



KVK TIMES



A window to KVKs of ICAR – ATARI Zone XI – Bangalore

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MESSAGE

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) network across India endeavours to uplifts farmers' livelihoods by promoting the adoption of improved technologies and best practices. Although all KVKs function within a common framework of mandates and activities, each centre designs unique programmes tailored to suite local needs of its farming community. The core areas of intervention include location-specific assessment of released technologies, dissemination of technology-driven practices, human resource development, strengthening of market linkages, and entrepreneurial support. The KVKs are constantly exploring ways to integrate innovative models to enhance the global competitiveness of the agriculture sector of their respective districts.

At this point, the Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) of Zone XI, headquartered in Bengaluru, has taken a commendable initiative by documenting the wide range of activities carried out by the 48 KVKs in the zone. KVK Times, a monthly publication, has been released regularly, for the past three years, thereby enabling KVKs to reflect, review, and enhance their activities through comparison. I wholeheartedly express my appreciation to Dr. Priya G Nair, Head of KVK Malappuram, and her team for their dedicated efforts in compiling and editing KVK Times for the month of March, 2026. My best wishes to all for their continued impactful efforts towards the advancement of the farming community.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. B. Ashok'.

Dr. B. ASHOK, IAS
Vice-Chancellor,
Kerala Agricultural University



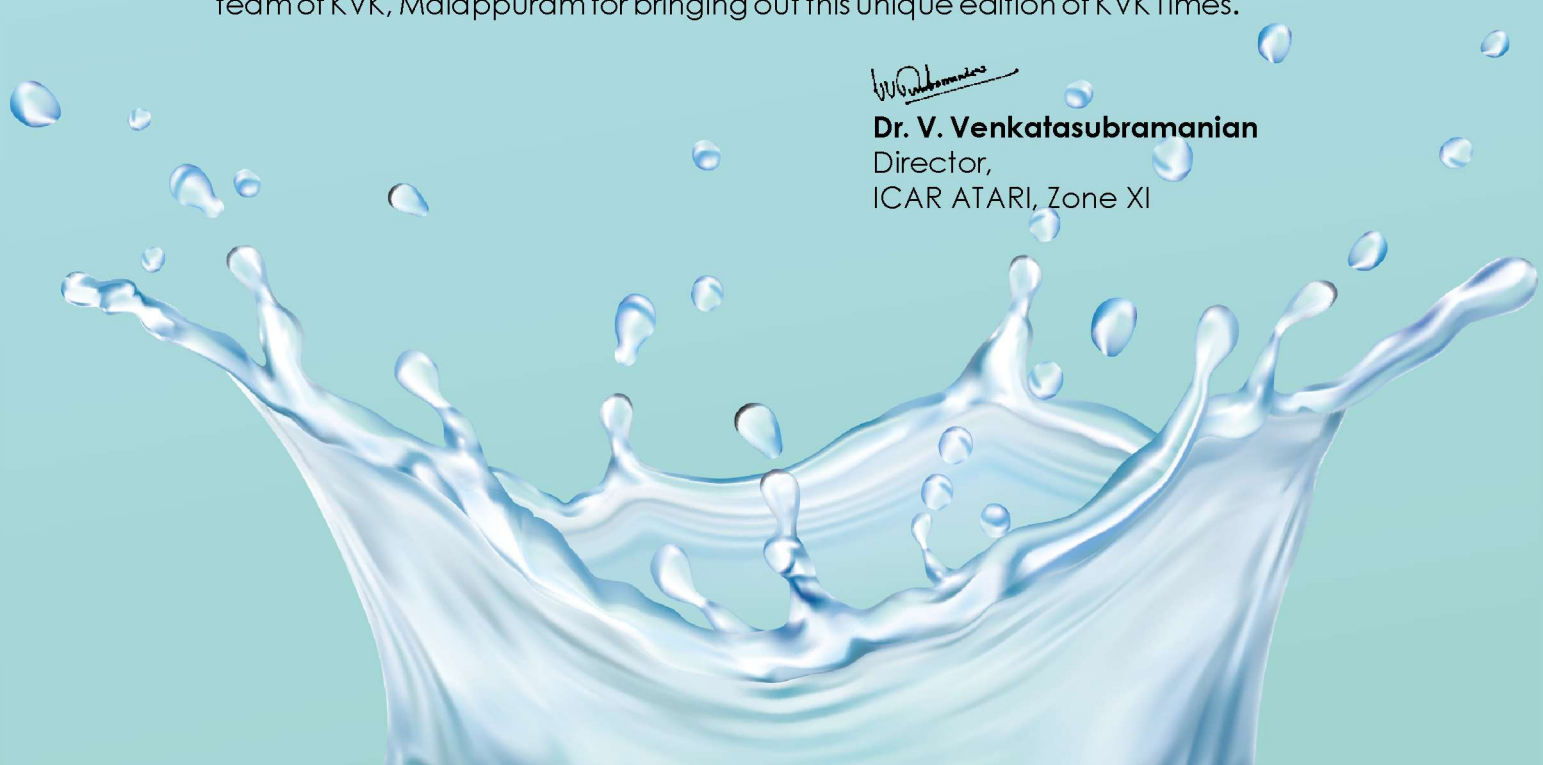
FOREWORD

Krishi Vigyan Kendras are playing pivotal role in handholding of farmers through technological backstopping for enhancing the productivity of crops and enterprise keeping in mind profitability and sustainability. Believing through seeing and 'Learning by doing' is most appropriate to the KVKs, as the Scientists and farmers are jointly involved in implementing KVK mandated activities to reach the mission of enhancing the farmers income. KVKs are expanding the horizon from elite extension to innovation, market linkage, FPOs, processing and value addition. 48 KVK's in Zone XI of ATARI placed in states of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep Union Territory has immensely contributed in enhancing agriculture productivity and farmer income thus ensuring sustainable social and livelihood security of farm families.

A first of its kind virtual platform, KVK TIMES which documents fortnightly activities of each of the 48 KVKs of Zone-XI is gaining a real momentum. The news items covered in issues made an impact that is long lasting. Most of the news items published in the TIMES has got the potential of cross learning among KVKs and worth reading. This should boost the morale of all of us and many such noteworthy efforts of our fraternity in the zone.

I am happy that KVK Malappuram is bringing up the ninth issue of third volume of KVK TIMES covering the March month of 2026. I congratulate the KVK fraternity of Zone XI specially Dr. Priya G Nair, Senior Scientist and Head and her team of KVK, Malappuram for bringing out this unique edition of KVK Times.

Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian
Director,
ICAR ATARI, Zone XI





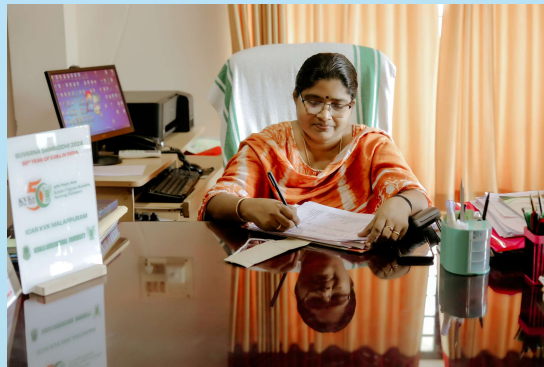
MESSAGE

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) serve as key institutions in bridging the gap between research and field level application of technologies in agriculture. The methodologies adopted by KVKs for field-level technology transfer are well structured, practical and highly acceptable to end users. KVKs promote the adoption of scientific farming practices at the grassroots level and support efficient farm management by dovetailing extension activities with farmers' needs. Adding to their core mandates, KVKs play a significant role in unlocking the entrepreneurial potential of the agricultural sector by extending comprehensive support to farmer-entrepreneurs and facilitating linkages with entrepreneurship promoters and agencies.

KVK Times, a monthly publication, is a notable initiative by ICAR-ATARI Zone XI that showcases the diverse activities and innovations of KVKs in Kerala, Karnataka, and Lakshadweep, thereby cultivating valuable cross-learning. I acknowledge the guidance and support of Dr. B. Ashok, IAS, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, and Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI Zone XI, Bengaluru. I also express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Priya G. Nair and her team at KVK Malappuram for their dedicated efforts in compilation of this issue of KVK Times. My best wishes to the KVK for continued success in agricultural development and extension.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Binoo P Bonny'.

Dr. Binoo P Bonny
Director of Extension,
Kerala Agricultural University



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"Gratitude is the foundation of all meaningful progress." With deep respect and appreciation, I convey my sincere thanks to our Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. B. Ashok, IAS, for his exemplary leadership and guidance, creating an environment that empowers us to effectively serve the farming community.

I am profoundly grateful to Dr. Binoo P Bonny, Director of Extension, KAU, for her unwavering support and encouragement throughout this journey. Her timely interventions have been pivotal in overcoming challenges and ensuring the success of KVK Malappuram.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ATARI, Bengaluru, for his valuable insights, which have greatly enriched the activities of KVK. Special thanks are extended to Dr. D. V. Kolekar., Senior Scientist, ATARI, and Nodal Officer, KVK Malappuram, for his valuable scientific guidance and support.

I acknowledge the entire ATARI, Bengaluru team for their collaboration in documenting the activities of KVKs in Zone XI during the month of March 2026. This compilation was made possible through the concerted efforts of all KVKs within the zone, for which I am truly grateful.

A special note of thanks goes to the dedicated team at KVK Malappuram, led by Dr. Lilia Baby., Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), for their commendable efforts in compiling, editing and publishing this issue of KVK Times.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude to the farming community of Malappuram district, whose valuable feedback and suggestions continually inspire the improvement of KVK services, helping us to address the emerging challenges and opportunities

Dr. Priya G. Nair
Programme Coordinator
ICAR KVK Malappuram



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Young Innovators Revolutionizing Agriculture in Malappuram

A Modern Farmer Integrating Science into Profitable Innovation



In the diverse and agriculturally vibrant landscape of Malappuram district, Mr. Saifulla P stands out as a remarkable achiever and a proud recipient of the IARI Young Innovative Farmer Award-2026. He represents a new generation of progressive agri-entrepreneurs who successfully integrate scientific knowledge with practical farming to build resilient and sustainable farming models. Managing nearly 47 acres of land, he has developed a highly diversified integrated farming system that includes field crops, horticultural crops, livestock enterprises, fisheries, apiculture, and nursery management, ensuring resource efficiency and year-round productivity.

Innovation and sustainability form the cornerstone of his success. He has developed and commercialized an organic bio-pesticide through his start up, M/s MVS Bio Pesticides & Agro Wellness, and follows a zero-waste farming approach by converting farm residues into compost and utilizing Black Soldier Fly larvae for waste management. His farm integrates modern practices such as aquaponics, precision farming, drip fertigation, and drone-based applications, along with strong value addition and market linkages. His contributions have earned him several recognitions, including the State Best Young Farmer Award (2020), Swami Vivekananda Young Innovator Award (2019), and Custodian Farmer Award (2023). He also serves as a trainer and resource person, with his farm acting as a dynamic hub for learning and inspiration.



An Engineer-Turned Farmer Pioneers 'Farm Guard', a Smart Solution to Human-Wildlife Conflict

Clinching first prize at the prestigious Agri Rural Ideathon 2026 held at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, "Farm Guard" has emerged as a promising grassroots innovation addressing the long-standing challenge of human-wildlife conflict. The award-winning device was developed by Mr. Jishoy V. V. from Malappuram district, in collaboration with Mr. Abhijith S. and Ms. Varsha Unni K., driven by the need to protect farming communities through practical, farmer-friendly technology. The innovation was supported and nurtured by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Malappuram, whose guidance and institutional backing played a key role in transforming the concept into a recognized solution.

Farm Guard is a lightweight, portable, sensor-based electronic deterrent that protects agricultural fields without harming wildlife. It detects animal movement and emits varying light and sound patterns to prevent habituation, ensuring sustained effectiveness. Equipped with thermal sensors and 360-degree monitoring, it provides round-the-clock protection within a range of about 28 metres. Powered by a rechargeable battery with optional solar integration, it is suitable for remote areas and helps reduce crop losses while promoting coexistence between farmers and wildlife.



Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods through Spice Cultivation: A TSP Initiative

On 13 March 2026, under the TSP Programme, a training session on the cultivation aspects of ginger and turmeric was conducted by Ms. Shanila, SMS (Horticulture). The training aimed to promote livelihood alternatives and enhance income generation options among tribal farmers through enterprise diversification. The training programme covered topics on improved cultivation techniques, nutrient management, and pest and disease management in spice crops.

As part of the programme 40 training kits for spice cultivation and 40 stingless beehives were distributed to the tribal beneficiaries of Karulai, Nilambur. This intervention was intended to support integrated farming systems and supplement farmers' income through apiculture and spice cultivation. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lilia Baby, Assistant Professor (Home Science).



Advancing high-tech agriculture through capacity development on precision farming and hydroponics

A four-day training programme on Precision Farming and Hydroponics was conducted on 18th to 19th and 23rd to 24th March 2026 in two batches (General and SC-SP Training) at KVK Malappuram. The programme aimed to provide comprehensive knowledge on advanced farming techniques and efficient resource management practices.



The first day morning session focused on the introduction to precision farming, fertigation, and scientific vegetable cultivation practices, handled by Ms. Shanila, SMS (Horticulture). The afternoon session was led by Dr. Priya G. Nair, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Engineering), covering micro irrigation systems and their installation. On the second day, the first session was again handled by Ms. Shanila, focusing on hydroponic cultivation along with practical exposure and familiarisation with NFT and Ebb and Flow aquaponics systems. The afternoon session was conducted by Dr. Priya G. Nair, demonstrating the installation of drip irrigation systems in the field. SC-SP trainers were also provided with a training kit with essentials for starting the vegetable cultivation. Overall, the programme was successful in promoting the adoption of modern, sustainable, and efficient agricultural practices among the participants.



Farm Mechanization Training on Tractor Driving and Small Machinery Handling

KVK Malappuram has organized a four-day on-campus training programme on tractor driving and small machinery handling during the third week of March for Scheduled Caste farmers. The programme aimed to enhance the technical skills and operational efficiency of participants in farm mechanization, thereby reducing labour dependency and improving productivity.

Dr. Rajesh K., Assistant Professor, Department of Farm Machinery, KCAEFT, delivered the theoretical sessions, covering key topics such as introduction to tractors, identification and functions of tractor parts, and an overview of various tractor attachments and farm implements. These sessions provided participants with a strong conceptual foundation on the role of mechanisation in modern agriculture. The programme was led by Dr. Priya G. Nair, who coordinated the training programme. The practical sessions were handled by her, who guided participants through hands-on training in tractor driving and operation of small agricultural machinery. The trainees were given direct exposure to equipment handling, safe operation practices, and basic maintenance, enabling them to gain confidence and practical competence.



Training on Mushroom Cultivation under TSP Programme

As part of the TSP Programme conducted on 26th March 2026 at Nilambur, a training session on mushroom cultivation was delivered by Dr. Sumbula V, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), ARS Anakkayam. Mushroom cultivation kits and brush cutters were distributed to the beneficiaries to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhance farm efficiency.

The programme focused on developing skills in mushroom production as an income-generating activity, while also encouraging the use of brush cutters for effective land management and reduced labour drudgery.



Capacity Building Programme on Plant Propagation and Nursery Techniques

Three batches of one-day on-campus training programmes were successfully organized at KVK during the third week of March on budding, grafting, layering, and nursery management, with Dr. Akhil Raj serving as the resource person for all sessions. The programme was designed for general participants, including farmers, rural youth, and aspiring entrepreneurs interested in plant propagation and nursery management. Each batch followed a well-structured approach, beginning with a comprehensive theoretical session covering the principles, importance, and methods of vegetative propagation techniques such as budding, grafting, and layering. Emphasis was also given to scientific nursery management practices, including selection of mother plants, preparation of growing media, container management, irrigation, nutrient management, and plant protection measures.

This was followed by an intensive hands-on practical session, wherein participants were given direct exposure and practice in performing different propagation techniques under expert guidance. The practical component ensured skill acquisition in precise operations such as bud placement, graft union, and layering methods, thereby improving their confidence and technical competence.



Honeybee Hive Distribution under SCSP Training Programme

As part of the SCSP Training on 'Bee Keeping' conducted on 30th March 2026, honeybee hives were distributed to the participants to promote scientific beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood option and to enhance income generation.



Workshop on Modern Phytochemical Methods and Analytical Approaches

Dr. Visakh N. U., Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology), KVK Malappuram, served as chief guest and expert in the Workshop on Phytochemical techniques held at St. Thomas College Kozhencherry on 13 March 2026. During the workshop, he delivered an insightful session on the topic "Essential Oils: Extraction Techniques, Chemical Characterization and Biological Activities," elaborating on various extraction methods, techniques for chemical profiling, and the wide range of biological activities of essential oils. The session significantly enriched the participants' knowledge and highlighted the practical relevance of phytochemical studies in agriculture and allied sectors.



Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

24th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the KVK was conducted on 5th February, 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. Twenty two invited members including Dr. Sreevalsan J Menon (ADE, KAU), Smt. Reshmi, C.R (PD, ATMA), Dr Regi Jacob Thomas (Head, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam), Smt. Sindhu (District Manager, VFPC), Officers representing the Dept. of Agri., Animal Husbandry, Industries, ORARS (KAU), FPO leaders, farmers, and entrepreneurs and all the technical staff of KVK participated in the annual meeting. Dr P Muralidharan, Head, KVK presented the action taken report of the previous SAC meeting held on 21st March, 25 and the overall progress report of the activities of the KVK during 2025. All the members actively participated in the discussions, appreciated the activities and offered their suggestions for further enhancing the performance of the KVK. KVK Newsletter Vol. 23 Issue 4 (Oct-Dec, 25), Banana POP calendar, and two new value added products of banana prepared by the KVK were released on the occasion. Earlier, the dignitaries inaugurated the new functional units viz., portable incubator unit, nutrient mixtures packing unit, and insect trap production unit established on the first floor of KVK building and the renovated training hall where the meeting was conducted.



