



KVK TIMES

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

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KVK TIMES

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

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all readers of this May 2026 edition of KVK Times. As we continue our journey towards building a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous agricultural sector, I am delighted to witness the remarkable efforts undertaken by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta, in empowering farmers through knowledge, innovation, and technology dissemination. The past months have been marked by several impactful initiatives aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring soil health, promoting balanced fertilizer use, and strengthening climate-resilient farming practices. Programmes such as awareness campaigns on soil test-based nutrient management, promotion of integrated farming systems and capacity-building activities for farmers, rural youth and women have significantly contributed to agricultural development in the district.

I appreciate the dedicated efforts of the scientists, staff, farmers, farmer producer organizations and stakeholders who have actively collaborated with KVK Pathanamthitta in translating scientific innovations into field-level successes. Their commitment continues to strengthen the linkage between research and extension, enabling farming communities to adopt sustainable and profitable agricultural practices. The increasing adoption of digital technologies, value addition enterprises, entrepreneurship development programmes and climate-smart agricultural interventions demonstrates the transformative role played by KVKs in rural development. These initiatives not only enhance farm incomes but also create new opportunities for employment and self-reliance among rural youth and women.

As we move forward, let us continue to work together with renewed dedication to promote sustainable agriculture, conserve natural resources and ensure food and nutritional security for future generations. I am confident that the achievements highlighted in this edition will inspire many more farmers and stakeholders to embrace innovation and contribute to the growth of Indian agriculture.

I congratulate the editorial team of KVK Times for bringing out this informative issue and wish all readers success in their agricultural endeavours.

Euyakim Mar Coorilos Suffragan Metropolitan
Chairman, ICAR-KVK, CARD



MESSAGE

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) continue to serve as the cornerstone of India's agricultural extension system by bridging scientific innovations with farming communities. Through technology assessment, refinement, demonstration, capacity building, and farmer-centric interventions, KVKs are empowering farmers and strengthening sustainable agricultural development.

I am pleased to note that Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta, is bringing out the May 2026 issue of KVK TIMES, which is also the first issue published after I assumed charge as Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone XI, Bengaluru, in May 2026. This publication reflects the diverse achievements, innovations, and impactful extension efforts of KVKs across the zone.

I would like to place on record my appreciation to Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, former Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, whose vision and leadership initiated KVK TIMES as a unique monthly knowledge-sharing platform for the KVK fraternity. His efforts laid a strong foundation for documenting and disseminating best practices, innovations, and success stories from KVKs, thereby fostering collaboration and mutual learning across the extension system.

As we move towards a future driven by digital agriculture, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, value addition, and farmer empowerment, KVKs will continue to play a pivotal role in transforming Indian agriculture. I am confident that KVK TIMES will further strengthen knowledge exchange, inspire innovation, and showcase the remarkable contributions of KVKs in improving farmers' livelihoods.

I congratulate Dr. C. P. Robert, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Pathanamthitta, and the editorial team for their commendable efforts in bringing out this issue. I also extend my appreciation to all KVKs under ATARI Zone XI for their dedication, commitment, and tireless service to the farming community.

Let us continue to work together with renewed enthusiasm to strengthen the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and excellence that defines the KVK movement.

My best wishes to KVK TIMES and the entire KVK fraternity for continued success.

Prabhakar Mathyam

Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru



MESSAGE

I am delighted to extend my greetings to the readers of the May 2026 issue of KVK Times. This edition reflects the continued commitment of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta, in strengthening agricultural development through innovative technologies, farmer-centric extension programmes, and sustainable farming initiatives.

During the past month, KVK Pathanamthitta has actively engaged with farming communities through programmes such as soil test-based nutrient management campaigns, technology demonstrations, capacity-building programmes and awareness initiatives aimed at improving farm productivity and environmental sustainability. These efforts highlight the vital role of KVKs in bridging the gap between research and field-level application.

I appreciate the dedicated efforts of the scientists, technical staff and stakeholders of KVK Pathanamthitta in empowering farmers with scientific knowledge and practical solutions. The institution's emphasis on climate-resilient agriculture, value addition, entrepreneurship development and natural resource conservation is contributing significantly to the prosperity of the farming community.

I also acknowledge the guidance and support provided by ICAR, ATARI Bengaluru, CARD, the host organisation and all collaborating departments and organizations that continue to strengthen the extension ecosystem in the district.

