technical instructions on precision health monitoring, specifically the use of digital thermometers for fever detection and the implementation of systematic deworming schedules to improve feed conversion ratios.

The finally the training was dedicated to **Field Exposure and Post-Harvest Technology**. The trainees were taken on an institutional visit to a nearby dairy unit, where they observed standardized hygiene protocols and clean milk production practices. The day concluded at a **Bulk Milk Cooler (BMC)** unit and collection center. Here, the technical staff explained the critical role of the cold chain in maintaining milk quality, the parameters of Fat and SNF testing, and how scientific management at the farm level directly translates to higher economic returns at the point of sale.



### 3. Technical Demonstration: Feed Formulation

A key highlight of the training was the **method demonstration** on preparing **Complete Concentrate Feed** using locally available resources. Dr. Prasad MG demonstrated, how farmers can reduce production costs by mixing:

- Local grains (Maize/Jowar)
- Oil cakes (Groundnut/Cottonseed)
- Brans (Wheat/Rice)
- The distributed mineral mixture and salt.

This session empowered farmers to move away from expensive commercial feeds while maintaining high nutritional standards for their livestock.



### 4. Field Exposure Visit

To provide practical insight into the dairy value chain, the trainees were taken on an exposure visit to:

- **Scientific Dairy Unit:** Farmers observed modern housing designs, hygiene protocols, and waste management systems.
- **Milk Collection Centre:** Demonstration of milk testing parameters (Fat and SNF content).
- **Bulk Milk Cooler (BMC) Unit:** Trainees learned about the importance of the "Cold Chain" in maintaining milk quality and preventing spoilage before transportation to processing plants.



## 5. Distribution of Essential Inputs

To facilitate the immediate implementation of scientific practices, the following kits were provided to all 30+ participants:

Item	Quantity	Objective
Mineral Mixture	2 kg	Enhancing milk production and heat induction.
Digital Thermometer	1 No.	Monitoring animal health and early fever detection.
Deworming Bolus	2 Nos.	Eliminating internal parasites for better nutrient absorption.

## 6. Summary and Conclusion

The program successfully integrated theoretical knowledge with practical demonstrations and field exposure. By providing both the knowledge (feed formulation) and the tools (digital thermometers, deworming and minerals), ICAR KVK Indi has ensured that the trainees are equipped to run a more profitable and scientific dairy enterprise.

# WAYANAD

As part of the NITI Aayog Evaluation Team, Government of India, we had the opportunity to interact with farmers, farm women, and rural youth in Wayanad to assess the grassroots impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) interventions. A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted at Thomachal village on 18.12.2025, which provided valuable insights into how KVK-led capacity building, technology dissemination, and advisory services are contributing to livelihood improvement and local agricultural development. The interaction reaffirmed the critical role of KVKs as last-mile extension institutions in strengthening farmer-centric, inclusive, and evidence-based rural development initiatives.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Wayanad of KAU conducted from 16–31 December 2025, our team implemented a series of activities including the Swachhta Pledge, awareness programmes on Waste to Wealth, cleaning and sanitation drives, green initiatives, community and farmer outreach programmes, and the observance of Kisan Diwas 2025, with active participation from staff and farmers. The observance emphasized eco-friendly practices, waste reduction, sustainability, and collective responsibility towards cleanliness. It was a meaningful opportunity to contribute towards the vision of the Swachh Bharat Mission by promoting the Green Protocol and strengthening institutional community engagement.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Wayanad of KAU conducted Kisan Diwas 2025 was observed at ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Wayanad, Kerala on 23 December 2025 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, and to honour the contributions of farmers to the nation. The programme aimed to recognize the role of farmers in agricultural development and to create awareness on improved agricultural practices and farmer-centric initiatives. Farmers and KVK staff actively participated in the programme, during which the importance of sustainable agriculture, technological adoption, and income enhancement strategies were emphasized. The observance of Kisan Diwas strengthened farmer–scientist interaction and reaffirmed the commitment of ICAR–KVK, Wayanad towards the welfare and empowerment of the farming community.



A Custodian of Indigenous Rice Heritage in an era dominated by hybrid seeds, Mr. Sunil Kallankara, Plant Genome Saviour Awardee (2023), stands as a devoted conservator of traditional rice. Farming organically across 48 acres, he has preserved over 71 indigenous rice varieties, alongside diverse crops and livestock, through a carefully balanced mixed farming system. His work blends scientific understanding with inherited wisdom, from soil stewardship to seed conservation, and has earned national recognition, including submissions of 230 rice varieties to NBPGR, New Delhi. Our interaction with him under the RAWE & AIA

programme revealed not merely a progressive farmer, but a quiet guardian of India's agricultural legacy.