Financial literacy week celebrations

KVK in association with District lead bank, Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Keralam (VFPC), and of Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare Department organized an awareness programme in Bharanikkavu block on 10.02.2026 on the occasion of Financial Literacy Week - 2026 celebrations called for by the Reserve bank of India during February 09-13, 2026 on the theme of "KYC - Your First Step to Safe Banking". Sri Sibi Varghese, Vice president, Bharanikkavu block panchayath inaugurated the awareness programme attended by Smt. Rajasree, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Sri Arun M, Lead District Manager, Smt Sindhu, District Manager, VFPC, and Sri. Rajeev M S, SMS, KVK-Alappuzha. Sri. Jayakumar, Block Financial Literacy Councilor and Smt. Ananthalekshmi, Financial Literacy Councilor dealt with topics like KYC, KCC, PMFBY, insurance Schemes, and safety precautions in internet banking in detail. Seventy selected farmers from six panchayaths of Bharanikkavu Block attended the programme.



"Amrit Summit-2026 and FAMEX"

KVK participated in the 'Agri-Mechanisation Resources and Innovative Technologies Summit (AMRIT Summit-2026) and Farm Exhibition (FAMEX) organized by Amrita Vishwa Vidhyapeetham, Amritapuri on 13th and 14th March, 26. Exhibition stalls were arranged by displaying the activities and various technology interventions taken up by the KVK, technology products, technology publications, diversified processed food products by the entrepreneurs trained by the KVK, and planting materials. Smt. Jissy George, SMS (HS) participated in the panel discussion on 'Mechanization of food processing activities' conducted as part of the summit as resource person.



As resource person for different technical activities

Smt. Jissy George, SMS (HS) participated as resource person in a seminar on "Successful entrepreneurship opportunities for women" on 15th March as part of the Karshakasree Agri Festival organized by Malayala Manorama at Kollam from 11th to 15th March, 26. Dr. P. Muralidharan, Head attended the Science day celebrations organized by the P.G. Department of Chemistry in association with Science club and IQAC of M.S.M. College, Kayamkulam as chief guest and delivered a talk on "Healthy soils for healthy and sustainable society" on 16th March, 26.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BAGALKOTE

International Women's Day Programme

On the eve of International Women's Day (March 8, 2026) Dr. Ramitha B. E., SMS (Home Science), participated as a resource person and delivered a talk on the topic "Women's Mental Health and Nutrition" during a programme organized by the Department of Women and Child Development. The event was graced by R. B. Timmapur, Hon'ble Excise Minister; P. H. Pujar; the Deputy Commissioner of Bagalkote; and the Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. Nearly 300 women participated in the programme. The session emphasized the importance of balanced nutrition, mental wellbeing, and family support in enhancing the overall health and quality of life of women.



Live Telecast of PM-Kisan Scheme Release

On 13th March, KVK Bagalkot organized a live telecast of the release of the 22nd installment under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme for the benefit of farmers. The installment was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, aiming to provide financial support and strengthen the livelihood security of farmers. Farmers actively participated in the programme and gained awareness about the scheme and its benefits.

Student Visit to SWT Laboratory

On 25th March 2026, B.Sc. students visited the SWT (Soil and Water Testing) Laboratory at ICAR-KVK Bagalkote as part of their academic exposure. During the visit, students were oriented on various soil and water testing procedures, equipment handling, and the importance of soil health analysis for sustainable agriculture by Dr. Siddappa Angadi, (Chief Technical Officer). The session provided practical insights and enhanced their understanding of laboratory techniques.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BALLARI

Integrated Crop Management Training for Sapota Farmers in Nagenahalli, Ballari district

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ballari, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Ballari, organized a training programme on Integrated Crop Management in Sapota at Nagenahalli village, Ballari district, on 11th March 2026. Dr. Palaiah P, Senior Scientist and Head, briefed the participants on the activities of ICAR-KVK Ballari and interacted with farmers regarding Integrated Disease Management in Sapota, specifically focusing on the production of high-quality, chemical-free fruits. Shri Shashikant, Joint Director of Horticulture, Ballari, provided insights into various government schemes available through the Department of Horticulture and discussed establishing market linkages for selling farm produce.

Sri Shankrappa, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, delivered a technical lecture on organic production technologies for Sapota and explained the advantages of high-density planting techniques in various horticultural crops. Additionally, Dr. Naveen kumar P, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), discussed the mandates of KVKs and their vital role in technology transformation from lab to land. The event facilitated a

vibrant interaction where progressive farmers discussed production challenges with the scientists. The programme, which included participation from Horticulture Department staff, Krishi Sakhis, and other department representatives, successfully benefited more than 85 farmers.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BENGALURU RURAL

Celebration of International Women's Day 2026

ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural District organized International Women's Day 2026 at KVK on 09.03.2026. Dr. B.G. Hanumantharaya, Senior Scientist & Head inaugurated the programme and explained the importance of celebration of 'International Women's Day' that, honours the achievements, strength and resilience of women across the world. It is not just a celebration, but also a reminder of the journey toward equality that continues even today. Dr. Gopika, C. Muttagi scientist (Home science) explained the role of women in agriculture and women have played a vital role in shaping families, societies, and nations. From scientists and teachers to leaders and entrepreneurs, farmwomen their contributions are invaluable. Sri Manjunath Patil, Project Director, NABARD has explained the facilities and schemes available for the benefit of farming society and also addressed as the women agri-entrepreneurs are involved in various

activities such as organic farming, dairy production, food processing, floriculture and agri-based startups. By combining traditional knowledge with modern techniques, they are improving productivity, ensuring food security, and creating employment opportunities in rural areas. As a part of this programme two farm women were felicitated by the chief guests.





Skill training programme on Millet based value added products

ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural District organized six days Skill development training programme on "Millets based Value added products" to Rural youths under Attracting and Retaining Rural Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) project from 23rd to 28th March 2026. Dr. Hanumantharaya, B.G., Senior Scientist & Head, inaugurated the training programme. Dr. Banu Deshpande, Professor, AICRP on Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology and Dr. Ashwini, A., Associate Professor, Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru as Resource Persons to delivered the lectures and demonstration. The scientists demonstrated the millet based value added products such as cookies, doughnuts, cakes and cupcakes and also encourage them to take up 'Millet based value added products' as an enterprise, as there is a significant increase in demand in the present situation. Dr. Gopika, C. Muttagi, Scientist (Home Science), delivered lecture on processing and marketing. Also highlighted the importance of FSSAI registration and marketing strategies for millet based value added products. As a part of this programme an exposure visit was organized to the Basani Agro Innovation Pvt. Ltd., and Sri Hanuman Food Products Unit, Madhure to encourage the participants for became an entrepreneur. Totally, 20 rural youths were participated and benefited from the programme.



Valedictory of DAESI 10th Batch, KVK, Bengaluru Rural District

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bengaluru Rural organized the valedictory ceremony for the 10th batch of the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) on 26.03.2026. The event, held at KVK Hadonahalli, Doddaballapura, marked the successful completion of a year-long technical training program designed to professionalize agricultural input dealers into para-extension professionals. In the program, out of 40 students, of which 32 candidates successfully completed. During the programme Gold, silver and bronze Certificate was awarded to the top-performing students for overall excellence. The event was presided over by Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension, UAS Bengaluru, who emphasized the vital role of input dealers in bridging the gap between scientific research and field application. Dr. Hanumantaraya B.G., Senior Scientist and Head and other scientists of KVK were present during the event. The program concluded with the distribution of certificates and a formal oath-taking ceremony by the DAESI students, pledging their support to the farming community.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BELAGAVI-I

Trainers training programme on National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Seed (NMEO-OS) Maruti N. Malawadi, Scientist Agronomy, ICAR BIRDS KVK Tukkanatti, Belagavi-I

Considering the growing domestic demand for edible oils, the staggering deficiency and the cost to the exchequer on account of imports, the urgency of scaling up the oil seed area is of National interest and does not need any over emphasis. Therefore, to fulfill the National interest, National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Seed (NMEO-OS) is approved with the aim to enhance the edible oilseeds production and oils availability in the country by harnessing Oil Seed area expansion, increasing CPO production and to reduce import burden on edible oils. It will focus on increasing edible oil production from Oil Seed. The State Department of Agriculture, ICAR-Institutions, KVKs, Central Agencies/Cooperatives, Oil palm processors/Associations, DD Kisan, AIR, DD, TV channels will be the implementing stake holders of the NMEO-Oil Seed.

Groundnut and other oil seed trainers training programmes are being conducted in Karnataka under the National Mission on Edible Oils Oil Seeds (NMEO-OS) to enhance oilseed production and promote self-sufficiency. NMEO OS trainers training organized at BIRDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra Tukkanatti -Belagavi-I dated on 16/03/2026 to 18/03/2026 second batch. NMEO OS training programme allotted to Athani, Chikkodi, Gokak and Hukkeri four taluks of Belagavi district in Karnataka State. KVK organized 2nd batch trainers training programmes having 20 Agricultural Officers and ATAMA programme officials were attended and took benefits of the NMEO OS training programme. Training equip officials with sustainable techniques for pest management, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), providing good agricultural practices, and offering expert advisory services on weather and pest management to farmers in selected value-chain clusters to improve groundnut and other major oil seed crops cultivation. Additionally, visited the demonstration plots and oil seed extraction unit.

Objectives of NMEO-OS for Groundnut:

- To increase the production and productivity of groundnut and other key oilseed crops.
- To achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil production within the district and state
- To introduce farmers to the latest production technologies in oilseed crops.



2nd batch trainers training programmes on ICM technologies in Major oil seed crops of Belagavi district.

ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BELAGAVI-II

Field Day on Integrated Crop Management in Safflower

Field Day on Integrated Crop Management in Safflower was organized at Hosur village, Savadatti taluk on 10.03.2026 under National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) CFLD Safflower programme. During the programme, the Scientist (Soil Science) addressed the farmers on the importance of soil testing for maintaining soil health. He explained the procedure for soil sample collection and highlighted the role of integrated nutrient management in improving safflower productivity. The Scientist (Agronomy) explained the objectives of the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO-OS), which aims to increase oilseed productivity and reduce dependence on edible oil imports. He briefed the farmers on the characteristics of the demonstrated safflower variety Annigeri-2020 (A-2020) safflower variety and emphasized the importance of seed treatment for maintaining soil and crop health, ultimately leading to higher productivity. He also highlighted various integrated crop management practices such as recommended seed rate, spacing, weed management, irrigation, and pest and disease management for enhancing oilseed production and ensuring edible oil self-sufficiency in the country. Farmers who participated in the programme expressed satisfaction with the performance of the demonstrated safflower variety.



Training programme on 'Efficient Reuse of Crop Residues in Sugarcane Cultivation'

A training programme on 'Efficient Reuse of Crop Residues in Sugarcane Cultivation' was organized at the ICAR–KLE Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mattikopp premises on 11.03.2026 for sugarcane growers under Rashtrita Krishi Vikas Yojane (RKVY) programme in association with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Mattikopp, inaugurated the training programme and highlighted the role of crop residues in sugarcane cultivation in minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers, controlling weed menace, overcoming drought conditions and improving the fertility status of the soil. Dr. Sunilkumar S. Nooli, Senior Scientist from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, delivered a lecture on efficient reuse of crop residues in sugarcane cultivation and explained various residue management practices beneficial for improving soil health and crop productivity. The programme was anchored by Praveen Yadahalli, Scientist (Horticulture) KVK, Mattikopp. A total of 45 sugarcane growers benefited from the training programme.



Bi-Monthly Workshop

The Bi-Monthly Workshop of Belagavi district was held on 17.03.2026 at the KLE KVK, Mattikopp campus in association with the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and the Department of Agriculture, Belagavi. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. C.P. Mallapur, Associate Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad. In his inaugural address, he highlighted that such bi-monthly workshops are regularly organized to understand field-level problems faced by extension officials of the Department of Agriculture and to suggest appropriate remedial measures, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity. Dr. Nagaraj, Nodal Officer (KVKs), along with Dr. Sunilkumar Nooli, Senior Scientist and Dr. Arunkumar, Head, ARS, Sankeshwar, UAS, Dharwad were present during the programme.

During the technical session, Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Mattikopp, presented a detailed overview of the life cycle of white grub and its management practices in sugarcane. He also suggested various remedial measures to address field-level issues. KVK Scientists including G.B. Vishwanath, S.M. Warad, Praveen Yadahalli, Dr. Bhavini Patil, Dr. Gururaj Koujalagi, and Shankargouda Patil actively participated in the interaction session and addressed queries raised by the field staff. Shri H.D. Kolekar, Joint Director of Agriculture, along with Shri Saleem Sangatras, Shri Sahadev Yaragatti and Smt. Jayashree Hiremath, Deputy Directors of Agriculture, ADAs of 10 taluks, Agricultural Officers (AOs) and ATMA Technical Staff presented field problems from their respective jurisdictions. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Shri C.I. Hugar, ADA (SMS) and concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Vijaykumar Halagatti.



Resource Person

Dr. Manjunath Chouraddi, Senior Scientist & Head, served as a Resource Person at a Special Workshop on Agriculture held on 23.03.2026 at Yadrami in Kalaburagi district. The workshop was organized by Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha and Hasiru Sene, Yadrami. He delivered a talk on integrated root grub management in sugarcane in the holy and revered presence of Pujyashri Adrishya Kadsiddheshwar Swamiji of Shri Kshetra Siddhagiri Math (Kaner Math), Kolhapur, and Shri Kodihalli Chandrashekar, Former State President of Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha (KRRS) and Hasiru Sene.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA BIDAR

"Capacity Building Training on Export Promotion of Horticulture and Agriculture Produce"

A one-day capacity building training programme on "Export Promotion of Horticulture and Agriculture Produce" was successfully organized on 25th March 2026 at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bidar, in collaboration with APEDA Regional Office, Bengaluru. The programme witnessed active participation of 87 progressive farmers from different parts of Bidar district. The event commenced with registration followed by an inaugural session, where dignitaries from APEDA Bengaluru addressed the gathering. The chief guests highlighted the immense potential of horticulture and agricultural produce in the global market and emphasized the need for farmers to adopt export-oriented practices, quality standards, and value addition to enhance profitability.

During the technical session, subject matter specialists and experts delivered insightful lectures on key topics relevant to export promotion. Dr. Shivkumar Chinchure, Scientist ICAR-KVK Bidar elaborated on pest and disease management in horticultural crops, stressing the importance of residue-free production for export markets. The APEDA official provided detailed guidance on export procedures, documentation, and certification requirements, enabling farmers to understand the step-by-step process involved in exporting agricultural commodities. Further, Dr. Umesh Barikar, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK Bidar discussed farm mechanization in horticulture crops, emphasizing efficiency and cost reduction, while Dr. Chandrakant Scientist ICAR-KVK Bidar highlighted the importance of soil and water testing to ensure quality produce meeting international standards.

The programme also included an interactive session where farmers actively engaged with experts, clarifying their doubts regarding export opportunities, market linkages, and government support schemes. The enthusiasm and participation of farmers reflected their keen interest in exploring export avenues. The training concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by lunch. Overall, the programme proved to be highly informative and beneficial, equipping farmers with practical knowledge and confidence to venture into export-oriented agriculture, thereby contributing towards income enhancement and sustainable agricultural development in the region.

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



"Empowering Farmers Through Knowledge: ICAR-KVK Bidar Hosts Live Telecast of PM-KISAN 22nd Instalment Release"

The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bidar successfully organized a live telecast of the release of the 22nd instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th March 2026 at 5:00 PM. The programme was broadcast live from Guwahati, bringing national-level developments directly to the farming community of Bidar district. A total of 88 enthusiastic farmers participated in the event, reflecting strong interest in government initiatives aimed at agricultural development and farmer welfare. The live telecast not only enabled farmers to witness the direct benefit transfer announcement under PM-KISAN but also served as an informative platform to understand key agricultural policies and programmes.

During the session, emphasis was laid on transformative initiatives such as the Digital Agriculture Mission, Natural Farming, and the Pulses Mission. These programmes are designed to enhance productivity, sustainability, and profitability in agriculture while promoting eco-friendly practices. The interaction also provided farmers with valuable insights into accessing institutional resources, including advisory services, financial assistance, and modern technologies. Such initiatives play a crucial role in bridging the gap between research institutions and grassroots-level farmers.

Overall, the programme proved to be highly beneficial in creating awareness and strengthening farmers' confidence in government support systems. By facilitating knowledge dissemination and encouraging farmer engagement, ICAR-KVK Bidar continues to play a pivotal role in improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

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



"Empowering the Backbone of Agriculture: ICAR-KVK Bidar Celebrates International Women's Day"

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar, marked the celebration of International Women's Day with great enthusiasm on 8th March 2026 at Madnoor village in Kamalnagar Taluk. The programme witnessed the active participation of 76 farm women, highlighting the crucial role women play in strengthening the agricultural sector and rural economy. The event was organized with the objective of recognizing and empowering farm women by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and awareness about sustainable agricultural practices. The gathering provided a vibrant platform for women farmers to interact, learn, and share their experiences.

During the programme, Dr. Shivkumar, Scientist, ICAR-KVK Bidar, delivered an insightful lecture emphasizing the indispensable role of women in agriculture. He highlighted how women contribute significantly at every stage of farming—from sowing to harvesting, post-harvest handling, and even marketing. He acknowledged their resilience, dedication, and multi-tasking abilities that make them the backbone of the farming community. Dr. Chandrakanth, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK Bidar stressed on the importance of soil and water testing for improving farm productivity and sustainability. He explained that understanding soil health is essential for making informed decisions regarding fertilizer application, crop selection, and efficient resource management. Similarly, water testing ensures the quality of irrigation water, which directly impacts crop yield and soil condition. He encouraged the participants to regularly test their soil and water to adopt scientific and profitable farming practices.

The programme further motivated farm women to take leadership roles in agriculture and allied activities, thereby enhancing their socio-economic status. Interactive discussions and practical insights made the session highly engaging and beneficial for the participants. Overall, the celebration of International Women's Day by ICAR-KVK Bidar was a meaningful initiative that not only honored the contribution of women farmers but also equipped them with valuable knowledge to improve their agricultural practices. The programme successfully reinforced the message of women empowerment and sustainable agriculture, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.