As agriculture faces new challenges and opportunities, I am confident that KVK Pathanamthitta will continue to serve as a beacon of innovation and knowledge dissemination, helping farmers adopt sustainable and profitable farming practices. I congratulate the entire KVK team for their commendable work and wish them continued success in their mission of transforming agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Best wishes to the KVK Pathanamthitta Team.

Dr. Binoo P. Bony

Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to the readers of the May 2026 issue of KVK Times. This publication continues to serve as an important platform for sharing the achievements, innovations, and outreach activities undertaken by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta in its mission to strengthen agriculture and improve the livelihoods of farming communities.

The month of May witnessed several impactful initiatives aimed at promoting scientific agriculture, sustainable farming practices, entrepreneurship development and capacity building among farmers, rural youth and women. Through its dedicated efforts in technology dissemination, skill development and farmer-centric extension activities, KVK Pathanamthitta has continued to bridge the gap between research institutions and the farming community, ensuring that the benefits of scientific advancements reach the grassroots level.

As the host organization of KVK Pathanamthitta, CARD remains committed to supporting programmes that foster agricultural development, environmental sustainability and rural prosperity. The collaborative efforts of ICAR, ATARI Bengaluru, Kerala Agricultural University, local self-government institutions, farmer organizations and various stakeholders have significantly contributed to the success of these initiatives.

I place on record my sincere appreciation to the entire Team and stakeholders of KVK Pathanamthitta for their dedication and tireless service to the farming community. Their commitment to innovation, knowledge dissemination and community engagement continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of farmers across the district.

As agriculture faces new opportunities and challenges, let us continue to work together towards building a resilient, sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector. I am confident that KVK Pathanamthitta will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing agricultural excellence and rural transformation in the years ahead.

I congratulate the entire KVK family on their achievements and extend my best wishes for continued success in all their future endeavours.

Rev. Shibu Samuel
Director, CARD



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I present the May 2026 issue of KVK Times, showcasing the major activities, achievements, and innovations of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathanamthitta. This issue is particularly significant as it is the first edition of KVK Times published after the assumption of charge by Dr. Prabhakar as Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, ushering in a new phase of guidance and leadership for the Krishi Vigyan Kendra system in Zone XI.

On behalf of the entire KVK Pathanamthitta family, I extend a warm welcome and sincere gratitude to Dr. Prabhakar, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, for his support, vision and commitment towards strengthening the extension system and enhancing the impact of KVKs. We look forward to working under his leadership in advancing farmer-centric innovations, sustainable agricultural practices, and technology dissemination across the region.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Binoo P. Bony, Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University, for her continued guidance and encouragement in strengthening agricultural extension and promoting meaningful linkages between research and farming communities. I also place on record my sincere gratitude to Rev. Shibu Samuel, Director, CARD, for his unwavering support and commitment to the growth and development of KVK Pathanamthitta.

The success of the programmes featured in this issue has been made possible through the collective efforts of ICAR, ATARI Bengaluru, Kerala Agricultural University, CARD, line departments, local self-government institutions, farmer organizations and other partner agencies. Their collaboration has enabled us to effectively address the needs of farmers and promote sustainable agricultural development in the district.

I also acknowledge with deep appreciation the dedication and hard work of the technical staff, supporting personnel and stakeholders of KVK Pathanamthitta. Their commitment to excellence has been instrumental in organizing successful training programmes, demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and technology dissemination activities that continue to benefit the farming community.

I hope this issue of KVK Times serves as a valuable source of information, inspiration and motivation for farmers, extension personnel, researchers and all stakeholders associated with the agricultural sector. Together, let us continue our efforts towards building a resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural future.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the success of KVK Pathanamthitta and the publication of this issue.