The three-day training program on “Millet Cultivation & Value Addition for Kalvarayan Hills Farmers of Tamil Nadu”, as part of inter-state exposure visit held from 28 to 30 November 2025 at KVK Wayanad, brought together enthusiastic farmers eager to strengthen their skills in sustainable millet production and value addition. The sessions were designed to be practical, interactive, and farmer-friendly, creating an engaging learning atmosphere that encouraged participants to adopt improved practices for enhanced livelihood opportunities. The program was successfully coordinated with dedication and care by Dr. Esakkimuthu M., Assistant Professor (Extension) and Dr. Gopika Hasan, Assistant Professor (Home Science).

# YADGIR

## World Soil Day-2025 Celebration

ICAR- KVK, Yadgir (Kawadimatti) celebrated Soil day in association with Karnataka State Department of Agriculture at KVK, Kawadimatti. Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan,R.P, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR- KVK, Yadgir (Kawadimatti) inaugurated the function and explained the importance of soil health for sustainable production and to maintain soil fertility. Due to indiscriminate use of fertilizer led to decline in the fertility status of soil, declined the microbial status of soil. Dr Ramanogouda, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Shorapur explained that Soil is one of the most valuable natural resources on earth, without soil no life and degraded soil reduces crop yield and affects food security. Mr Srinivas Regional Manager PPL fertilizer company, Yadgir. Explained minimal use the fertilizers in order to maintain the soil health. Mr Ninganna Yadava Coromandel international limited (MDT) Shorapur explained about Nano Urea and Nano DAP application to the crops and Mr Shivanagouda Police Patil, President Raith Sangh explained about the how excessive use of inorganic fertilizers affects soil health and use of organic manures in order to maintain soil Health.



## Viksit Bharath G RAM G programme

ICAR-KVK, Yadgir (Kawadimatti) organized on campus programme Viksit Bharath G RAM G on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 in association with Karnataka State Agriculture Department. Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan R. P. Senior scientist and Head ICAR-KVK Yadgir inaugurated the programme and Dr Ramanogouda, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Shorapur and progressive farmers were participated in the programme.

The viksit Bharat G Ram G Replaces MGNREGA with a new statutory framework aligned with Viksit Bharath 2047. The employment guarantee is enhanced to 125 days per rural household, strengthening income security.



## National Farmers day

National Farmers day was conducted on 23-12-2025 at KVK, Kawadimatti. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan SS&H KVK, Yadgir, Dr Ramanogouda Mali Patil, ADA, Shorapur, Mr Basavaraj Patil, Taluk Krishik Samaja, Shorapur, Mr Naganna Sahukar Dandin, Taluk Krishik Samaja Hunasagi, Mr Sidramreddy Google, District Krishik Samaja Yadgir, Mr Amruthlal R Jain, Taluk Krishik Samaja, Shorapur, Mr Jagananayak Pawar, Taluk Krishik Samaja Hunasagi, Mr Mallanna Sahukar Former APMC Member Shorapur, Mr Ayanna Jambaladinni, Raith sangh. Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan, SS&H explained the significance of farmers day briefly explained the background behind the celebration of farmers day. Dr. Ramanogouda Mali Patil explained the role of farmers in agriculture and five best farmers from the district are selected and facilitated for their work in the field of agriculture. All the staff of KVK, All AO and AAO from Agriculture Department, Krishisakhis and Farmers were participated in the program.



# HAVERI

## Ready to Cook – Millets and Rice Products

### Initial situation

Mrs. Vijayalaxmi K Kabburamatha a resident of Byadgi (Haveri District) is facing difficulty in maintaining the family. To maintain her livelihood she initiated startup in value addition of millet and others instant rice products with technical guidance of KVK, Haveri.



### The quest

Now a days, a change in the life style enormous demand is created for processed and ready to cook food products. Further health conscious and awareness about the health benefits of millet people are seeking value

added products in millets. However, availability of processed millets in the market is scanty. Harnessing the people's interest and time she planned about ready to cook millets products like foxtail millet bisibele, vangibath and instant rice products like pulao and biriyani with affordable price. With technical guidance of KVK about packing and marketing, she prepared value added millet and rice products. She is marketing her value added product in the branded name of "Royal Spices". She is participating various programmes like Krishi Mela, Farmers Mela and agriculture related conferences for publicizing her products.



### Enterprise unit

After value addition to millets and rice products she is earning an annual income of Rs. 5,00,000/- which would be sufficient to maintain her family.