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



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA CHAMARAJNAGAR

"Strengthening Soil Health through Bhumi suphoshan Abhiyan: Insights from KVK Training and the Role of Compost in Sustainable Agriculture"

During a recent training programme conducted at a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), the Senior Scientist along with the concerned Soil Science expert addressed a group of farmers and rural youth on the pressing need for soil health management under the Bhumi suphoshan Abhiyan. The session began with a discussion on the current challenges faced in agriculture, such as declining soil fertility, excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers, reduced organic matter and the long-term impact of these practices on productivity and environmental sustainability. The scientists emphasized that Bhumi suphoshan Abhiyan is not merely a scheme but a necessary movement to restore soil vitality through balanced nutrient management and eco-friendly practices. They explained that healthy soil is the foundation of sustainable agriculture, as it improves water retention, enhances nutrient availability, supports beneficial microorganisms and ultimately leads to better crop yield and quality. In this context, the role of compost was highlighted as a key component in achieving the goals of the abhiyan. Different types of compost such as farmyard manure (FYM), vermin-compost and enriched compost were discussed in detail, each contributing uniquely to soil nourishment. The Soil Science expert explained that these composts not only supply essential nutrients but also improve soil structure, increase microbial activity and enhance organic carbon content. Vermicompost, for instance, was noted for its high nutrient content and growth-promoting substances, while other composts were appreciated for their suitability in large-scale preparation using locally available materials.

Enriched compost was described as a value-added input that addresses specific nutrient deficiencies in soil. The training concluded with a strong message that adopting compost-based practices under the Bhumi suphoshan Abhiyan can significantly reduce input costs, recycle farm waste and ensure long-term soil health, thereby making agriculture more resilient and sustainable in the current scenario. The programme was attended and enriched by the active participation of the Senior Scientist & Head, the Soil Science specialist, along with other scientists from disciplines such as Agronomy, Horticulture, Plant Protection and Home Science, whose collective inputs made the training comprehensive and impactful.

Authors: **Hanamantappa Meti**



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA CHIKKABALLAPURA

Two Days Training Programme on amla and drumstick and millet based bakery products

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chikkaballapura conducted a two-days training programme on "Value Addition of Amla, Drumstick and Millet-Based Bakery Products" for women members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) on 3rd and 4th March 2026,

sponsored by Sehgal Foundation. Dr. Soumya Hiregoudar, Scientist (Home Science) served as the resource person and delivered comprehensive hands-on training covering processing techniques, nutritional importance and preparation of value-added products such as amla pickle, drumstick leaf-based products and millet-based bakery items including biscuits and cakes. The programme also focused on hygienic practices, packaging and entrepreneurship development,

EDP programme on Entrepreneurship Development in Sericulture



Entrepreneurship Development in Sericulture

National Seeds Corporation Limited, Bengaluru organized a two-day training programme on “Training and Distribution of Honey Bee Hives” under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme 2025–2026 at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chikkaballapura on 25th and 26th March 2026 for the Amaranarayana FPO members of Chintamani. The programme focused on capacity building of farmers in scientific beekeeping practices, including hive management, colony maintenance, pest and disease control, and honey extraction techniques. As part of the initiative, honey bee hives were distributed to the participants to promote apiculture as a sustainable income-generating enterprise. The programme aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities and encouraging entrepreneurship among FPO members through scientific and practical exposure to beekeeping.



Training on honey bee hive management



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, MALAPPURAM.

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mudigere organized Krishisakhi Module 3 and vocational training programme for 6 days on 02.03.2026 to 07.03.2026.

In his inspiring address, Lakshman Gowda emphasized the transformative power of maintaining constant contact with subject-matter specialists, noting that their scientific guidance has consistently steered him and fellow farmers toward higher yields and increased income. He urged the Krishisakhis to nurture regular interactions with the scientific faculty, assuring them that such engagement would empower them to make informed decisions and achieve greater financial stability. Dr. Shivaprasad M highlighted the indispensable contribution of Krishisakhis in rural agriculture, commending their dedication and hard work while encouraging them to embrace emerging concepts and innovative techniques. Dr. A.T. Krishnamurthy, in his concluding remarks, motivated the



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA CHITHRADURGA

International Women's Day

An International Women's Day was celebrated on 10-03-2026 at ICAR-KVK, Chitradurga. International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration honoring the achievements, strength, and contributions of women across all fields—while also promoting gender equality and women's rights. This celebration raises women's empowerment and encourages collective action for a more inclusive world.

Smt. Shashikala Ravishankar, Social worker Hiriyur was invited as a resource person for the fiction to create still more awareness about the importance of celebration. The programme was started with inaugural song and then the all dignitaries on the stage inaugurated the programme by watering the plant in the pot. Smt. Shashikala Ravishankar spoke about the need of unity & integrity to achieve any goal especially the Self Help Group women under the same umbrella. She opined that, the women achievers has to be rewarded for their achievement and should be use them as a model for others to inspire. The justice towards Women especially at the family and rights has to be still better to mainstream her in the society. Dr. Parshurama Chandravamshi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Chitradurga explored the available schemes and technologies which could be utilized for their betterment as well as for economic empowerment. Dr. Saraswathi.J.M., Scientist (Home Science) awared about the women related health issues and remedies. Lastly the programme was ended with vote of thanks.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA DAKSHINA KANNADA

Empowerment of Koraga Community through Input support

Sullia, Mar 28: A significant step towards the empowerment of tribal communities was taken at Aranthodu village through the Prakruti Van Dhan Vikas Kendra, where a sealing machine worth ₹41,000 was distributed to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) – Koraga Community. The centre, functioning under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, aims to enhance income through sustainable utilization of forest resources. The sealing machine would help to improve packaging of products and enhance their market value. This support was facilitated through the efforts of Dr. Ashwathi Chandrashekar, Scientist (Agricultural Extension) at ICAR-DCR, Puttur. The machine was distributed to the Koraga community by

Dr. Venkata Subrahmanyam, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru. Dr. Rayudu, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension), NRLM Sanjeevini District Programme Manager Hariprasad, Taluk Programme Manager Shwetha, Taluk Manager Mary S, Cluster Supervisor Avinash Dellario, BRP P.R.I Jayalakshmi, and Sanjeevini Krishi Sakhi Mohini Vishwanath (Nisha), along with several dignitaries, were present on the occasion. The programme was coordinated under the guidance of Dr. T. J. Ramesha, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK Dakshina Kannada. The VDVK consists of around 300 members, out of which 30 members have directly benefited from this initiative. Around 50 non-timber forest products have been prepared and displayed for sale through the VDVK mart.

(Contributor : Dr. T. J Ramesha)



Initiation of New Chapter of IAT, Bengaluru

ICAR-KVK Dakshina Kannada in collaboration with IAT, Bengaluru conducted programme on initiation of Dakshina Kannada chapter of IAT

Dr. A.B. Patil, President of IAT and OSD for Agriculture Minister of Karnataka state participating as Chief Guest briefed about mandated activities of the institution and opined that this institution would be helpful to enhance the professional competence of agriculturists and serve as platform to cater the needs of stakeholders involved in agribusiness. Dr. Honnappa Govinda Gowda, Joint Director of Agriculture, Dr. Arun Kumar Shetty Deputy Director, Veterinary, Dr. Anjaneyappa, Dean, College of Fisheries Mangalore, Mr. Praveen, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Dr. Maruthesh, Professor and Head, Agriculture and Horticultural Research Station, Ullal, Dr. T.J. Ramesha presided over the programme. Bankers, Entrepreneurs, Progressive Farmers, Officials from various developmental departments and Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Food Chain campaign participated in the programme

(Contributor : **Dr. T. J Ramesha**)



Capacity Development Programme for Extension Personnel

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra in collaboration with Department of Horticulture organised Tri-Monthly Workshop on 18.03.26 at its office premises. The purpose of the programme was to update the department officials with recent emerging advances in horticulture crops so that they can provide solution to the location specific problems. Dr. A.B. Patil, President of IAT and OSD for Agriculture Minister of Karnataka state delivered a lecture on Bio-input application in horticultural crops. Dr. Jyothi Nishad, Scientist (Food Technology), ICAR-DCR, Puttur delivered a lecture on Value addition in cashew. As a part of the programme exhibition was organised to showcase the technologies. KVK Scientists also participated in the programme.

(Contributor : **Dr. T. J Ramesha**)



ICAR-Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra conducted Frontline Demonstration on Integrated Crop Management in Onion under Tribal Sub Plan activity. NHRDF-Red-4 variety of Onion suitable for Rabi season was introduced to the Basapanahatti village of Jagalur tq. Dr. Basavanagowda M.G., SMS (Horticulture) gave

complete details about the Integrated Nutrient Management aspects in Onion. Mr. Mallikarjuna B.O., SMS (Agronomy) gave details about the methods of weed control in Onion crop. Ten farmers from the village are participated in the diagnostic field visit.

Dr. Basavanagowda M.G.
SMS (Horticulture)

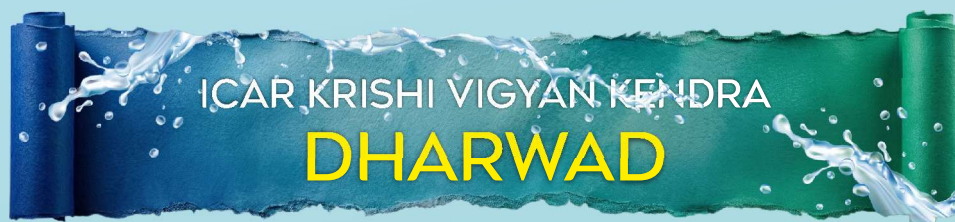


Skilled Development Training on Food Processing and Value Addition

ICAR-TARALABALU KVK Davanagere in collaboration with ATMA, Department of Agriculture organized two days Skilled Development Training on Food Processing and Value Addition of Agriculture and Horticulture Crops. In this two days training program, gave awareness to the trainees about the importance of processing, branding, FSSAI License, Nutritional and quality analysis of food products, Kisan Samridhi branding, PMFME and Secondary Agriculture Schemes.

Products demonstrated during this training are Flax seeds chikki, Foxtail millet palak ribbon, Protein bars, Andhra pickle, Jowar rawa kichidi mix, Foxtail millet bisibele bath mix, Moringa leaves chutney powder, Finger millet milk and madali, Amla laddu and other products. Twenty eight women and 4 men participated in the training.

Dr. Supriya P. Patil
Programme Assistant (Home Science)



Celebration of International Women's Day by ICAR-KVK, Dharwad

ICAR-KVK, Dharwad celebrated International Women's Day on 08.03.2026. During this programme Dr. Pallavi T., SMS (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad expressed that, is not just a celebration, but a powerful reminder of equality, resilience and progress. She further emphasized that this day is also a call to action, urging everyone to work collectively towards achieving true gender equality and ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women in all spheres of life. She urged women to recognize their potential, embrace leadership roles and actively participate in decision-making processes, stating that "when women rise, society progresses."

Dr. K. P. Gundannavar, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Dharwad in his presidential remarks expressed that when women are empowered, families thrive, communities grow stronger and nations progress. Education, equal opportunities and respect are the pillars that can uplift women. International Women's Day is not just a day to celebrate women, but a day to reflect, respect and renew our commitment towards equality. Around 73 farmers, students and KVK staff participated in the programme.



Field visit for selection of Shreshta Krishika Award 2025

A field visit was conducted on 10.03.2026 to facilitate the evaluation process for the Shreshta Krishika Award 2025, organized by ATMA, KSDA, Dharwad. The visit was carried out in collaboration with officials from the State Department of Agriculture. The team visited the villages of Kadasgatti, Madanabhavi, Karadigudda, Pudakalakatti and Mugad in Dharwad taluka. The purpose of the visit was to assess and evaluate farmers based on established criteria for the prestigious award.



Visit to Dairy Farm by ICAR-KVK, Dharwad Scientists

Scientists from ICAR-KVK, Dharwad visited Basava Dairy Farm to observe and assess the ongoing dairy farming practices on 20.03.2026. During the visit, they examined the management of indigenous (desi) cattle breeds. The team also reviewed the value addition activities carried out at the farm, particularly the preparation of traditional dairy products such as butter and ghee. They provided suggestions to further improve quality, hygiene and efficiency in processing. Additionally, the scientists advised the farmer on effective waste management practices, emphasizing the utilization of cow dung through vermicomposting, biogas production and bio-digester preparation. These methods were recommended to enhance sustainability, reduce environmental impact and generate additional income.



Kerala Governor Highlights Students Role in Sustainability at Sapling Distribution Drive

A major momentum was given to the green initiative "Harithabhamayam Athijeevanapatham (Green Abundance – The Lesson of Survival)" with the participation of the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who distributed curry leaf saplings to students at St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam. The programme, jointly implemented by KVK-Ernakulam and Prof. K. V. Thomas Vidyadhanam Trust, aims to promote environmental awareness among school children through fruit tree planting and household-level greening initiatives.

As part of the initiative, a series of fruit tree planting and curry leaf sapling distribution programmes were organized across schools in Ernakulam district. A programme held on 13th February 2026 at St. Albert's Higher Secondary School, Ernakulam was chaired by Shri T. J. Vinod, MLA, and the distribution of saplings was carried out by Smt. V. K. Minimol, Mayor of Kochi Corporation. Another programme was conducted on 19th February 2026 at Fathima Girls High School, Fort Kochi, with Shri Shreyams Kumar as the Chief Guest. Similar programmes were also organized on 24th February 2026 at Government Higher Secondary School, Puthenthode and Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ernakulam.

In total, around 10,700 curry leaf saplings were distributed to students, and fruit tree saplings were planted across participating school campuses, reinforcing the importance of tree-based interventions for environmental sustainability and household nutrition.

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



ICAR Institute Directors Review on KVK Interventions under SCSP in Ernakulam

Dr. P. Govindaraj, Director, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute and Dr. V. Venkatasubramannian, Director, ATARI Bengaluru visited key SCSP-supported

interventions of KVK Ernakulam on 5th March 2026. At Alangad, Dr. Govindaraj reviewed the progress of sugarcane area expansion undertaken as part of the revival initiative led by KVK. He also assessed the performance and operational aspects of the Alangadan jaggery production unit established with support from SCSP funds, in convergence with Alangad Grama Panchayat and Alangad Service Cooperative Bank. The sugarcane variety CO 86032 used in the programme was sourced from SBI, Coimbatore. The visit included detailed discussions on scaling up cultivation and strengthening decentralized jaggery production systems. Shri F. Pushparaj Anjelo, SMS (Agricultural Extension), facilitated the visit and briefed the team on the interventions implemented by KVK for reviving sugarcane cultivation and establishing the jaggery unit.

The team also visited the lemongrass oil distillation unit at Vaveli, Kottappady, developed under SCSP in collaboration with Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. They interacted with members of the Scheduled Caste group engaged in lemongrass cultivation and oil extraction. Given the region's proximity to forest areas and recurring elephant incursions, lemongrass is being promoted as a resilient crop not preferred by elephants. KVK is supporting farmers in adopting this enterprise for sustainable income generation, with future plans for value-added product development.

(Authors: **F. Pushparaj Anjelo and Shinoj Subramannian**)





Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting Conducted for 2025-26

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK- Ernakulam for the year 2025–26 was conducted on 2nd March 2026. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Dr. B. T. Rayadu, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer, ATARI Bengaluru, represented ATARI, Bengaluru. The Committee reviewed the progress of activities implemented by the KVK during 2025–26 and deliberated on the action plan for 2026–27. The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the previous SAC meeting was also presented and discussed in detail.

The meeting witnessed active participation from farmer representatives, who shared their field-level experiences and provided valuable feedback. Directors of Extension from the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry, along with officials from line departments and Heads of research stations, also contributed to the discussions and offered constructive suggestions for strengthening KVK programmes. The SAC meeting served as an important platform for collaborative review, enabling stakeholders—including scientists, department officials, and farmers—to jointly assess ongoing activities and provide strategic guidance for enhancing the effectiveness, outreach, and impact of KVK interventions.

(Authors: **Shoji Joy Edison, K. Smita Sivadasan, F. Pushparaj Anjelo, P. Thirumoorthy, Robin Bilam and Shinoj Subramannian**)



KVK Ernakulam Showcases Technologies at AgriNext Summit 2026

The KVK- Ernakulam participated in AgriNext Summit 2026 with a dedicated exhibition stall on 20th February 2026 at Digital Hub, Kerala Startup Mission, Ernakulam. AgriNext Summit 2026, a flagship initiative under the AgriNext Programme of Kerala Ecosystem for Accelerated Agritech (KERA), was organized by the Project Implementation Unit of Kerala Startup Mission in association with the Department of Agriculture and supported by the World Bank. The summit aimed at promoting the adoption of technology-driven solutions in agriculture and allied sectors across Kerala. The event served as a convergence platform bringing together innovators, farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, policymakers, research institutions, financial agencies, and industry stakeholders to foster sustainable and scalable agricultural transformation.

The KVK showcased a range of location-specific technologies and enterprise models successfully popularized in the district. Key demonstrations included cut pineapple production, mechanized silage production, lemongrass cultivation and oil extraction, sugarcane cultivation and jaggery production, and the application of drones in agriculture. In addition, live exhibits such as sugarcane seedlings, lemongrass slips, and lemongrass oil were displayed to provide practical insights into production systems and to highlight their potential for entrepreneurship development among farmers and youth.

(Authors: **F. Pushparaj Anjelo and Shinoj Subramannian**)



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA GADAG

Inauguration of the 4th batch of DAESI programme

Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) - IV batch was inaugurated on 19th February 2026 at ICAR-KVK, Gadag, which was jointly organized by ICAR-KVK Gadag, UAS, Dharwad, Department of Agriculture, Gadag, and MANAGE Hyderabad. Dr. P.L. Patil, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad inaugurated the programme and urged trainees for an effective transfer of agricultural technologies to farming community.

Dr. M.V. Manjunath, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad presided the programme and emphasized the key role of input dealers in addressing farmers' issues and strengthening linkages between Agricultural Universities, KVKs and Line Departments. Chief Guest of the programme, Dr. S.N. Jadhav highlighted the training components, including expert sessions and field visits. Dr. Sudha V. Mankani highlighted KVK's successful conduct of the programme over the past three years. The programme began with introductory remarks by Shri S.K. Mudalapur, guests were welcomed by Dr. Manjuprakash Patil and concluded with vote of thanks by Shri N.H. Bandi. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjana.