Dr. C. P. Robert

Senior Scientist and Head
ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CARD, Pathanamthitta

CONTENTS

01	ALAPPUZHA	10	25	KOLAR	51
02	BAGALKOTE	12	26	KOLLAM	53
03	BALLARI	15	27	KOPPAL	54
04	BENGALURU RURAL	16	28	KOTTAYAM	55
05	BELGAVI I	18	29	KOZHIKODE	56
06	BELAGAVI II	20	30	LAKSHADWEEP	57
07	BIDAR	22	31	MALAPPURAM	59
08	CHAMARAJANAGARA	23	32	MANDYA	62
09	CHIKKABALLAPURA	24	33	MYSORE	63
10	CHICKKAMAGALURU	26	34	PALAKKAD	66
11	CHITRADURGA	27	35	PATHANAMTHITTA	68
12	DAKSHINA KANNADA	28	36	RAICHUR	70
13	DAVANAGERE	30	37	RAMANAGARA	72
14	DHARWAD	31	38	SHIVAMOGGA	75
15	ERNAKULAM	34	39	THIRUVANANTHAPURAM	77
16	GADAG	36	40	TUMAKURU I	78
17	HASSAN	39	41	TUMAKURU II	81
18	HAVERI	40	42	UDUPI	82
19	IDUKKI	41	43	UTTARA KANNADA	83
20	KALABURAGI-I	42	44	VIJAYAPURA I	84
21	KALABURAGI II	44	45	VIJAYAPURA II	85
22	KANNUR	45	46	WAYANAD	86
23	KASARAGOD	48	47	YADGIR	87
24	KODAGU	50			



KVK TIMES





ICAR-KVK-ALAPPUZHA

National Campaign on 'Balanced & Judicious Use of Fertilizers'

In order to take forward the Government of India initiative on sensitizing farmers on the 'Balanced and Judicious Use of Fertilizers', a series of awareness programmes were organized by the KVK in different locations of the district from 20 April 2026, in association with the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare. The campaign focused on educating farmers on enhancing soil health and optimizing crop yields through site-specific scientific nutrient management to prevent soil degradation. Nutrient imbalances caused by the overuse of fertilizers such as urea and DAP, and the resultant disadvantages, were also highlighted to reduce expenditure on excess fertilizer use and enhance returns.

To minimize chemical nutrient inputs and the cost of production, novel crop management practices such as (i) liming, (ii) organic manure addition, (iii) soil test-based fertilizer application, and (iv) foliar nutrition are to be adopted in that sequence for achieving complete nutrition and economic yield. The awareness programmes highlighted the concept of balanced nutrition for crops through the adoption of good agricultural practices and the maintenance of natural resources in a healthy condition for a healthy society. The importance of guiding and advising farmers in these aspects was also conveyed to the input dealers undergoing the DAESI programme.



About 25 field programmes were conducted during April-May 2026, in which 500-600 farmers participated and interacted with the resource persons. The participants actively took part in the discussions held during the programmes. Leaflets on Soil Testing, Soil Health Management Practices, and EM Composting were distributed to the participants. In addition, through on-campus and off-campus programmes, messages relevant to the campaign were disseminated daily to more than 3,200 farmers through 55 WhatsApp groups maintained by the KVK. The KVK experts were also associated with CPCRI scientists in conducting programmes in the MGMG villages.

PIMC Meeting of 'Value Chain in Banana' Project

The fifth meeting of the Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee (PIMC) of the 'Value Chain in Banana' project was conducted on 21.05.2026 at the KVK. The project, funded by NABARD under the Farming Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF), has been implemented in Bharanikkavu Block of Alappuzha district since 2025, involving 180 partner farmers. The project mainly focuses on the value chain of Poovan varieties (Njalipoovan, Poovan, Charapoovan, and Mysore Poovan) of banana, from tissue-culture planting materials to marketing.



Planting during the first three quarters was completed by December 2025, during which 6,000 Njalipoovan and 500 Poovan tissue-culture banana plants were established. Dr. P. Muralidharan, Head, KVK, briefed the committee on the progress of activities, and the members reviewed the actions taken at the previous meeting and proposed suggestions for the future course of action. Smt. Minu Anwer, DDM, NABARD; Sri Arun M., District Lead Bank Manager; and nine other members attended the meeting.

The PIMC decided to intensify activities related to the branding and marketing of processed banana products for the benefit of farmers.

Project Work of M.Sc. (Food Science and Technology) Students at KVK



Two batches of M.Sc. (Food Science and Technology) students undertook three-month project work as part of their postgraduate programme at the Agro Processing Training-cum-Incubation Centre (APTIC) of KVK-Alappuzha. The first batch of seven students from MSTM College, Perinthalmanna, Malappuram District (from 16 February to 14 May 2026) and the second batch of eleven students from Silver Arts and Science College, Perambra, Kozhikode District (from 2 March to 3 June 2026) underwent the programme as partial fulfilment of their postgraduate degree requirements.

Initially, they were exposed to various value-added products of coconut, jackfruit, banana, and millets, as well as the general aspects of agro-processing technologies. Based on this exposure, the students prepared project proposals for the development and evaluation of 18 different products from banana, jackfruit, coconut, dragon fruit, pineapple, papaya, pumpkin, amla, amaranthus, sweet potato, and different types of millets.

Smt. Jissy George, SMS (HS), guided and facilitated them in formulating the technical programme for their project work, procuring the required materials, providing methodologies, executing the work, packaging the products, conducting organoleptic and shelf-life studies, carrying out proximate analyses, and evaluating production costs.

The project reports were prepared after recording, analysing, and interpreting the data for submission to their respective colleges.

ICAR-KVK-BAGALKOTE

Scientists Participate in Climate Change Training Programme

Scientists from ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, namely Dr. Bhavya M. R., SMS (Agronomy), Dr. Ragini Patil, SMS (Soil Science), and Shri Basavaraj, SMS (Agro-meteorology), participated in a one-day training programme on Climate Change organized by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) in coordination with the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST). The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner of Bagalkote, Shri Sangappa. The training focused on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation strategies, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and sustainable natural resource management.



Training and Demonstration on Sugarcane Trash Management Conducted



On 19.05.2026, ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, distributed compost culture to beneficiaries under the Sugarcane Trash Management Project and organized off-campus training programmes at Nagaral and Ingalagi villages of Mudhol Taluk. Scientists highlighted the importance of scientific management of sugarcane trash for improving soil health, enhancing organic matter content, and reducing environmental pollution. A method demonstration on the application of compost culture for rapid decomposition of sugarcane trash was also conducted. In addition, an awareness campaign on the balanced use of fertilizers was organized, emphasizing soil test-based nutrient management and efficient fertilizer use for sustainable crop production. Farmers actively participated in the programme and benefited from the technical guidance.

Scientists Participate as Resource Persons in Seed Treatment and Dharti Maatha Bachao Abhiyana

On 19.05.2026, Dr. Ragini Patil, SMS (Soil Science), and Dr. S.C. Angadi, Chief Technical Officer, ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, participated as resource persons in the Seed Treatment and Dharti Maatha Bachao Abhiyana programmes organized by the Department of Agriculture at Nagaral and Ingalagi villages

of Mudhol Taluk. The scientists emphasized the importance of seed treatment for enhancing germination, protecting crops from seed- and soil-borne diseases, and improving crop productivity. They also created awareness on soil health conservation, balanced fertilizer use, and sustainable agricultural practices under the Dharti Maatha Bachao Abhiyana. Farmers actively participated in the programme and interacted with the scientists on various crop management practices.

Online Training on Soil Fertility Management and Soil Testing

Dr. Ragini Patil, SMS (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, participated as a resource person in an online training programme organized by the District Agricultural Training Centre (DATC), Bagalkot. She delivered a lecture on soil fertility management practices and the importance of soil testing for sustainable crop production. The session covered scientific soil sample collection, interpretation of soil test reports, balanced nutrient management, and soil test-based fertilizer recommendations. The programme aimed to enhance farmers' awareness of maintaining soil health and improving fertilizer use efficiency for increased crop productivity.

Awareness Programme on Sustainable Soil and Crop Management under Dharti Mata Bachao Andolan

On 21.05.2026, Dr. Bhavya M. R., SMS (Agronomy), ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, participated as a resource



person in the “Dharti Mata Bachao Andolan” organized by the Department of Agriculture, Hungund, at Kelur and Aihole villages of Hungund Taluk. During the programmes, farmers were sensitized on the importance of organic manures, biofertilizers, balanced fertilizer use, and scientific crop management practices for the Kharif season. Special emphasis was given to seed treatment technologies for improving germination, crop establishment, growth, and productivity. Awareness was also created on soil health conservation and sustainable nutrient management practices for enhancing farm productivity and maintaining soil fertility. A large number of farmers actively participated and benefited from the technical guidance provided during the programme.

Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers Conducted at Badami Taluk



On 22.05.2026, under the nationwide Balanced Use of Fertilizers Campaign, ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, organized an awareness programme at Mangaluru and Nelawagi villages of Badami Taluk. Dr. Ragini Patil, SMS (Soil Science), delivered a lecture on “Balanced Use of Fertilizers for Improved Soil Health,” emphasizing soil testing, balanced nutrient application, and maintenance of soil fertility for sustainable crop production. Dr. Ramitha B.E., SMS

(Home Science), delivered a lecture on “Balanced Fertilizer Use for Nutritious Food Production,” highlighting the relationship between soil health, crop nutrition, and human health. Dr. Siddappa Angadi, Chief Technical Officer, addressed the participants on soil health management and sustainable agricultural practices. A total of 60 farmers and farm women participated in and benefited from the programme.

Training Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers for Input Dealers

On 23.05.2026, ICAR-KVK, Bagalkote, organized a training programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers for input dealers. The programme aimed to create awareness on scientific fertilizer application for improving crop productivity while maintaining long-term soil health. Scientists explained the importance of soil test-based fertilizer recommendations, integrated nutrient management, balanced application of major and micronutrients, and efficient fertilizer use practices. The participants were also sensitized on their role in promoting sustainable nutrient management among farmers and reducing indiscriminate fertilizer use. The programme provided a platform for interaction and knowledge sharing on sustainable agricultural practices.

Scientists Participate in Bimonthly Meeting at District Agricultural Training Centre

On 26.05.2026, scientists of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bagalkote, participated as resource persons in the bimonthly meeting organized at the District Agricultural Training Centre (DATC), Bagalkote. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Bagalkote, in the presence of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Assistant Directors of Agriculture (ADAs), Agricultural Officers (AOs), and ATMA staff. During the technical session, scientists deliberated on contingency crop planning, improved production technologies for Kharif crops, and the balanced use of fertilizers for sustainable crop production. The programme facilitated interaction among extension personnel and provided updated technical guidance for the effective implementation of agricultural development programmes during the Kharif season.

ICAR-KVK BALLARI

ICAR-KVK Ballari Participated in District Level Agricultural Exhibition

The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) from Hagari, Ballari, set up a stall at the big agricultural fair on May 26, 2026. The event was held at the APMC premises in Ballari and was organized by Ballari District Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BDCCI).

The fair was officially opened by a group of important guests, including Mr. Gadeppa P. (Mayor of Ballari City Corporation), Avvaru Manjunath (President of BDCCI), K.C. Suresh Babu (Honorary Secretary of BDCCI), and Mr. Somasundar (Joint Director of Agriculture). They were joined by top agricultural experts, Dr. A.G. Srinivas from UAS Raichur, Dr. Ravishankar from the College of Agriculture in Hagari, and Dr. Palaiah P. from ICAR-KVK Hagari. The main theme of the fair was "Quality Seeds and Scientific Sowing." The goal was to help local farmers move away from old, traditional methods and learn how to run their farms like modern, profitable businesses.

After the opening stage program, the chief guests officially inaugurated the exhibition area and walked around to see the displays. In total, there were 75 different stalls showcasing new farming tools and ideas. Around 1,200 farmers attended the event, visiting the stalls to learn about the latest agricultural technologies.

A key part of the day was the technical sessions. KVK scientists shared very helpful information about local weather forecasts, how climate change is affecting farming, and what jobs need to be done before the Kharif (monsoon) planting season. They also explained how to protect crops from pests and diseases. At the end of the sessions, farmers, government officers, and scientists sat down together for an open discussion to solve real, everyday problems faced by farmers out in the fields.



ICAR-KVK-BENGALURU RURAL

Visit of the Director, ATARI Zone XI, Bengaluru, to ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural on 07.05.2026

The Director, ATARI, Bengaluru, Dr. Prabhakar Mathyam, and Dr. K. Gangadhar, Principal Scientist, ATARI, Bengaluru, undertook an official visit to ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bengaluru Rural, on 07.05.2026 to review the ongoing activities, infrastructure facilities, and the impact of extension programmes implemented by the KVK. The visit also focused on assessing the effectiveness of technology dissemination, farmer services, and institutional functioning at the grassroots level.