[Contributors: **Dr. Vinayaka Niranjana, SMS (Ag. Engineering)**, **Dr. Sudha V. Mankani (Senior Scientist & Head)**, and **Dr. Manjuprakash Patil, SMS (Ag. Extension)**]



Best oral presentation award to ICAR-KVK, Gadag

Dr. Sudha V. Mankani, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Gadag, was honored with the Best Oral Presentation Award at the Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS 2026), held from 12-14 March 2026 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi.

She received this recognition for her presentation entitled "Economic Empowerment of Women through Diversification of Agricultural Enterprises", delivered under Technical Session 4, which focused on Emerging and Disruptive Technologies for Gender Transformative Change.

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



MoU signed between ICAR-DCR, Puttur and ICAR-KVK, Gadag

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR), Puttur and ICAR-KVK, Gadag for the provision and utilization of a fully automatic 3-in-1 Cashew Apple and Nut Separator on the occasion of Cashew Day cum District Level Seminar on Value Addition of Cashew Apple held at ICAR-DCR, Puttur on 11-03-2026.

The agreement is aimed at extending custom hiring service of 3-in-1 Cashew Apple and Nut Separator to the Cashew growers of Gadag District. The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjana, SMS (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR-KVK, Gadag.

[Contributors: **Dr. Vinayaka H. Niranjana, SMS (Ag. Engineering)** and **Dr. Sudha V. Mankani (Senior Scientist & Head)**]



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA HASSAN

Live streaming of release of 22nd installment of PM-KISAN programme at KVK, Hassan

ICAR-KVK Hassan organized a live streaming of the 22nd installment release of the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme at KVK, Kandali, Hassan on 13/03/2026. In a demonstration of unity and dedication to support farmers, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Hassan hosted a live viewing of the event with active participation from local farmers.

Dr. Chandregowda M J, Principle Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Bangalore chaired the program and highlighted the significant potential of oilseeds and pulses in the global market. He emphasized the need for enhanced scientific cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of these crops, noting that the technologies developed by ICAR and SAUs will play a crucial role in advancing these efforts. In this programme Dr. Rajegowda, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Hassan, addressed the gathering to adopt climate resilient agricultural technologies to uplift the farming sector.

Dr. Arunkumar B R, Scientist (Soil Science), KVK, Hassan has organized the programme and during his introductory remarks he explained the objective of this programme, how PM Kissan helped the farmers to meet their agricultural requirements during the season through examples and he also elaborated how this PM Kissan started, motto and mission of the programme. The live stream facilitated real-time engagement with the national event, highlighting the importance of government efforts designed to enhance agricultural

success. A total of 51 farmers and farm women participated in the training program.

Contributors: **Dr. Arunkumar B. R., Scientist (Soil Science), Dr. Rajegowda, Senior Scientist and Head)**





5 Days Capacity Building Programme on Natural Farming to Community Resource Person (Krishi Sakhis)

ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hanumanamati, Haveri District organized five days training programme on "Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis" from 24th to 28th March 2026 for 50 CRPs under National Mission on Natural Farming as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme as a shift to strengthen agriculture practices with scientifically backed approaches towards sustainability, climate resilience and safe food. It is aimed towards improving soil health and restoring ecosystems and reducing input cost to the farmer to achieve greater climate resilience. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mallikarjun K, JDA, Haveri, in the inaugural address highlighted that Krishi Sakhis are the practicing farmers and trained para extension professional in agriculture at grass root level. Considering the importance of improving the Soil Health, Krishi Sakhis role is envisioned to be as farmers' friend at their door step with all necessary information, skills and abilities to guide farmers on various aspects of Natural Farming, providing capacity building and skilling in emerging areas of Natural Farming and Soil Health Management. Dr. A. H. Biradar, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR – KVK, Haveri briefed that farm women are invisible and silent partners in Indian agriculture performing almost all the farm operations right from ploughing to sowing to harvesting to storage and processing of the farm produce. Seldom have been they recognized and their voice heard in decision making process. Realizing the significant role and contribution of women in agriculture and to further empower them by enhancing the skills of rural women, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development has come up with Krishi Sakhi convergence program (KSCP). Thus the role of Krishi Sakhi's in farming community and they should act like Para extension workers in farming field and they should create awareness and educate farming community on Natural Farming. During the programme various technical sessions were organized to the participants which includes introduction to natural farming, nutrient management in natural farming, pest and disease identification in field and its control measures and health, nutrition and importance of balanced diet for healthy life style were also

highlighted. Under this natural farming training program, CRPs were sensitized to the method demonstrations of natural farming bio-inputs viz., beejamruta, jeevamruta, ghana jeevamruta, neemastra, agni astra, dashaparni etc. and were given exposure visits to Mr. Bheemanna Chigari, a natural farmer from Kalasur village of Savanur taluk, who has been continuously practicing natural farming for more than 22 years. The five days training programmes were co-ordinated by Dr. Sidda gangamma K.R. SMS (Agronomy).





KVK Idukki implemented ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad Funded SCSP Programme at Pallivasal Panchayat

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki, in collaboration with the ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, implemented an SCSP programme titled “Strengthening Socio-economic Resilience of SC Groups through Technological Advances in Paddy and Other Crop Cultivation in Pallivasal Village.” The programme aimed to improve productivity, soil health, and livelihood security of Scheduled Caste farmers through the adoption of scientific crop management and sustainable farming technologies.

The programme was organized jointly with Pallivasal Grama Panchayat and Pallivasal Krishi Bhavan. Smt. Maya Shaju, President, Pallivasal Grama Panchayat inaugurated the programme and Smt. Paventhai, Vice President, presided over the function. Technical sessions were delivered by Dr. R. Marimuthu, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Idukki; Ms. Manju Jincy Varghese, SMS (Soil Science); and Ms. Ashiba A., SMS (Agronomy), focusing on soil health management, balanced nutrition, biofertilizers, and improved crop management practices. A total of 50 SC farmers participated in the programme. As part of the intervention, key agricultural inputs such as IISR Cardamom Special, VAM, Plant Growth Regulators, Dolomite, Seaweed Extract, and Almix micronutrient mixture were distributed to farmers along with practical demonstrations on their scientific application. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Preethu K. Paul, SMS (Agricultural Extension), KVK Idukki, with field support from Mr. Santhosh, Agricultural Assistant. The initiative is expected to enhance crop productivity, improve soil fertility, and strengthen the socio-economic resilience of SC farmers in Pallivasal Panchayat.



KVK Idukki implemented ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad Funded TSP Programme at Kanchiyar Panchayat

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki, in association with ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad, implemented a Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programme titled “Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods among Indigenous Farmers through Agricultural Innovations in Paddy and Other Crops” at Kozhimala tribal settlement, Kanchiyar Panchayat. The programme aimed to improve the livelihood of tribal farmers through adoption of scientific crop production practices, improved nutrient management, and sustainable farming technologies suited to the region.

The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Celin George, President, Kanchiyar Grama Panchayat, in the presence of Sri Raman Rajamannan, King of Kozhimala Tribal Settlement. Dr. R. Marimuthu, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Idukki, explained the objectives of the programme and highlighted the importance of soil health and balanced nutrient management. A technical training session was conducted by Ms. Ashiba A, SMS (Agronomy) on improved crop production practices. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Preethu K. Paul, SMS (Agricultural Extension). Agricultural inputs such as IISR Cardamom Special, VAM, Plant Growth Regulators, Dolomite, Seaweed Extract, and Almix micronutrient mixture were distributed to beneficiary farmers along with practical demonstrations on their use. A total of 50 Scheduled Tribe farmers participated in the programme, which is expected to enhance soil fertility, crop productivity, and livelihood security in the tribal farming community of Kanchiyar.



KVK Idukki implemented ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad Funded TSP Programme at Devikulam Taluk

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki, in collaboration with ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad, organized a Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programme titled “Sustainable Crop Management through Biofertilizer Support for Tribal Farmers in Devikulam Taluk.” The programme was inaugurated by Sri. Rejimon, President, Pournami Self Help Group, Bisonvalley, with felicitation by Sri. Shibu, Assistant Agricultural Officer, Bisonvalley Krishi Bhavan and Sri. Sreenivasan, Vice President, Pournami SHG. A technical training session for tribal farmers from Chokramudikudy and Komalikudy settlements was conducted by Ms. Ashiba A., SMS (Agronomy) on soil health management, biofertilizer use, and improved crop management practices.

The programme was coordinated by Ms. Preethu K. Paul, SMS (Agricultural Extension) with support from Mr. Biju Narayanan, Programme Assistant (Computer Programmer). As part of the initiative, biofertilizers such as VAM, Azospirillum, PSB, and KSB were distributed to 50 Scheduled Tribe farmers, along with demonstrations on their scientific application to improve soil fertility, nutrient use efficiency, and crop productivity. The programme aims to promote sustainable agriculture, improved soil health, and enhanced livelihoods among tribal farmers in Devikulam Taluk.



KVK Idukki implemented Skill Development Training on Natural Farming for SC Farmers Funded by ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad in Idukki district

A five-day Skill Development Training Programme on “Empowering SC Farmers through Natural Farming: A Pathway to Sustainable Agriculture” was organized by ICAR–KVK Santhanpara from 23–27 February 2026 with support from ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad under the SCSP component. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Manju Jincy Varghese (SMS Soil Science) and Ms. Preethu K Paul (SMS Agricultural Extension) of KVK Idukki.

A total of 40 Scheduled Caste farmers participated in the programme aimed at promoting low-cost, eco-friendly natural farming practices to address rising input costs and declining soil health. The training covered principles of natural farming, soil health management, microbial diversity, natural pest and disease management, and cropping system diversification. Participants received hands-on training in preparation and application of key bio-inputs such as Jeevamrut, Beejamrut, Ghana Jeevamrut, Neemastra, Agniastra, and Dashaparni. Exposure visits to Edamalakudy and Kanchiyar enabled farmers to observe field-level natural farming practices and interact with practicing farmers.

The programme followed a participatory learning approach including classroom sessions, demonstrations, field visits, and group discussions. Post-training evaluation indicated improved knowledge, practical skills, and confidence among SC farmers to adopt natural farming, promoting sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture in the high ranges of Idukki district.



KVK Idukki implemented ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru Funded TSP Programme at Santhanpara

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki in collaboration with ICAR-NBAIR organized a Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) programme on 05 March 2026 at Santhanpara Village, Idukki aimed at strengthening the livelihood security of tribal farmers through improved spice crop technologies. The programme highlighted the role of KVK Idukki in transferring advanced agricultural technologies to marginalized farmers. During the event, Dr. Sudhakar S., SMS (Plant Protection) emphasized the importance of NBAIR-supported biological pest management technologies and the strong cooperation of farmers in adopting scientific practices. In the presidential address, Dr. S. Jayababu, SMS (Animal Science) stressed the importance of integrating crop and livestock systems to enhance livelihood resilience among tribal communities.

The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Rachel Skariakutty, Management Representative BSS, followed by the distribution of NBAIR technology inputs to beneficiaries. A total of 50 tribal farmers participated and received materials to support improved spice crop cultivation. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sudhakar S., SMS (Plant Protection) of KVK Idukki. The initiative focuses on capacity building, technology demonstrations, and improved production practices to enhance productivity and income from spice crops in Santhanpara Panchayat. The programme is expected to strengthen adoption of eco-friendly pest management technologies and improve the livelihood security of tribal farmers in the region.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KALABURGI - II

Crop seminar cum field day - on castor

A seminar and field day on castor cultivation was organized on 16-03-2026 by the ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kalaburgi-II (Raddewadagi) in collaboration with the AICRP on Castor GVKK, Bangalore and the Department of Agriculture, Jewargi. The program was conducted in the field of progressive farmer Sri Vijayakumar Sahu from Yalwar village of Jewargi taluka, Kalaburgi district, who has been widely recognized for his outstanding achievements in agriculture.

The event was inaugurated by Sri Sidramappa Patil Danagapur, President of the District Krishi Samaj, Kalaburagi. While addressing the gathering, he emphasized that just as a mother is the first teacher at home, agricultural scientists and officers serve as guiding forces for farmers. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern agricultural technologies, reduce cultivation costs, and move towards sustainable and profitable farming practices.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. P. Vasudev Nayak, Head of ICAR-KVK, Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadagi), highlighted the challenges posed by changing climatic conditions. He advised farmers to shift from traditional single cropping systems to diversified cropping patterns, practice crop rotation, select suitable high yielding crop varieties, and adopt effective pest and disease management strategies. He noted that these measures would help in reducing production costs and enhancing farm income.

Dr. Yamanur, Castor Breeder, AICRP, GVKK, Bengaluru, delivered an complete production technologies of castor, information about high yielding Varieties and hybrids of Castor, importance of stress-tolerant crops and the adoption of integrated farming systems to improve resilience and productivity.

Dr. B.V. Temburne, ADR, ZARS, Kalaburagi, also addressed the farmers and provided detailed insights into improved cropping systems and advanced farming techniques. Sri Chandrakant Jevangi, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), Jewargi, advised farmers to move beyond traditional crops and explore alternative options and select crops best suited to their soil and climatic conditions for better economic returns. Dr. Raju G. Teggelli, Head of KVK, Kalaburagi-1, stressed that adoption of improved technologies, along with farmers' willingness and innovative mindset, is essential for achieving higher productivity and profitability.

During the event, progressive farmers Sri Vijayakumar Sahu, Sri Muna Patel, and Sri Basavaraj Devanur shared their experiences in castor cultivation along with challenges in castor cultivation and success stories, which inspired fellow participants. More than 50 farmers actively engaged in discussions with scientists, clarifying their doubts and gaining valuable knowledge. Field demonstrations conducted as part of the program

enabled farmers to understand and visualize improved agricultural practices more effectively.

More than 120 farmers participated in the program and benefited from the knowledge shared. The program anchoring was done by Dr. Mallappa Scientist (Agronomy) and concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri M.C. Patil, Senior Technical Officer.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KANNUR

The Programmes organized and celebrated by KVK Kannur, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and women's day

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur organized and celebrated International Women's Day on 08.03.2026 with great enthusiasm and participation from women farmers and entrepreneurs. The programme was inaugurated by Shri. Jessi Shiju, President, Taliparamba Block Panchayat, and was presided over by Mr. Rameshan, President, Kurumathur Panchayat. The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Manju K.P, Assistant Professor, KVK Kannur. Felicitations were delivered by Dr. Meera Manjusha A.V, Programme Coordinator, KVK Kannur, and Dr. Vickram H.C, Head, PRS, who appreciated the contributions of women in agriculture and allied sectors. The formal session concluded with a vote of thanks by Smt. Greena P.G, Assistant Professor, KVK Kannur. As part of the programme, a technical session was conducted focusing on women empowerment and entrepreneurship. Mr. Prabhakar A.V handled a session on business proposal preparation, while Mr. Hamsakutty A.P, Advocate, delivered an informative talk on rights and financial independence. The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and mementos to successful women entrepreneurs who have excelled in their respective fields. KVK Kannur also extended technical and handholding support to encourage and strengthen women-led enterprises in the region.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur successfully organized a live webcasting programme of the launch of the 22nd installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on 13.03.2026. Around 50 farmers actively participated in the event. The programme was followed by an awareness session led by Dr. Greena P.G, Assistant Professor, who sensitized the farmers on important topics such as crop insurance, various government subsidy schemes, and natural farming practices. The session was highly informative and helped enhance farmers' knowledge on sustainable agriculture and available support systems. As part of the programme, an expert session on the "Importance of Soil Health and its Management" was conducted. The session was handled by Dr. Meera Manjusha, Programme Coordinator, and Smt. Greena P.G, Soil Scientist, KVK Kannur. They highlighted key aspects such as soil fertility, balanced nutrient management, soil testing, and eco-friendly practices to enhance soil productivity. The programme was highly informative and provided valuable insights to farmers for adopting scientific and sustainable soil management practices.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur organized a series of off-campus training programmes in collaboration with Kudumbashree and VFPC Kannur, focusing on handholding support and promoting sustainable income generation for Kudumbashree members. All sessions were handled by the expert Dr. Shruthi P, Assistant Professor (Home Science), KVK Kannur, who provided practical, hands-on training in value addition of various agricultural produce.

On 04.03.2026, a training on banana value addition was held at VFPC SKS Keezhur, Chavassery, with the participation of 30 Kudumbashree members. 2. On 13.03.2026, banana value addition training was conducted at VFPC SKS Koodali with around 30

participants. 3. On 17.03.2026, a training on mushroom value addition was organized at VFPC SKS Keezhur, Chavassery, with 30 Kudumbashree participants. 4. On 18.03.2026, another session on banana value addition was held at VFPC SKS Koodali with around 30 participants. 5. On 24.03.2026, banana value addition training was conducted again at VFPC SKS Keezhur, Chavassery, with 30 Kudumbashree members. 6. On 26.03.2026, a training on jackfruit value addition was organized at VFPC SKS Koodali with 36 participants. 7. On 27.03.2026, a session on tuber crop value addition was conducted at VFPC SKS Keezhur, Chavassery, with around 30 Kudumbashree members.

These programmes emphasized skill development in value addition techniques to enhance product diversification, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve income opportunities. Feedback received from Kudumbashree members indicated that the hands-on training was highly beneficial and would significantly support their livelihood security and additional income generation.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur organized off-campus training programmes to enhance farmers' knowledge on modern agricultural practices and crop-specific cultivation techniques. On 12.03.2026, an off-campus training programme on modern farming was conducted at Peringalam. The session was handled by the resource person Smt. Greena P.G, who delivered insights on improved and sustainable farming practices. Around 60 farmers actively participated in the programme.

Further, on 16.03.2026, another off-campus training on banana cultivation was organized at Panoor. The session was led by Smt. Greena P.G, Soil Scientist, KVK Kannur, who provided technical guidance on scientific banana cultivation practices, nutrient management, and crop care. Around 40 farmers participated in the programme.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur organized an off-campus training programme on 17.03.2026 at Vayattuparambu, focusing on coconut cultivation. The session was led by Dr. Saniga N.S, Agronomist, KVK Kannur, who provided valuable insights into improved cultivation practices, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and sustainable production techniques in coconut farming. Around 50 farmers actively participated in the programme. The training was highly informative and helped farmers enhance their knowledge and skills for improving coconut productivity and adopting scientific cultivation practices.