During the visit, the Senior Scientist & Head briefed the dignitaries on the major activities of the KVK, including Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs), On-Farm Trials (OFTs), training programmes, farmer-scientist interactions, and advisory services aimed at supporting and empowering the farming community.

Later, the Director and Principal Scientist of ATARI, Bengaluru, along with the Senior Scientist & Head and KVK scientists, visited the protected cultivation units of high-value cut flowers, exotic flowers, and vegetables maintained by Dr. B. Srikanth, a progressive farmer from Narasimhanahalli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. They also visited the Integrated Farming System (IFS) farm of Mrs. H. Roopa at Hadonahalli.



Nationwide Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bengaluru Rural District, Hadonahalli, organized and implemented the Nationwide Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers from 14 May 2026 onwards. The campaign was conducted through a collaborative effort involving scientists from KVK Hadonahalli, line departments of Bengaluru Rural District, various departments of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, and the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research.

The campaign aimed to enhance farmers' awareness regarding the scientific and judicious use of plant nutrients for sustainable agricultural production. Scientists delivered technical lectures and conducted field-level demonstrations



on balanced fertilizer application based on soil-test recommendations, integrated nutrient management practices, and soil health management strategies.

Emphasis was placed on maintaining an optimum balance among primary nutrients (N, P, and K), secondary nutrients, and micronutrients to improve nutrient-use efficiency and sustain soil fertility.

As part of the campaign, multidisciplinary teams of scientists conducted extensive village-level outreach activities, including farmer meetings, awareness programmes, field visits, and interactive discussions. The campaign covered more than 20 villages across Bengaluru Rural District and directly reached approximately 1,200 farmers, creating awareness about sustainable nutrient management practices and promoting environmentally sound agricultural production systems.

Celebration of World Honey Bee Day 2026



ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bengaluru Rural District, celebrated World Honey Bee Day 2026 in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture and Maitri Seva Samsthe (NGO) under the theme, "Bee Together for People and the Planet: A Partnership That Sustains Us All," on 20.05.2026.

Dr. B.G. Hanumantharaya, Senior Scientist & Head, chaired the programme and highlighted the importance of beekeeping as a viable enterprise. Dr. G. Eswarappa, Apiculturist, explained the importance of pollination in agricultural and horticultural crops and discussed the maintenance of bee colonies in crop ecosystems.

The significance of World Honey Bee Day and this year's theme were also explained to the participants. As part of the programme, successful beekeeping entrepreneurs were felicitated in recognition of their contributions and achievements in the field.

Distribution of Critical Inputs to Scheduled Caste (SC) Farmers

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Hadonahalli, Bengaluru Rural District, facilitated the distribution of critical agricultural inputs to Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers in collaboration with the National Seed Project (NSP), GKVK, Bengaluru, on 19.05.2026, with the objective of enhancing agricultural productivity and improving livelihood security.

The programme focused on providing essential inputs such as quality seeds, biofertilizers, biopesticides, spades, storage drums, tarpaulins, and other need-based agricultural inputs to support the timely adoption of improved crop production technologies.

Scientists also provided technical guidance on the scientific use of these inputs to maximize their effectiveness. The initiative aimed to strengthen the resource base of SC farmers, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and improve farm income through enhanced crop performance and productivity.



Diagnostic Field Visit: Insect Pest Management in Chilli and Brinjal

On the farmer field of Avrnal near Sanakeshwar Dist Belagavi , a filed diagnostic visit was conducted by the team of Dr. DA Mhetre, Prof. DC Chougala along with chirman Hon. Shro RM Patil. The said diagnostic field visit conducted on 25th June 2026 to the vegetable crops of Mr. Mishal Verma in Avarnal village, where chilli and brinjal crops were suffering from pest infestations. The visit aimed to identify the causes of yield reduction and to recommend sustainable management practices. The field visit to Avarnal village demonstrated how integrated approaches can safeguard



crops against pest-induced yield losses. By combining biological agents, botanicals, and judicious chemical use with preventive measures, farmers can achieve both productivity and sustainability. This case study serves as a practical example of how science-based interventions can transform pest management in vegetable cultivation.

Dharti Maata Bachao Programme Held at Bolewadi-Nipani and Sadlaga PKPS

On 08 May 2026, the “Dharti Maata Bachao” programme was organized at Bolewadi-Nipani and Sadlaga PKPS with the participation of over 126 farmers, Krishi Sakhis, and Gram Panchayat members. The event focused on safe handling of agrochemicals and sustainable farming practices to protect both farmers and the environment.