An off-campus training programme on 17.03.2026 at RATTIC, focusing on the "Introduction and Scope of Floriculture." The session was handled by Dr. Meera Manjusha A.V, Programme Coordinator, who provided valuable insights into the potential of floriculture as an emerging enterprise, including cultivation practices, market opportunities, and income generation prospects. Around 50 farmers actively participated in the programme. The training was informative and motivated farmers to explore floriculture as a viable option for diversification and enhanced livelihood opportunities.

An off-campus training programme on 26.03.2026 at Chanthapura, Kadanapally focusing on "Vegetable

Production under Changing Climate Scenario." The session was led by Dr. Meera Manjusha A.V, Programme Coordinator, KVK Kannur, who provided valuable insights on climate-resilient vegetable cultivation practices, adaptive strategies, crop selection, and sustainable management techniques to cope with climate variability. Around 50 farmers actively participated in the programme. The training was highly informative and helped farmers understand practical approaches to maintain productivity and ensure sustainable vegetable production under changing climatic conditions.

An off-campus training programme on 28.03.2026 at Anjarakandi, focusing on "Vegetable Production under Changing Climate Scenario." The session was led by Dr. Meera Manjusha A.V, Programme Coordinator, KVK Kannur, who provided valuable insights on climate-resilient vegetable cultivation practices, adaptive strategies, crop planning, and sustainable management approaches to address climate variability. Around 50 farmers actively participated in the programme. The training was highly informative and enhanced farmers' knowledge on maintaining productivity and ensuring sustainable vegetable production under changing climatic conditions.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KASARAGOD

"Give and Gain": Women's Day Programme at KVK Kasaragod

An awareness programme for women was organized as part of the International Women's Day celebration under the theme "Give and Gain," emphasizing the importance of collective support, investment, and collaboration to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment. The programme witnessed the participation of around 45 women. Eight successful women entrepreneurs were invited to share their inspiring success stories, motivating aspiring women entrepreneurs present at the event. The entrepreneurs were also felicitated on the occasion in recognition of their achievements. The participants included ward members of Mogral Puthur Grama Panchayat and women representatives from SC and ST colonies of Madhur and Mogral Panchayats. A method demonstration on the preparation of low-cost supplementary nutrient mixtures, botanical pesticides, and stimulants for nutrition gardens was also conducted. Additionally, techniques for effective waste decomposition were demonstrated to promote sustainable household practices.



Second Phase Training on Natural Farming for Farmers under NMNF Organized by ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod

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

The training program was coordinated by Dr. Benjamin Mathew, Dr. Saritha Hegde, and Mr. Dinesh Kumar Yadav, Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) at ICAR-KVK Kasaragod. Dr. Surekha, Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI, Mr. Shivaprasad H.M. (Farmer Master Trainer-Kasaragod), Mr. Rahul Raveendran & Mr. Naveen Kumar Practicing Natural farmers from Kasaragod also served as resource persons. The training was tailored to 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, Ghanajeewamritha, and Jeevamritha, as well as eco-friendly pest management techniques. A total of 406 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-stimulant formulations and the use of various leaf decoctions for natural pest control.

The training was well-supported by the Assistant Director of Agriculture for each block, the Agricultural Officer of each concerned panchayat, ATMA staff and CRP's assigned 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 KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KODAGU

Capacity development programme on Oyster Mushroom Cultivation

One day Capacity development programme on Oyster Mushroom Cultivation was organised as part of the skill development for farmers /farm women in collaboration with Dept. of Agriculture, Kodagu under ATMA at ICAR- KVK, Kodagu on 13th March 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Dorai Raju, Assistant Director, Dept. of Agriculture, Virajpet Taluk. The session was also graced by the presence of Veerendra Kumar Kumar.K. V, SMS (Plant protection), Prabhakara.B, SMS (Horticulture) and Dr. Suresh S.C (SMS (Livestock). The session covered key topics on Oyster mushroom production techniques. The vibrant and enthusiastic group of farmers /farm women actively participated in the interactive session.

The training programme aimed to empower the farmers /farm women to explore new opportunities in mushroom cultivation. Notably, the training successfully motivated all the farmers /farm women to begin mushroom cultivation on a small scale at home, with the support of Ready-to-Fruit mushroom bags from KVK, marking the start of their entrepreneurial journey. The success of the event was made possible through the

contributions Veena, who conducted the technical session and programme assistance was provided by Mr. Benecio Fernandes, Programme Assistant. A total of 57 farmers /farm women was actively participated the programme.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KOLAR

Training programme on Good Agricultural practices in mango

ICAR-KVK Kolar, organized off campus training programme on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in mango in association with KSDH, KGF, at Kuradagur village, Kyasamballi Hobli, KGF Taluk on 03.03.2026. ICAR-KVK, Kolar Scientists Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (SS&AC) and Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T.B., Scientist(PP) covered scientific management practices including Integrated Disease Management (IDM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the role of mango special micronutrient sprays for improving flowering and fruit set, and efficient water management strategies during summer. SADH Smt. Shivakumari, AHO Mr. Chandrasekhar, around 45 farmers participated in the programme.



3 days Farmers Training Programme under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)

ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning Regional Centre, Hebbal, Bengaluru, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar, organized a three-day Farmers' Training Programme under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) from March 4 to 6, 2026, at ICAR-KVK, Kolar, on the theme "Sustainable Farming: The Way Forward". The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ramamurthy, Director, NBSS&LUP Regional Centre, Hebbal, presided over by Dr. Shivanand Hongal, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK Kolar, and graced by Dr. V. Nache Gowda, Former DR UHS Bagalkot, as Chief Guest. Dr. Srinivasan and Dr. Radhika, Senior Scientists from NBSS&LUP, along with Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (SS&AC), ICAR-KVK Kolar, delivered lectures on crop diversification, dryland horticulture, soil health management, scientific soil sampling techniques, and the importance of fodder crops in sustainable farming

systems 35 farmers participated in the programme, and critical agricultural inputs were distributed to promote sustainable farming practices.

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar under SCSP distributed vegetable seed kits to 35 SC farmers of Sonnenahalli and Dinne Hosahalli villages of Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, at KVK Kolar. The kits were distributed by Dr. Shivanand Hongal, Senior Scientist and Head, along with Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T.B. Scientist (PP) and Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (SS&AC) of KVK Kolar, to promote nutritional security and kitchen gardening among the beneficiaries.



Shiv Vriksh Mitra green initiative & Off Campus training programme under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)

On the occasion, under the "Shiv Vriksh Mitra" green initiative launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the scientists of ICAR-NBSS&LUP Regional Centre, Hebbal, Bengaluru, along with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar, organized a tree plantation activity at the Government Primary School in Sonnenahalli village on 03.05.2026. Around 45 farmers attended the event, and mango, guava, and lime grafts were planted to promote tree planting and encourage farmers to adopt eco-friendly and sustainable farming practices.

ICAR–National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning Regional Centre, Hebbal, Bengaluru, in collaboration with ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar, organized a training programme under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) at Sonnenahalli village of Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, on dryland horticulture on



03.05.2026. Dr. Anil Kumar S, Scientist (SS&AC), KVK Kolar, along with Dr. Lalitha and Dr. Radhika, Senior Scientists from NBSS&LUP, delivered lectures on soil health management and dryland horticulture. During the programme, about 1,200 grafts of mango, lime, and guava were distributed to 50 farmers to promote dryland horticulture in the region.



Technology Week Celebration of KVK, Kollam

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kollam successfully organized Technology Week 2026 from 23rd March to 27th March 2026 (5 Days) encompassing scientific interventions in different areas of agriculture covering various locations in Kollam district. The programme aimed at enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills in sustainable agriculture, livestock management, and modern farming practices through expert-led sessions and field-level interactions. The inaugural function of Technology Week 2026 was presided over by Dr. Bini Sam, Professor and Head, KVK Kollam. The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. Bindhu M R, Professor and Head, Farming System Research Station, Sadanandapuram. As part of the first day programme, a seminar on Scientific Management Practices of Spices was conducted for the spice growers of Kollam district and the session was handled by Dr. Saroj Kumar V, Assistant Professor (Horticulture). The session focused on improved cultivation practices, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and post-harvest handling of major spice crops, which was concluded with an interactive session on problems in spice cultivation. A total of 70 participants attended the programme.



The programme of second day was aimed to focus on creating awareness about the importance of organic farming in sustainable agriculture at Chengamanadu in association with Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council of Kerala. The session was handled by Dr. Lekha M, Assistant Professor (Entomology), who elaborated on the ecological and economic benefits of organic practices. During the programme a senior progressive farmer, Shri Sreedharan Nair, Kalasadanam, Chethadi was honored as a recognition for his contributions to organic farming.





On the third day, Dr. Saroj Kumar V, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) conducted a detailed session on organic cultivation practices in vegetable crops at Pathanapuram. The session covered soil health management, use of organic inputs, pest control measures, and practical field-level techniques to improve productivity sustainably.



The fourth day focused on poultry rearing and its management in homesteads. Dr. Parvathy S, Assistant Professor (Animal Husbandry) led the sessions, providing insights into managing heat stress in poultry and preventing common diseases. 22 farmers from Vettikavala block attended the programme. A practical training on the use of small-scale incubators for household-level hatching was also conducted. Beneficiaries were educated on selection criteria for eggs and proper incubation practices. As part of the programme, mineral supplements were distributed to farmers to help alleviate heat stress in poultry.



The final day featured a session on integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) in vegetable crops at Melila and was organised in association with Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare. The session was handled by Dr. Lekha M, Assistant Professor (Entomology). The session emphasized eco-friendly and cost-effective pest control strategies, including biological control methods and need-based chemical interventions. The technology week celebration served as a platform for technology dissemination, farmer-scientist interaction, display of technological products and experience sharing.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KOPPAL

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gangavathi, organized a field day on Safflower variety "A-2020" on 26.02.2026 in the field of Ramanagouda Bijjala, a farmer from Dotihal village, Kustagi (T). The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mallesha, scientists (Agronomy) and addressed the programme and said that the Front-line demonstration of "A-2020" Safflower variety released by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad had taken in Dotihal village, where it is reported that this variety is high yielding with high oil content and is suitable for northern dry zone of Karnataka. Currently, the yield of Safflower crop in the field is expected to be 6 to 7 quintals per acre. Safflower crop is a vital, drought-resistant oilseed crop, prized for its high-quality, heart-healthy edible oil (78% linoleic acid) and natural red dye (carthamin). It acts as an excellent rotational crop, improving soil structure and breaking pest cycles. It thrives in arid climates and offering a sustainable, profitable option for edible oils. Safflower requires fairly deep, moisture retentive and well drained soils. The crop is fairly tolerant to saline condition and grows well under residual moisture in paddy fallows. Explained the cultivation aspects of safflower.

Mohammad Nazirsab Mulimani, Chief Secretary of Karnataka Rajya Raita Sanga and Green Badge, who participated in the programme and spoke said that the area of the sunflower crop has decreased a lot in recent days and is on the verge of extinction. He informed that the frontline demonstration of this crop has inspired farmers with high yields. Only when farmers adopt new innovations in agriculture in their fields, can they make good use of research.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KOTTAYAM

From Training to Transformation: Natural Farming Gains Momentum in Kottayam

As part of the National Mission on Natural Farming, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kottayam, successfully conducted a series of focused training programmes across four blocks of the district during March 2026. These initiatives were designed to promote sustainable, eco-friendly, and chemical-free agricultural practices among farmers. The training programmes witnessed active participation from farmers across the district. In Vazhoor block, around 120 farmers benefitted from the sessions, while Erattupetta block recorded participation of 80 farmers. Similarly, 75 farmers were trained in Pala block and 85 in Kanjirappally block, reflecting a strong and growing interest in natural farming practices. The

sessions combined both theoretical insights and hands-on practical demonstrations. Farmers were trained in the preparation and application of key natural farming inputs and bio stimulants. Special emphasis was placed on soil health management, eco-friendly pest and disease control methods using indigenous knowledge, and crop diversification strategies to ensure resilience and sustainability.

These capacity-building efforts have already begun to show encouraging results. A significant number of trained farmers have initiated natural farming practices in their homesteads and agricultural fields. This transition is contributing to improved soil fertility, reduction in cultivation costs, and the production of safer, chemical-free food.



Further activities included a training on cut vegetables and minimal processing attended by 26 participants, a two-day training on value addition benefiting 16 farmers and a field visit with a class on mushroom value addition involving 27 participants. A three-day training programme on value addition and processing for 11 B.Sc. Home Science students from St. Joseph's College, Alappuzha was also conducted. Overall, these programmes emphasized skill development in value addition, processing techniques and entrepreneurship opportunities in agriculture. The initiatives contributed to enhancing the knowledge and capacity of farmers, students and stakeholders, thereby supporting income generation and sustainable agricultural practices in the region.



Capacity building training programme on value addition of agricultural crops

During March 2026, the Community Science unit of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kottayam organized a series of training programmes focusing on value addition and processing of agricultural products. A total of seven programmes were conducted during the month, targeting farmers, officials and students. The month featured a series of programmes focused on value addition and processing of agricultural crops. A farmer-scientist interaction that benefited 30 farmers, followed by training on banana value addition with 27 participants was organized.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA KOZHIKODE

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Peruvannamuzhi, Kozhikode organized a virtual viewing session for the release of the 22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme. During an event held in Assam, the Honorable Prime Minister released Rs 0.18 lakhs crores to about 9.32 crore farmers. The programme at KVK, was inaugurated by Smt Moly Thomas, President, Chakkitapara Grama Panchayat. She also distributed bioinputs like Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Ayar micro nutrient for banana, Jeevamirtham and Neem seedlings to about 50 SC beneficiaries. The programme was viewed by farmers from Chakkitapara, Perambra, Thodanur, Chengaruthu, Atholi, Naduvannur, and Atholi panchayat farmers.

The programme was presided over by Dr P Rathakrishnan, Head KVK. Dr. K.K Aiswarya, SMS Plant protection conducted awareness class on production and usage methods of bioinputs and Jeevamirtham to increase production of vegetables, banana and spices. In a separate programme at Chemencherry Panchayat Dr. K M Prakash SMS- agronomy apprised about the release function. A total of 126 persons including 78 male and 48 female attended the programmes.



Live streaming of PM programme at KV



Inauguration and input distribution by Smt. Moly Thomas, President, Chakkitapara Grama Panchayat

ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA LAKSHADWEEP

Special Planning Meetings and Field Visits for Coconut based Interventions by KVK and FPO-Kavaratti

The KVK organized a special programme on 16th February 2026 for release of a book titled "Coconut Enterprises in Lakshadweep: Status, Outlook and Strategic Framework" in Malayalam for the benefit of local farmers and stakeholders. The publication aims to provide practical insights into coconut-based enterprises and future development strategies suitable for the island ecosystem. The book is an outcome of the project on coconut enterprises funded by Coconut Development Board and operated by ICAR-CPCRI and KVK.

The programme was graced by Mr. Aditya Bhat, DANICS, Director, Department of Rural Development, UTLA as the Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of ICAR-CPCRI and KVK Lakshadweep in bringing out a region-specific publication in Malayalam so that farmers can easily understand the opportunities available in coconut-based enterprises. During the

event, Dr. C. Thamban, (Rtd. Principal Scientist), ICAR-CPCRI, presented the key highlights and project outcomes related to coconut enterprise development in Lakshadweep. He elaborated on the present status of coconut cultivation in the islands, the potential for diversified coconut-based enterprises, and the strategic framework required for strengthening the coconut economy in the region. He also encouraged farmers to adopt innovative technologies and enterprise models to increase income and employment opportunities. The book provides valuable information on coconut production, processing, value addition, and enterprise opportunities specifically designed for Lakshadweep conditions. It is expected to serve as a useful guide for farmers, entrepreneurs, and extension workers involved in coconut development. The programme witnessed the active participation of farmers from FPO, along with all the staff members of KVK Lakshadweep and officials from the Department of Agriculture, UTLA.

Prior to the book release Dr Thamban along with the team from KVK visited the demonstration units

established by KVK in the premises of FPO. The production units viz., vegetable nursery, agricultural input shop, soilless growing media and vermicompost production unit were visited and suggestions were provided for its improvement. Dr. Thamban appreciated the efforts of KVK and the FPO in developing these units. A meeting was organized with the FPO members towards developing strategies for strengthening coconut-based enterprises. Special emphasis was given to the production of quality coconut planting materials, identification of elite mother palms, and the development of nursery facilities for supplying improved planting materials to farmers across Lakshadweep. During the field visit, the team also interacted with coconut farmers and observed the incidence of bud rot disease in coconut palms. Dr. Thamban provided valuable technical guidance to farmers and suggested the application of Bordeaux paste for effective management of bud rot disease in coconut under island conditions.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and strengthening collaboration between KVK, farmers, and the FPO. Dr. P. N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK Lakshadweep and Dr. Ansul, SMS (Vegetable Science) accompanied Dr. Thamban during the field visits and discussions. The visit concluded with fruitful interactions and technical guidance that will help enhance coconut-based enterprises, improve disease management practices, and strengthen sustainable agricultural development in Lakshadweep.



Pre Project study to Extend Seaweed Farming at Kalpeni Islands

A field visit for the pre-project to extend seaweed farming in Kalpeni Island was conducted by KVK. The activity engaged local stakeholders to assess the potential for promoting native seaweed farming as a sustainable livelihood option within the island's unique ecosystem. This visit offered a critical platform for direct interaction with interested farmers, fishermen, and community members, facilitating discussions on the increasing significance of marine macroalgae cultivation and its viability in Kalpeni's pristine lagoon

waters. Given the island's fragile ecosystem, emphasis was placed exclusively on native seaweed species, which present a promising, ecologically sound pathway for livelihood diversification and consistent income generation among coastal communities.

During interactive sessions, Mr. Sagar Vitthal Shinde, Subject Matter Specialist (Fisheries), delivered targeted technical guidance on cultivation techniques tailored to Lakshadweep's conditions. Participants received detailed briefings on essential post-harvest handling, processing, and straightforward value-addition methods to substantially increase the market value of seaweed products.

The meeting successfully pinpointed essential interventions and support mechanisms to bolster these initiatives in Kalpeni, laying the groundwork for future frontline demonstrations and capacity-building programs. This landmark field engagement, a significant advancement in fostering community awareness and momentum for eco-friendly mariculture across Lakshadweep, was conducted under the guidance of Dr. P. N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head of KVK Lakshadweep, and with the invaluable support of Dr. Abdul Azeez P., Scientist at the ICAR-CMFRI Field Laboratory in Kavaratti.



Input Distribution for "One Terrace – One Crop" Initiative at Kavaratti by FPO and KVK

The KVK in collaboration with the Kavaratti Island Coconut Producer Cooperative Society (FPO), organized an input distribution program at ATI Hall, Kavaratti, under the "One Terrace – One Crop" initiative. This event targeted 50 interested FPO members to promote terrace vegetable cultivation and income generation through marketing organic local produce on Kavaratti Island.

Lakshadweep's limited cultivable land makes terrace gardening a sustainable solution for boosting vegetable production. The FPO proactively motivates households to use terrace spaces effectively. The "One Terrace – One Crop" concept assigns each family a specific vegetable for systematic cultivation, improving management, productivity, and marketing. Dr. Ansul, Subject Matter Specialist (Vegetable Science), KVK Lakshadweep, highlighted terrace gardening's role in nutritional security and reducing mainland imports. He provided guidance on crop selection, container cultivation, potting mixtures, nutrient management, and island-suited plant protection.

Essential inputs viz., quality vegetable seeds, grow bags, potting mixtures, and garden tool kits were distributed to beneficiaries, enabling scientific terrace cultivation as per KVK recommendations. FPO representatives noted the initiative's benefits: enhanced household production, FPO-led organic

vegetable marketing, additional family income, and promotion of safe, healthy local food. Implemented under the guidance of Dr. P. N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK Lakshadweep, the program ended with an interactive session on terrace farming's potential in Kavaratti. This FPO-KVK collaboration aims to fortify local vegetable production and sustainable agriculture in the island ecosystem.



ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, V.C. Farm, Mandya, organized a training programme in collaboration with the Staff Training Unit, Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore on "Boosting Agricultural Productivity and Livelihood of Scheduled Caste and Low-Income Farmers through Technology Support." The programme aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of farmers by promoting the adoption of improved agricultural technologies and sustainable practices for better productivity and income generation. The programme was graced by Dr. Narayana Reddy, Co-ordinator, STU, GKVK, Bangalore, emphasized the importance of technology-led inclusive agricultural development, and Dr. Narayanaswamy, Head, FTI, GKVK, Bangalore, highlighted the role of continuous capacity building and institutional support in strengthening farmers' livelihoods. Dr. Kamalabai Koodagi provided valuable guidance on location-specific agricultural practices and stressed the importance of bridging the gap between research and field application through KVK interventions. The programme was conducted by Dr. Suresh D. K and Dr. Mahesha H. M, KVK, V.C. Farm, Mandya, contributed to the effective organization and delivery of the training sessions. A total of 150 farmers

and farm women belong to ST from Malavalli taluk participated in the programme and benefited from technical sessions, demonstrations and interactive discussions. As part of the programme, agricultural inputs such as sprayers and secateurs were distributed to the participants to facilitate the adoption of improved practices. The programme was well received and significantly contributed to enhancing the technical knowledge, skills and livelihood opportunities of the participated farmers.



Training programme on Natural Farming

A three-day training for Biodiversity Entrepreneurs from Southern Karnataka was held by the Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Bengaluru, with support from the Department of Agriculture, Mysuru, and ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Suttur, on 03.03.2026 under the National Mission on Natural Farming. The focus was on the role of Block Resource Centres (BRCs) in promoting and facilitating natural farming among farmers. Speakers emphasized improving tool quality and ensuring access to information and resources.

Dr. B.N. Gnanesh, Senior Scientist and Head of ICAR-JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, emphasized the importance of BRCs maintaining high-quality natural farming tools. With over 7,000 BRCs nationwide and growing farmer interest in natural farming, he advised that BRCs stay well-informed to support farmers. Dr. Ravi, Joint Director of Agriculture, Dept. of Agriculture, Mysuru presided over the programme. Around 25 bio-resource entrepreneurs from various districts participated.



Celebration of World Women's Day

International Women's Day was commemorated on 08 March 2026 by TVS Srinivasan Service Trust, Kadakola, Nanjangud Taluk, in collaboration with ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Suttur. The event, themed "Give to Profit," emphasized the importance of promoting generosity, collaboration, and positive support for women, as well as providing resources and enhancing women's visibility to advance gender equality.

Mrs. H.V. Divya Subject Matter Specialist (Seed Technology) participated, highlighting that society should offer respect, funding, knowledge, and a platform for women's voices. The celebration witnessed participation from over 500 women.



Training programme on Improved Ginger Cultivation

On March 16, 2026, a training program on Improved Ginger Cultivation Methods was held at the Extension Education Unit of the Research Centre for Organic Farming in Naganahalli, Mysuru Taluk. The event was inaugurated by retired Dean Dr. Rajagopal.

Dr. GM Vinay, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) from ICAR JSSKVK, Suttur, gave a lecture on scientific techniques for ginger cultivation. Another Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) Dr. Y.P. Prasad spoke about pest management. Dr. Shivakumar, Scientist at Extension Education Unit of the Research Centre for Organic Farming in Naganahalli, Mysuru Taluk along with Dr. Pushpa, presented on organic integrated pest and disease management. Over 50 farmers attended the program.



Workshop on Agro-Forestry

The Karnataka Forest Department, Mysuru, together with ICAR-JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Suttur, held a three-day Agro Forestry Workshop from March 23 to March 25, 2026 at the ICAR-JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Suttur. The event was chaired by the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle. Dr. S.S. Ravishankar, IFS, formally opened the workshop, emphasizing the significance of forest-based agriculture, conservation, and forest farming as sustainable practices. He discussed the contributions of forest officials and farmers.

Guest speaker Dr. B.N. Gnanesh, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR JSSKVK, Suttur addressed the audience, offering insights about local crops within Mysuru district's geographical context and expressing concern about ongoing conflicts between humans and wildlife. He highlighted the effects of global temperature changes and advocated for organic farming. Paramesh spoke on agroforestry, stressing its

role in environmental protection and the advantages of forest farming.

Presiding over the programme, Deputy Conservator of Forests Sri. Shankaragowda outlined the objectives, introduced new agricultural technologies, and discussed ways to add value. The workshop saw participation from more than 50 farmers.



Exposure Visits on Lemongrass Cultivation, Essential Oil Extraction, and Jaggery Processing for Tribal Farmers

An exposure visit for tribal farmers from Attappady was organized on 9 March 2026 under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programme, covering both the lemongrass cultivation and essential oil extraction unit at Kothamangalam as well as the Alangad Jaggery Processing Unit at Alangad Cooperative Bank. The programme was jointly led by Dr. Israel Thomas M., Programme Coordinator, KVK Palakkad, and Dr. Puthira Pratap, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, along with KVK scientists Dr. Lakshmy P. S., Dr. Jiji Allen J., and Dr. Smijisha A. S. The lemongrass unit, facilitated by ICAR-KVK Enakulam under the SCSP programme, served as a model for aromatic crop cultivation and value addition, where farmers were trained in cultivation practices, field management, harvesting, post-harvest handling, and steam distillation for essential oil extraction. At Alangad, the jaggery processing unit established with the support of ICAR-KVK Enakulam demonstrated the revival of sugarcane cultivation and value addition, where farmers observed various stages of processing, jaggery preparation, and marketing practices. The visits provided valuable insights into processing technologies, value addition, and market opportunities, enhancing the practical knowledge of farmers while enabling KVK Palakkad to explore the replication of such successful models for livelihood improvement in the Attappady region.

Author - **Dr. Lakshmy P.S.**, Assistant Professor (Home science)



Three-Day Capacity Building Programme on Importance and Value Addition of Millets

A three-day capacity building programme on the "Importance of Millets and Value Added Products from Millets" was successfully conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Palakkad from 16.03.2026 to 18.03.2026 with the participation of 33 trainees, including farmers and rural youth. The programme aimed to create awareness on the nutritional benefits of millets and to promote value addition for income generation. The training comprised both theoretical and hands-on sessions. Theoretical sessions covered the importance of millets in daily diets, their health benefits, and opportunities in millet-based enterprises. Hands-on practical sessions were conducted on the preparation of baked millet products and shelf-stable value-added items, providing participants with practical skills in processing and preservation. In addition, sessions on FSSAI regulations, marketing strategies, and branding were organized to equip participants with knowledge on food safety standards and business development. The programme concluded with a valedictory session on 18.03.2026, during which certificates were distributed to all participants. Overall, the programme enhanced the knowledge and skills of the participants in millet value addition and entrepreneurship.

Author - **Dr. Lakshmy P.S, Assistant Professor (Home science)**



Coconut Climbing Training Programme for SC Farmers and Rural Youth under SCSP Scheme

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Palakkad organized a coconut climbing training programme for Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers and rural youth under the SCSP scheme with the objective of promoting safe and efficient harvesting practices using modern climbing devices. The programme included both theoretical and practical sessions, covering the importance of timely harvesting, improved plantation management, and safety measures while working at heights. Participants were trained on the proper use and maintenance of climbing devices, enabling them to adopt scientific and safe harvesting techniques. Hands-on training provided participants with practical experience in climbing coconut trees, harvesting nuts, and handling equipment under expert supervision. The programme also highlighted opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship in coconut harvesting services, helping to address the shortage of skilled climbers. Overall, the training enhanced the confidence, technical skills, and livelihood opportunities of SC farmers and rural youth.

Author - **Dr. Smijisha A.S, Assistant Professor, Animal science)**



Promoting Natural Farming through Training in Palakkad District

The second phase of one-day trainings under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) was conducted across 18 clusters in Palakkad district by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Palakkad. The trainings were conducted in Palakkad and Malampuzha (1 cluster each on 04/03/2026), Mannarkkad (1 cluster on 05/03/2026), and in Agali, Pudur, and Sholayur (5 clusters each on 12/03/2026). The programme focused on promoting sustainable agricultural practices through practical sessions. Farmers were trained in the preparation and use of natural farming inputs such as Beejamrutham, Jeevamrutham, Agniyashtra, and



Brahmastra. Participants were also given detailed guidance on their application and benefits in sustainable agriculture. A total of 2,250 farmers participated in the programme, with 125 selected farmers from each cluster, all expressing interest in adopting natural farming practices.

Author - **Anju K Baby, Assistant Professor (Agronomy)**



Workshop on wild boar conflict mitigation at KVK Pathanamthitta

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CARD, Pathanamthitta organized a two-day district-level workshop on "Wild Boar Conflict Mitigation" on 24-25 February 2026 with the support of NABARD. The programme brought together scientists, officials from the Agriculture and Forest Departments, local self-government representatives and farmers to address the increasing incidence of crop damage caused by wild boar in forest fringe areas. Wild boar incursions have emerged as a serious threat to agriculture in the district, affecting crops such as paddy, banana, tubers and vegetables, leading to considerable economic losses for farmers. The workshop served as a platform to understand the extent of the problem and to identify scientific, technological and institutional solutions for effective mitigation.

The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Shirley Zacharia, Principal Agricultural Officer, Pathanamthitta and presided over by Rev. Shibu Samuel, Director, CARD. Dr. C. P. Robert, Senior Scientist and Head, welcomed the gathering and emphasized the need for coordinated and integrated approaches. The workshop was convened by Dr. Sindhu Sadanandan, SMS (Agricultural Extension). Experts from multiple

departments participated as resource persons, including the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Forest Department, ICAR-KVKs, Agricultural Engineering Dept., NABARD, crop insurance agencies and Local Self Government Institutions, reflecting strong institutional convergence. Technical sessions focused on crop damage assessment, legal provisions, engineering solutions and farmer-level interventions. Technologies such as solar electric fencing, bio-repellents and sensor-based monitoring systems were highlighted as effective mitigation measures. Emphasis was also given to community-based strategies including cluster fencing and Panchayat-level coordination.

An exhibition of crop protection technologies and innovative solutions for wildlife mitigation was organized as part of the workshop. The exhibition showcased solar fencing systems, bio-repellent technologies and monitoring tools, providing an opportunity for farmers and stakeholders to interact with experts and gain practical insights into field-level applications. The workshop concluded with key recommendations on strengthening institutional convergence, promoting preventive infrastructure and improving compensation mechanisms, thereby paving the way for sustainable management of human-wildlife conflict and enhancing farmer resilience.



Skill upgradation training on nutri-product production for kudumbashree members

ICAR-KVK Pathanamthitta organized a skill upgradation training programme on the production of nutri-products in coordination with Kudumbashree Mission, Pathanamthitta, from 11th to 19th March 2026. The programme aimed at strengthening the technical and entrepreneurial skills of Kudumbashree Nutrimix unit members in the district. A total of 34 participants from 8 Kudumbashree Nutrimix units actively participated in the four-days training programme. The sessions focused on the preparation of nutritionally enriched value-added products with emphasis on quality control, hygiene, standardization and improved packaging and marketing practices. Hands-on training provided practical exposure to the participants, enhancing their capacity in nutri-product development and enterprise management. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Shana Harshan, SMS (Home Science), ICAR-KVK Pathanamthitta. The training is expected to enhance the functioning of nutrimix units and promote sustainable income generation while contributing to nutritional security.



Showcasing value addition and agri-entrepreneurship at VAIGA 2026

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta participated in VAIGA 2026 (Value Addition for Income Generation in Agriculture), held from 11th to 16th February 2026 at Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram. The programme was organized by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala, with the objective of promoting value addition and enhancing farmers' income. KVK Pathanamthitta set up an exhibition stall showcasing a wide range of value-added products developed at the KVK as well as products from entrepreneurs nurtured under its various programmes, including ARYA. The stall attracted significant attention from farmers, officials and visitors, highlighting the potential of value addition in improving farm profitability. Live demonstrations and interactive sessions were also conducted, enabling better understanding of processing techniques and enterprise opportunities. The exhibition served as an effective platform for technology dissemination, market linkage promotion and showcasing successful agri-entrepreneurship models supported by KVK Pathanamthitta.



Management development programme (MDP) for strengthening KVK leadership

The XI Management Development Programme (MDP) for Newly Recruited Senior Scientists & Heads of KVKs was organized by ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad from 2nd to 28th February 2026 in three phases. The Second phase (19–28 February 2026) was conducted at identified best KVKs. As part of Phase II, six participants were attached to ICAR-KVK, CARD, Pathanamthitta, where a structured schedule was implemented covering key functional domains of KVKs. The programme included sessions on office administration and management, conduct of training programmes, planning and execution of Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and On Farm Trials (OFTs), production of quality planting materials, and organization of extension activities such as field days, exhibitions and farmer interactions. Special emphasis was given to data management, impact evaluation, documentation and reporting of KVK activities.

The programme was attended by Senior Scientists from different KVKs across ATARI Pune and ATARI Jodhpur. The participants included Dr. Amol S. Zape (KVK Buldhana-II, Maharashtra), Dr. Dipak Balasaheb Kachave (KVK Yavatmal-I, Maharashtra), Dr. Kishor Kishanrao Zade (KVK Gadchiroli, Maharashtra), Dr. Mahesh Choudhary (KVK Bundi, Rajasthan), Dr. Babu Lal Yadav (KVK Chomu, Rajasthan), and Dr. Neeraj Hada (KVK Kota, Rajasthan). The programme also incorporated field visits to FLD and OFT sites, enabling direct interaction with farmers and stakeholders. Sessions on convergence and linkages highlighted coordination with agencies like ATMA, research

institutions and other stakeholders for enhancing outreach. Participants were also oriented on planning KVK activities based on thrust areas and preparation of periodical reports. As part of experiential learning, the participants visited ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram and ICAR-KVK, Kottayam, gaining insights into research-extension linkages and best practices in technology dissemination.



Field Day on Sunflower Hybrid RSFH-700 under NMEO-OS CFLD at Gabbur Village, Raichur

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Raichur organized a Field Day on sunflower hybrid RSFH-700 at Gabbur village on 13th March 2026. The programme was conducted under the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–OS) as part of the Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) to promote improved oilseed technologies among farmers.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Dr. A.R. Kurubar, Director of Extension, UAS, Raichur. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the importance of adopting improved hybrids like RSFH-700 to enhance productivity and achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil production. He also highlighted the role of frontline demonstrations in bridging the gap between research and farmers' fields. Dr. Arunkumar Hosamani, Special Officer (Seed), elaborated on the significance of quality seed in achieving higher yields and stressed the need for timely availability of certified seeds. Dr. Vikas Kulkarni,

Head, AICRP on Sunflower, provided technical insights into the hybrid RSFH-700, explaining its yield potential, adaptability to local agro-climatic conditions, and tolerance to major pests and diseases. Sri Nayeem Hussain, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), Raichur, encouraged farmers to adopt recommended agronomic and plant protection practices to maximize returns. Dr. Timmanna, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Raichur, briefed the participants about the objectives of the CFLD programme and the activities carried out by KVK in the district for the benefit of farming communities.

Technical sessions were conducted by Dr. Shreevani G.N., Scientist (Entomology), who provided detailed guidance on the management of major insect pests of sunflower, including head borer, sucking pests, and defoliators, emphasizing integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Dr. Mallareddy, Scientist (Agronomy), explained about the improved cultivation practices such as optimum sowing time, spacing, nutrient management, and water management for achieving higher productivity. Smt. Rekha, Agricultural

Officer, Gabbur, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the support provided by the Department of Agriculture. As part of the programme, a progressive farmer, Sri Shivaji Kallur, was honoured on behalf of UAS, Raichur, in recognition of his successful adoption of improved sunflower cultivation practices and his role in motivating other farmers. The field visit to the demonstration plots was a key highlight of the event, where farmers observed the performance of RSFH-700 hybrid under field conditions. Scientists explained various crop stages, pest and disease management practices, and expected yield advantages over local varieties. Around 80 farmers from Gabbur and nearby villages actively participated in the programme. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the performance of the RSFH-700 hybrid, particularly appreciating its uniform growth, vigour, and yield potential. The interactive session enabled farmers to clarify their doubts and gain practical knowledge directly from scientists and extension personnel. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the commitment of ICAR-KVK, Raichur, and UAS, Raichur, towards strengthening farmer-scientist linkages and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the region.



Field Day on Groundnut under NMEO-OS CFLD at B.R. Gunda Village, Raichur

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Raichur, under the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, successfully organized a Field Day on Groundnut on 14th March 2026 at B.R. Gunda village under the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO-OS) as part of the Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) programme. The programme was conducted with the objective of demonstrating improved production technologies and scientific crop management practices to enhance groundnut productivity and farmers' income in the region. During the programme, scientists interacted extensively with farmers and explained various improved technologies including high-yielding varieties, nutrient management, pest and disease management, and recommended agronomic practices suitable for the Raichur agro-climatic conditions.

Dr. Mallareddy, Scientist (Agronomy), delivered a technical talk focusing on improved agronomic practices in groundnut cultivation. He emphasized the importance of timely sowing, optimum spacing, balanced nutrient management, and efficient water management for achieving higher yields. He also highlighted the role of soil health management and the adoption of recommended packages of practices to improve productivity under rainfed conditions. Dr. Shreevani G.N., Scientist (Entomology), provided detailed guidance on the management of major insect pests affecting groundnut. She explained the identification and management of key pests such as leaf miner, tobacco caterpillar (*Spodoptera litura*), thrips, and jassids. She stressed the importance of adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, including the use of pheromone traps, biological control agents, and need-based application of insecticides to reduce pest incidence while ensuring environmental safety.

The programme included a field visit to the groundnut demonstration plots, where farmers observed the performance of improved technologies under field conditions. Scientists explained various crop stages, pest and disease symptoms, and appropriate management practices directly in the field. Major activities of the field day included field visits to demonstration plots, interactive discussions between scientists and farmers, demonstration of improved crop management practices, awareness creation on pest and disease management, and experience sharing by farmers. More than 30 farmers from B.R. Gunda village and surrounding areas actively participated in the programme. The farmers showed keen interest in the demonstrated technologies and appreciated the practical guidance provided by the scientists. They expressed their willingness to adopt improved practices for enhancing groundnut productivity. The programme concluded with an interactive session where farmers clarified their doubts and shared feedback. The initiative strengthened the linkage between scientists and farmers and promoted the adoption of improved technologies in groundnut cultivation in the region.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA RAMANAGARA

ICAR-KVK Ramanagara celebrated Womens day

ICAR- KVK Ramanagara celebrated Women's Day on the theme "Give to Gain", highlighting the importance of sharing knowledge, skills, and support among women to create stronger and more self-reliant communities. The programme was inaugurated by lightening the lamp and pouring water to plant. Senior scientist and head Dr. Swetha, B.S. highlighted the importance of empowering rural women through continuous skill development and knowledge sharing. She emphasized that women play a crucial role in agriculture and allied sectors, and strengthening their skills directly contributes to improving family income, nutrition, and overall rural development. In her address, she spoke about how training programmes conducted at KVK are designed to build practical competencies such as value addition in agricultural produce, improved farming techniques, entrepreneurship development, and better market linkage awareness. She also encouraged women to actively participate in such initiatives, make use of the scientific guidance provided, and transform their skills into sustainable livelihood opportunities. Dr. Anitha S., Scientist (Home Science) said that women's health depends greatly on maintaining proper hygiene and following a balanced diet. She emphasizes that good personal hygiene, including regular bathing, clean clothing, and safe menstrual practices, helps prevent infections and ensures overall well-being. Along with hygiene, a nutritious and balanced diet rich in iron, calcium, proteins, and vitamins is essential for maintaining energy levels, supporting hormonal balance, and preventing health issues like anemia. She also highlights the importance of regular exercise, adequate rest, and a healthy lifestyle in promoting long-term health. Dr. Deepa Pujar, Scientist (Horticulture) highlighted the unique strengths and skills that women bring to horticulture, especially in crop handling. She emphasized that women often possess a high level of patience, attention to detail, and care, which are essential in activities like planting, pruning, harvesting, grading, and post-harvest management. Their ability to handle delicate crops with precision helps in reducing damage and improving quality. She also pointed out that women are skilled in nursery management, seed selection, and maintaining crop health through careful observation. Overall, she stressed that empowering women with training and resources in horticulture can significantly enhance productivity, sustainability, and income generation in the agricultural sector. Dr. Sowjanya, S., Scientist (Agricultural Extension) highlighted the significant importance of celebrating International Women's Day, as it recognizes the achievements, contributions, and strength of women in all areas of life while also raising awareness about gender equality and women's rights, she also explains that when individuals and society give respect, support,

education, and equal opportunities to women, they gain a stronger, healthier, and more progressive community. By investing in women's well-being and empowerment, families and societies benefit through improved health, economic growth, and social harmony. This theme highlights the idea that empowering women is not just beneficial for individuals but is essential for overall development and a better future. On this special occasion exhibition was also organized, more than 100 women participated and were benefitted.



ICAR-KVK Ramanagara organized training programme on boosting agricultural productivity and livelihood of ST farmers under TSP

ICAR-KVK Ramanagara in collaboration with Staff Training Unit, GVK Bangalore organized a training programme on "Boosting agricultural productivity and livelihood of ST and low-income farmers through technology support – training cum distribution of small agricultural equipment" under TSP. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. During this, Dr. C. Narayan Reddy, Professor (Sericulture) & State Nodal Officer (DAESI), emphasized the importance of adopting improved agricultural technologies and scientific practices to enhance productivity and income among farmers. He encouraged farmers to

effectively utilize the distributed equipment and training support for sustainable development. Dr. C. Narayanaswamy, Chief Instructor and Head, FTI, GKVK Bangalore, stated that capacity building through hands-on training plays a vital role in empowering farmers, especially those from tribal and low-income groups. He highlighted that skill-oriented programmes help farmers become self-reliant and improve their livelihoods. Dr. Swetha B S, Senior Scientist and Head, mentioned that KVK is continuously working towards the welfare of farmers by organizing need-based training programmes and providing technological support. She added that such initiatives under TSP are aimed at bridging the gap between research and field-level application, thereby ensuring better adoption of improved practices among farmers. During the programme, scientists of KVK including Dr. Anitha S, Dr. Preethu D C, Dr. Deepa Pujar, Dr. Tarini K B, and Dr. Sowjanya S delivered technical sessions on various aspects of agriculture and allied activities. On this special training programme, around 280 ST farmers participated, and essential inputs such as sprayers and secateurs were distributed to support their farming activities and enhance productivity.



ICAR-KVK Ramanagara organized Millets awareness programme and inputs distribution

A one-day training programme on "Millets Awareness and Input Distribution" was successfully organized by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramanagara sponsored by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad. The programme aimed to promote millet cultivation, enhance farmers' knowledge, and encourage sustainable agricultural practices. The programme was inaugurated with a symbolic gesture of pouring water onto plants, emphasizing the importance of nurturing agriculture and nature. Swetha, B.S., Senior Scientist and Head, addressed the gathering and highlighted the significance of millet-based farming systems in ensuring sustainability, climate resilience, and

nutritional security. Dr. Ambika, Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology), College of Horticulture (CoH), Bagalkot, delivered an informative session on plant protection measures, focusing on effective pest and disease management practices in millet crops. Dr. Itagi Prabhakar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension) CoH, Bagalkot, spoke on entrepreneurship opportunities in millet cultivation and value addition, motivating participants to explore agribusiness ventures. Dr. Anitha, Scientist (Home Science), elaborated on the nutritional importance of millets and their role in improving health and addressing malnutrition. Dr. Pramod G., Scientist (Agronomy) presented improved production technologies of ragi and other millets, sharing modern cultivation techniques to enhance productivity and yield. Dr. Sowjanya, S., Scientist (Agricultural Extension), explained organic farming practices and certification procedures, guiding farmers on adopting eco-friendly methods and accessing organic markets. The programme witnessed active participation from 50 attendees, who greatly benefited from the expert lectures and interactive discussions. As part of the programme, essential agricultural inputs such as Ragi (KMR-316) seeds, field bean HA-5 seeds, biofertilizers (Trichoderma, pseudomonas, MC, Rhizobium, Azospirillum, PSB), baskets, training kits, and technical extension bulletin on "Siridhanyagala belegalali nuthana uthpadana thanthrikathegalu, samskarane mathu moulyavardhane" were distributed to the participants to support practical implementation of the knowledge gained. Overall, the training programme served as an effective platform for knowledge dissemination, skill enhancement, and promotion of millet-based sustainable agriculture.



Skill development training on "Grafting Techniques in Horticulture crops" under ARYA project

A three-days skill training programme on "Grafting Techniques in Horticultural Crops" was successfully conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shivamogga under Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) project from 2nd March to 4th March, 2026 for rural youth. The programme was inaugurated by Associate Director of Extension, Dr. B. C. Hanumanthaswamy and addressed the participants regarding the importance of propagation and grafting in horticulture crops. During the training, participants were oriented on various aspects of nursery management such as selection of quality planting material, preparation of nursery beds, media preparation, sowing techniques, propagation methods, polyhouse nursery techniques, maintenance of healthy seedlings and raising rootstock. Practical demonstrations were also conducted on raising seedlings in protrays, grafting and budding techniques and nursery management practices. A total of 30 youth participants attended the programme and actively participated in both theoretical and practical sessions.

The resource persons emphasized the importance of nursery enterprises as a profitable self-employment opportunity for rural youth, which can contribute to income generation and entrepreneurship development in horticulture. The participants expressed keen interest in adopting nursery raising as an enterprise and appreciated the practical exposure provided during the training. The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants clarified their doubts and shared their feedback on the training. Dr. Rekha B, Scientist (Horticulture) effectively organized and hosted the programme. The training programme was successfully completed with the active participation of rural youth and the guidance of the scientists of KVK. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and Senior Scientist and Head Dr. C. Sunil distributed the certificates to Participants during Valedictory Programme. All scientists and staff of Krishi Vigyan Kendra were graced the programme.



Annual Review and Action Plan Meeting of Karnataka KVKs

The Annual Review and Action Plan (ARAP) Meeting of Karnataka Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) was successfully conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shivamogga from 25th to 27th February, 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. B. Hemla Naik, Director of Education, KSNUAHS, Shivamogga. During the programme, Director of Extension from different Universities viz., Dr. A R Kurubar, DE, UAS, Raichur, Dr. Y N Shivalingaiah, DE, UAS, Bengaluru, Dr. Venkateshalu, DE, UHS, Bagalkot, Dr. C Ramachandra, DE, UAS, Mandya, Dr. M V Manjunatha, DE, UAS, Dharwad and Dr. G. K. Girijesh, KSNUAHS, Shivamogga and Principal Scientists from ATARI, Bengaluru viz., Dr. M. J. Chandregouda, Dr. Thimmappa K., and Dr. D. Kolekar were present in the inaugural programme. During the inaugural session, the importance of technology dissemination, farmer-centric extension activities and convergence with line departments was emphasized.

The technical sessions focused on the review of ongoing extension programmes, frontline demonstrations, on-farm testing, training programmes and other mandated activities of KVKs. Detailed presentations were made by the participating KVKs highlighting their achievements, innovations and future strategies. Special emphasis was laid on climate-resilient agriculture, natural farming, millets promotion, digital extension and entrepreneurship development among rural youth and farm women. Based on the deliberations, the action plan for the year 2026–27 was finalized with specific targets for trainings, demonstrations, capacity building programmes and collaborative activities with stakeholders. The meeting concluded with the valedictory remarks by the Directors of Extension of Agricultural Universities and the programme was chaired by Dr. V. Venkata subramanian, Director, ATARI, Bengaluru highlighted the significant role of KVKs in effective technology transfer and strengthening agricultural extension services. He emphasized the need for location-specific, demand-driven interventions, promotion of climate-resilient practices and greater use of digital tools for wider outreach. He also appreciated the innovative efforts of KVKs and called for enhanced convergence with line departments to improve farmers' income and livelihood security.



Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026): Insights and Outcomes

The Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026), themed "Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights," was held from 12th to 14th March 2026 at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, ICAR Convention Centre, NASC Complex, Pusa Campus, New Delhi, India. The conference served as an international platform to highlight the critical role of women in agriculture and agri-food systems, bringing together global experts, policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and women farmers to deliberate on key issues and opportunities. The programme was jointly organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority. The conference witnessed the participation of around 500 delegates from India and abroad, including researchers, policymakers, representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, industry personnel, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and students.

Dr. Devika I, Subject Matter Specialist in Home Science, and Er. Chithra G, Subject Matter Specialist in Agricultural Engineering, attended the three-day residential conference and actively contributed to the technical sessions. The inaugural session was graced by Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India, who inaugurated the conference with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The welcome address was delivered by Renu Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Conference Chair. A special address was delivered by Agnes Kalibata, Founder and Chair of Connect4Impact Advisory Group, followed by the address of the Chief Patron, R S Paroda, Chairman of TAAS. A book and conference souvenir were released by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and the session concluded with the address by the Hon'ble President of India.

The conference comprised multiple technical

sessions focusing on themes such as women empowerment in agri-food systems, gender-inclusive technologies, entrepreneurship through value addition, sustainable agricultural development, and policy support mechanisms. The sessions facilitated extensive discussions and exchange of ideas among participants from diverse backgrounds. The second day sessions were coordinated by Rajbir Singh, Conference Co-Chair and Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, ensuring smooth conduct and thematic continuity.

During the conference, Dr. Devika I presented a poster titled "Entrepreneurship Programme through Value Addition" under the session on Interface with Global Women Trailblazers, highlighting the importance of value addition in promoting women-led enterprises. Er. Chithra G delivered an oral presentation titled "Gender-Friendly Technologies for Drudgery Reduction in Banana and Cassava Farming," which emphasized the development and adoption of technologies aimed at reducing physical strain and improving efficiency for women farmers. Her presentation was well appreciated and received the Best Oral Presentation Award, recognizing its relevance and impact in the field of gender-responsive agricultural engineering.

The valedictory session featured the address by Annpurna Devi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Women and Child Development, who highlighted the importance of empowering women in agriculture for inclusive growth and national development. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Rishi Tyagi, Conference Convener, TAAS.

Overall, the conference provided valuable insights into the transformative role of women in agri-food systems at both national and global levels. It facilitated knowledge sharing, networking, and exposure to innovative technologies, entrepreneurial opportunities, and policy frameworks aimed at strengthening women's participation in agriculture. The deliberations emphasized the need for gender-sensitive approaches, technological interventions, and capacity-building initiatives to achieve sustainable agricultural development. Participation in GCWAS-2026 proved to be highly informative and beneficial, enhancing professional knowledge and offering a broader perspective on women empowerment in agriculture and allied sectors.



Training on Natural Farming

ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Mitraniyketan, Thiruvananthapuram organized a series of institutional training programmes on natural farming during 2025 under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) in collaboration with ATMA Thiruvananthapuram and the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Kerala. The programme was conducted across five blocks of Thiruvananthapuram district namely Nedumangad, Kattakada, Varkala, Pulimath and Aryancode, with the active participation of 634 farmers.

The training aimed at promoting natural farming practices as a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to conventional agriculture. It focused on reducing the cost of cultivation, eliminating dependency on chemical fertilizers, and improving soil health through eco-friendly methods. The inaugural session was led by Er. Chithra G, Senior Scientist and Head (i/c), who assured continued institutional support

to enhance farmers' capacity through technical guidance and the establishment of model demonstration plots. She also emphasized the importance of adopting natural farming for long-term environmental sustainability and improved farm productivity.

The programme was coordinated by Smt. Jyothi Rachel Varghese, SMS (Agronomy), who handled the technical sessions on various aspects of natural farming. The training included detailed explanations on the preparation and use of bio-formulations using locally available materials, enabling farmers to reduce external input costs. Practical demonstrations and hands-on training were also conducted to ensure that participants gained firsthand experience in preparing and applying these inputs in their fields.

Farmers showed keen interest and actively engaged in the sessions conducted at different locations. The programme significantly enhanced their awareness and skills in natural farming practices, encouraging them to adopt sustainable agricultural methods. Overall, the initiative contributed to strengthening the farming community's capacity to move towards environmentally friendly and economically viable agriculture in the district.



KVK Thrissur and DE KAU Thrissur Organized Annual Review and Action Plan Meeting (2025–27)

KVK Thrissur, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University organized the Annual Review (2025–26) and Annual Action Plan

(2026–27) Meeting of KVKs of Kerala and Lakshadweep from 5–6 March 2026 at the General Council Hall, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ATARI, Bengaluru and presided over by Dr. Binoo P. Bonny, Director of Extension, KAU. Dr. P. Govindharaj, Director of the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, delivered the special address, highlighting

key advancements and future directions in agricultural research and extension. Heads and scientists from 15 KVKs participated in the meeting, reviewing the progress and achievements of the previous year and formulating strategic action plans for the coming year. During the event everyone Participated in “Plant a Tree Every Day” pledge and actively contributed to tree planting and environmental conservation initiatives.



Internship Programme for College students

ICAR KVK Thrissur organized a 10-day internship programme for students pursuing B.Sc. Botany from Sreekrishna College, Guruvayur, with the active participation of 20 students. The programme was designed to enhance their practical knowledge and skills in agriculture and allied sectors through a combination of lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on training sessions. Students were introduced to various aspects of modern and traditional farming practices, including plant propagation techniques such as budding and grafting, scientific nursery management, seed selection and sorting methods, and post-harvest processing to reduce losses and improve quality. In addition, they gained exposure to livestock management practices, providing a holistic understanding of integrated farming systems. The internship also aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world applications, empowering students with technical competence, confidence, and awareness of career opportunities in agriculture and related fields.



Training and Input Distribution under TSP

As part of the Tribal Sub Plan activities of ICAR KVK Thrissur, vegetable seeds, agricultural implements, and elephant repellent measures were distributed to tribal farmers of Olakara and Maniyankinar Tribal Unnathi on 19/03/2026. The programme aimed to strengthen sustainable agriculture practices while addressing the challenges faced by tribal communities, particularly

crop damage caused by wild elephants. Along with the distribution of inputs, a comprehensive training programme on scientific vegetable cultivation was



conducted, covering key aspects such as seed selection, land preparation, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and efficient water use.



Live Telecast of Post-Budget Webinar Conducted at ICAR-KVK, Tiptur, Tumakuru-1

The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tiptur, Tumakuru-1 organized a live telecast of the Post-Budget Webinar on 6th March 2026 in association with the Department of Agriculture, Tiptur to create awareness among farmers and other stakeholders about the key agricultural announcement and policy provisions of the Union Budget 2026. A total of 150 participants, including farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension personnel, attended the programme and actively engaged in the session. The live telecast provided an opportunity for participants to gain direct insights from experts on various aspects such as new agricultural policies, budget allocations, farmer welfare schemes, subsidies, credit support mechanisms, and initiatives

related to sustainable and digital agriculture as well as agri-infrastructure development. The Scientists and staff of the KVK facilitated the programme and clarified queries raised by the participants to ensure better understanding of the subject matter. The programme significantly enhanced awareness regarding government schemes and financial opportunities, thereby helping farmers make informed decisions to improve their agricultural productivity and income while strengthening the linkage between research, extension and policy dissemination.

ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru Hosts Live Webcast of 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)' and Distributes Biocontrol Inputs under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (DAPSC & ST)

ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru Hosts Live Webcast of 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)' and Distributes Biocontrol Inputs under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (DAPSC & ST). ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru | March 13, 2026
ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru organized the live webcast of the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)' programme addressed by the Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for the benefit of farmers particularly Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) on March 13, 2026, at ICAR-NBAIR, Hebbal campus. The event was graced by Shri. G. K. Venkatesh Reddy, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly (Srinivasapura Constituency) as the Chief Guest in the presence of Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR. In his opening remarks



Dr. S. N. Sushil briefed the dignitaries and participants about the various activities of ICAR-NBAIR and emphasized the role of the institute in supporting farmers by the development of various biological control technologies for the successful pest management and thereby reducing the pesticide load on the crop. Chief Guest Shri. G. K. Venkatesh Reddy in his address highlighted that since the launch of PM-KISAN in February 2019, nearly 3,91,000 crore has been transferred to about 9 crore farmers nationwide. He further mentioned that in the 22nd installment of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 18,650 crore will be transferred to benefit 9.32 crore eligible farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and emphasized the importance of PM-KISAN scheme for the prosperity of farmers across the nation. He also appreciated the popularization of various eco-friendly technologies by ICAR-NBAIR among farmers for producing safe food, fodder and fiber. Over 260 farmers participated in the virtual event marking the release of the 22nd installment of the PM-KISAN Scheme by the Prime Minister. As part of the programme, biocontrol inputs were distributed to farmers from Kolar and Tumkur Districts under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (DAPSC & ST). An exhibition on biocontrol compatible technologies for pest management was organized to benefit the farmers attending the program. The visit was conducted by Dr. Manoj H, Scientist (Plant protection), Tumakuru-I.



ICAR-KVK, Tumakuru-I Conducted on-campus training programme on sustainable Agricultural waste management for enhanced environmental protection and rural livelihood in Tumakuru-I district

ICAR-KVK, Tumkur-I in collaboration with Karnataka state Department of Agriculture, Tumkur organized a on-campus training programme on "sustainable Agricultural waste management for enhanced environmental protection and rural livelihood in Tumkur district" during the programme Dr. Tasmiya kowser, Scientist (Agronomy) briefed about scientific method of vermi-composting. During the programme Dr. Shankar M. H., (Senior Scientist and Head) with scientists distributed vermi bags to the farmers and farm Women's.



Awareness Programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 at ICAR-KVK, Tumakuru on 5th March 2026

An awareness programme on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 (PPV&FRA) was jointly organized by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hirehalli and the Department of Agriculture, Tumakuru District on 05 March 2026 at KVK Hirehalli. The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers and stakeholders about the provisions and benefits of the PPV&FRA Act. The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Jagadish K.N., SMS (Agricultural Extension), who warmly received the dignitaries, resource persons, and participating farmers. In his keynote address, Dr. Somashekhar, SMS (Plant Breeding), highlighted the objectives and outreach of the programme. He emphasized the importance of protecting existing varieties in agriculture and horticulture under the Act. The programme was formally inaugurated in the presence of distinguished dignitaries.

Dr. Niranjana Murthy, Retired Professor and ADR, UAS, Bengaluru, delivered an online lecture on the significance of the Act in safeguarding landraces and local varieties for future generations. He elaborated on

the provisions available to protect the rights of both breeders and farmers and stressed the necessity of such legislation in the era of globalization and liberalization. Following this, Dr. M. Pitchaimuthu, Principal Scientist, Division of Vegetable Crops, ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, spoke about the importance of DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) testing in securing protection for vegetable crop varieties under the PPV&FRA Act. Dr. C. Vasugi, Principal Scientist, Division of Fruit Crops, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, delivered a lecture on "Registration of Farmers' Varieties, Farmers' and Breeders' Rights and its Awareness," with special emphasis on fruit crops.

On the occasion, Mr. Karanth B., Business Development Manager, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, highlighted the importance of export-oriented business opportunities for native and conserved accessions. He cited successful examples such as the export of Mysore betel vine and Nanjangud Rasbale to the Maldives, which have significantly enhanced farmers' income. Mrs. Asha Jyothi, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Tumakuru, discussed the role of the Department of Agriculture in crop conservation and the registration of such varieties under the PPV&FRA Act for the benefit of farmers in Tumakuru district.

In his presidential remarks, Dr. Loganandhan N., Head, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hirehalli, reaffirmed the institution's strong commitment to supporting farmers in protecting and registering their plant varieties under the PPV&FRA Act. He emphasized that the KVK would provide end-to-end assistance, beginning with the identification and documentation of unique farmer-developed and traditional varieties, including detailed characterization of traits, origin, and cultivation practices. He further assured that the KVK would guide farmers through the entire application process, including preparation of required documents, technical descriptions, and compliance with DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) testing protocols. He highlighted that scientists and extension staff would work closely with farmers to ensure that their varieties meet the necessary criteria for registration. In addition, he stated that the KVK would facilitate capacity building programmes, awareness campaigns, and hands-on training sessions to enhance farmers' understanding of their rights and the procedures involved. He also stressed the importance of collaboration with the host organization and other stakeholders to streamline the registration process and ensure timely submission of applications.

Dr. Loganandhan concluded by encouraging farmers to come forward with their indigenous knowledge and unique crop varieties, assuring them that the KVK would act as a technical and institutional support system to help them secure legal recognition and long-term benefits under the Act. The programme witnessed active participation from 60 participants, including farmers, farm women, officials from developmental departments, NGO representatives, and scientists. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Prashanth J.M., KVK Hirehalli.



Bamboo handicrafts training program

A 10 days long bamboo handicrafts training program was organised by ICAR-KVK, Udupi during 14-23 February 2026 at Nada Guddeangadi of Byndoor taluk of Udupi district. The program was specially planned for tribal Koraga community who belong to

scheduled tribes. The community has skills and knowledge of bamboo and bamboo products as their livelihood. However due to lack of marketing knowledge and organised production and marketing strategies, they gain very less from their handicrafts. This program was introduced to them to innovate in bamboo based products and bring them to the market

through branding. During valedictory ceremony on 23rd February 2026, Dr. Dhananjaya B, co-ordinator of the program and head of the ICAR-KVK, Udupi opined that these kinds of training could help the community in scaling up their production and market them nationally and internationally through digital source. Mr. Ashok Shetty, a social reformer in his address as chief guest advised the community to preserve their skills and expertise in these bamboo weaving skills and make it their identity, while gaining modern education for integration into mainstream society. Mrs. Susheela, community leader spoke on the occasion and called upon the community to shed alcoholisms and tobacco for better health and socio economic status. The handicraft articles prepared by the trainee candidates were displayed in the. Program. Inputs such as tools for bamboo strip preparation were distributed.



Five days Natural Farming training to Krishi Sakhi CRPs

A five-day capacity-building programme on Natural Farming was organized by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttara Kannada Sirsi and the Department of Agriculture, Karwar, for Krishi Sakhi Community Resource Persons (CRPs) of Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka. The programme was conducted in two batches from 05-09 March, 2026 and 10-14 March, 2026 at the Malagi Farm, Sirsi. The inaugural session commenced with a formal lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a welcome address delivered by Dr. Harish D. K., Scientist (Horticulture). The programme was inaugurated by Shri. S. Gaokar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Sirsi. The occasion was further graced by Shri. Pandu, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Sirsi, and progressive farmer Shri. Malleshappa Bisiroti, Kundagol. The programme was presided by Dr. Roopa S. Patil, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Sirsi. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Ranganatha G. J., Scientist (Animal Science).

A total of 94 Krishi Sakhi CRPs participated in the training programme. The first batch comprised 47 participants from Ankola, Bhatkal, Haliyal, Honnavar, Yellapur and Karwar taluks, while the second batch included 47 participants from Mundagol, Joida, Siddapur, and Sirsi taluks. The training programme was coordinated by Dr. Harish D. K., Dr. Ranganatha G. J., and Dr. Amit M. Pujar, SMS (Agronomy). The curriculum encompassed both theoretical and practical components, focusing on the principles and practices of Natural Farming. Demonstrations were conducted on the preparation and application of key formulations such as Beejamrutha, Jeevamrutha, Ghanajeevamrutha, Agniasthra, Shunti Astra, and Brahmastra. Additionally, sessions covered organic crop production packages for horticultural and field crops, soil fertility and nutrient management, plant protection strategies, and animal health management. As part of experiential learning, field visits were organized to the farms of progressive practitioners Shri. Bheemappa Gouda and Shri. Chennappa Shekar, where participants observed the

implementation of Natural Farming practices in plantation crops including arecanut, banana, coconut, and guava.

During the valedictory session, the coordinators emphasized the significance of Natural Farming as a sustainable agricultural approach for enhancing soil health, improving crop productivity, and strengthening the livelihoods of farming communities.

Source: **Dr. Amit M. Pujar, SMS (Agronomy)**



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA VIJAYAPURA-I

Five days Natural Farming training to Krishi Sakhi CRPs

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Vijayapur-I in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Vijayapur organized a programme at the auditorium of the College of Agriculture Vijayapur on the occasion of the release of the 22nd installment of the PM-KISAN scheme by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 March 2026 in Guwahati, Assam. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M. M. Jamadar, Associate Director of Extension, along with Dr. Jagginavar, Dean (Agriculture), Shri Shivangouda Patil, Joint Director of Agriculture, Vijayapur, and Dr. Shrishail Vastrad, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Vijayapur. Around 480 farmers from across the district participated in the programme. During the programme, Dr. Shrishail Vastrad explained the importance and objectives of the PM-KISAN scheme and interacted with farmers regarding the problems faced in agriculture and provided suitable crop advisories. Shri Shivangouda Patil explained the importance of the Farmer Identification Number (FID) and the process of generating it through FRUITS (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) for land identification and farmer registration. Dr. Shivaraj Kamble (SMS, Soil Science) explained the importance of soil health management in dryland cropping systems and advised farmers on maintaining soil fertility through balanced nutrient management. All the scientists of KVK actively participated in the programme and interacted with the farmers.



ICAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA VIJAYAPURA-II

Water Management Techniques in Horticultural Crops-An Awareness Initiative by ICAR-KVK Indi for Summer Season

Authors: **Dr. Premchand U SMS** (Plant Protection) and **Mr. Majeed G STO** (Computer)

Program Overview

The awareness program witnessed active participation from farmers cultivating fruit crops, vegetables, and plantation crops. The sessions were conducted in an interactive manner, combining expert lectures with field-level demonstrations. Farmers were encouraged to share their experiences, challenges, and local practices, which were then scientifically analyzed and refined by the experts. The core emphasis of the program was on improving water use efficiency, reducing wastage, and ensuring that crops receive adequate moisture during critical growth stages, especially under high temperature conditions.

Scientific Water Management Practices

During the program, the importance of drip irrigation was explained in detail as one of the most efficient methods of water application in horticultural crops like acid lime, pomegranate and grape. Farmers were informed that drip irrigation allows water to be delivered directly to the root zone of the plants in a slow and controlled manner, thereby minimizing losses due to evaporation and runoff. This method not only conserves a significant amount of water but also enhances nutrient uptake when combined with fertigation practices. Demonstrations on the installation and maintenance of drip systems helped farmers understand its practical implementation. The concept of mulching was also highlighted as an effective moisture conservation practice. Experts explained that covering the soil surface with organic materials such as crop residues or with plastic mulch reduces evaporation losses, suppresses weed growth, and maintains a

favorable soil temperature. In addition, organic mulches contribute to soil health by improving its structure and water-holding capacity over time.

Another critical aspect discussed was irrigation scheduling. Farmers were advised to irrigate their crops during the early morning or late evening hours to reduce water loss due to evaporation. Emphasis was placed on avoiding excessive irrigation, as it not only wastes water but can also lead to root diseases and nutrient leaching. The scientists explained that understanding the critical growth stages of crops, such as flowering and fruit development, is essential to ensure timely and adequate water supply.

For perennial fruit crops like mango, grape, pomegranate, and citrus, proper basin and ring methods of irrigation were demonstrated. Farmers were shown how to prepare basins around the trees to facilitate efficient water application, while ensuring that water does not come into direct contact with the trunk, thereby preventing disease incidence. Soil moisture conservation techniques formed another important component of the training. Practices such as regular inter-cultivation to break soil crust, incorporation of organic matter, and use of cover crops were discussed in detail. These practices help improve soil structure, increase infiltration, and enhance the soil's capacity to retain moisture.

The importance of rainwater harvesting was also emphasized as a long-term strategy to address water scarcity. Farmers were encouraged to construct farm ponds, check dams, and percolation pits to capture and store rainwater during the monsoon season, which can then be utilized during the dry summer months. In addition, the use of anti-transpirants such as kaolin, grenn miracle and silicon sprays was introduced as a method to reduce water loss from plant surfaces. These substances form a protective layer on the leaves, thereby minimizing transpiration and helping plants withstand heat stress. For vegetable crops and nursery plants, the use of shade nets was demonstrated as an effective way to reduce heat load and water requirement. By providing partial shade, these structures help maintain plant vigor and improve overall crop performance during extreme weather conditions.

Conclusion

The awareness program conducted by ICAR-KVK

Indi successfully highlighted the importance of efficient water management in horticultural crops, particularly during the challenging summer season. By integrating scientific knowledge with practical demonstrations, the program empowered farmers to adopt sustainable practices that conserve water, improve crop health, and enhance productivity. As water resources continue to become increasingly scarce, the adoption of such techniques is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of horticulture in the region. Farmers are encouraged to make optimum use of available resources and implement these strategies to secure better yields and livelihoods.

Message to Farmers

Every drop of water is valuable, especially during the summer months. By adopting efficient water management practices, farmers can not only protect their crops from stress but also ensure a more sustainable and profitable future.



Off campus training programme on Scientific Poultry Farming

Training programme on Scientific poultry farming was organized at ICAR-KVK, Yadgir (Kawadimatti) from 23-25th March 2026 in collaboration with ICAR KVK Yadgir and Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Yadgir. Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan R. P. Senior scientist and Head ICAR-KVK Yadgir, Dr. Raju deshmu, Deputy Director Yadgir, Dr. Prajwal, Veterinary officer, Dr. Basavaraj Sajjan, Dr. Abhishek, Mr. Suresh, ADA inaugurated the programme. Progressive farmers and

farm womens from Shorapur taluk were participated in the program.

On 23rd Dr. Mohammed Khaji sahib, Senior Veterinary officer, Hunasigi, Dr. Raghavendra veterinary clinic Devatkal, explained about balanced feeding methods in poultry. Dr. Chaitra veterinary doctor, Kodekal explained the necessity of artificial motherhood or Brooding Management. Dr. Sachin Veterinary doctor Kakkera explained about construction of suitable housing for poultry and their management methods. On 24th Dr. Sachin Veterinary

doctor, Kakkera explained about common diseases in poultry and their management. Dr. Bhagyashree explained about economics of poultry farming and availability of loan facilities and subsidies for their farming. Dr. Chaitra explained Market opportunities in poultry farming and their challenges. On 25th group discussion was held with the progressive farmers and experts clarified farmer's doubts. In the afternoon session field visit was arranged. Certificate was issued to the attendees. Large number of farmers attended and benefitted by the training programme.



Off campus training programme on Scientific Poultry Farming

Training program on scientific poultry farming was organized at ICAR-KVK, Yadgir (Kawadi Matti) from 26-28th March 2026 in collaboration with ICAR KVK Yadgir and Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Yadgir. Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan R. P. Senior scientist and Head ICAR-KVK Yadgir, Dr. Raju desh mukh, Deputy Director, Yadgir, Dr. Prajwal, Veterinary officer, Dr. Basavaraj Sajjan, Dr. Abhishek, Mr. Suresh ADA inaugurated the programme. Progressive farmers and farm womens from Hunasigi taluk were participated in the programme.

On 26th Dr. Mohammed Khaji sahib, Senior Veterinary officer, Hunasigi, Dr. Raghavendra veterinary clinic Devatkal, explained balanced feeding methods in poultry. Dr. Chaitra explained regarding the necessity of artificial motherhood or Brooding Management. Dr. Raghavendra Veterinary hospital Devatkal explained about procedures for supplying balanced chicken food. Dr. Sachin Veterinary hospital, Kakkera educated the farmers regarding construction of suitable housing for poultry and their management. On 27th Dr. Dr. Sachin Veterinary doctor Kakkera explained about Common diseases in poultry and their management. Dr. Bhagyashree veterinary clinic Nrayanapur explained about Economics of poultry farming and availability of loan facilities and subsidies for their farming. Dr. Chaitra veterinary doctor Kodekal explained about Market opportunities in poultry farming and their challenges. On 28th group discussion was held with the progressive farmers and experts clarified farmer's doubts. In the afternoon session field visit was arranged. Certificate was issued to the attendees. Large number of farmers attended and benefitted by the training programme.



WORLD WATER DAY POSTER MAKING COMPETITION- WINNER

Bhagyasree Rajesh, Std VIII, Ursuline Senior Secondary School, Payyambalam, Kannur



**KVK
TIMES**



A window to KVKs of ICAR-ATARI, Zone XI, Bengaluru