Dr. D. A. Mhetre, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK



Tukkanatti, along with Dr. Sanjay B. Patil, Agronomist from Tobacco Research Station Nipani, guided participants through demonstrations on protective measures while using agrochemicals. The programme



emphasized integrated pest management, soil health conservation, and the importance of personal safety equipment.

The programme strengthened farmer awareness on health and environmental safety, encouraged adoption of eco-friendly practices, and empowered local institutions like Krishi Sakhis and Gram Panchayats to spread knowledge further.

The Dharti Maata Bachao Programme marked a significant step toward promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmer welfare. The initiative effectively brought together scientific experts and farming communities, demonstrating how collective action can safeguard both farmers' health and the environment. A key highlight of the programme was the practical demonstration on protective measures during agrochemical use in the field, which provided hands-on learning to participants. This was complemented by an awareness session focusing on safe pesticide handling, the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE), and essential first-aid measures in case of exposure. The interactive dialogue sessions enabled farmers to share their field experiences while receiving expert guidance on minimizing chemical hazards. The programme also delivered a strong environmental message, emphasizing the need to preserve “Dharti Maata” through balanced nutrient management, crop rotation, and the adoption of biological pest control methods. As a result, there was a noticeable enhancement in farmers' awareness of safe agrochemical practices, strengthened collaboration among KVK, the Tobacco Research Station, and local farming communities, and increased encouragement for the adoption of Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management (IPNM) for sustainable productivity. Furthermore, the programme reinforced the critical role of Krishi Sakhis and Gram Panchayats in disseminating safety knowledge at the grassroots level. The initiative successfully raised awareness among farming communities, reinforcing the message of safeguarding “Dharti Maata” while ensuring farmer welfare and sustainable agriculture.



Report on Nationwide Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Other Inputs

Krisi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Belagavi-II, implemented the nationwide campaign on “Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Other Inputs” from 22 April to 31 May 2026. The campaign primarily focused on promoting balanced plant nutrition, encouraging fertilizer application based on soil-test recommendations, and reducing excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers through the increased use of organic manures, green manures, and bio-fertilizers.



As part of the campaign, a series of awareness programmes, farmer-scientist interactions, field visits, demonstrations, and soil test-based advisory services were organized across the KVK operational area. Special emphasis was given to promoting the use of organic nutrient sources such as compost, vermicompost, poultry manure, sheep manure, and goat manure as sustainable alternatives to chemical fertilizers, thereby helping farmers reduce input costs and improve soil health.

Awareness programmes were also conducted on the importance and application of various bio-inputs, including bio-fertilizers, bio-insecticides, and bio-fungicides. These interventions aimed to enhance soil biological activity, improve nutrient availability, and support organic and natural farming systems.

Technical sessions highlighted the significance of soil as a living natural resource, explaining soil formation processes, weathering mechanisms, and the role of soil biodiversity in sustaining agricultural productivity.

Farmers were educated on the principles of balanced nutrient management, with particular emphasis on the recommended N:P:K ratio of 4:2:1. Interactive sessions focused on the adoption of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Principles, namely:

- **Right Source**
- **Right Rate**
- **Right Time**
- **Right Place**

These programmes created awareness regarding the efficient and judicious use of fertilizers, ensuring optimum nutrient utilization while minimizing environmental impacts.

During the campaign period, the KVK actively promoted and supplied bio-fertilizers and bio-stimulants to farmers. The adoption of these inputs is expected to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by approximately 10-15 per cent, thereby contributing to balanced nutrient management and sustainable crop production.

Sale of Bio-Fertilizers and Bio-Stimulants During the Campaign

Sl. No.	Material Name	Quantity (L/Kg)
1	Azospirillum	41.00
2	Azotobacter	40.00
3	Acetobacter	8.00
4	Rhizobium	15.00
5	Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB)	8.00
6	Beejopchar (Consortium of Bio-fertilizers)	97.00
7	Bio Maxx (Consortium of Bio-fertilizers)	103.00
8	Bio Decomposer	2.00
9	Root Maxx (Humic Acid, Seaweed, and Fulvic Acid)	84.00
Total		398.00

The campaign successfully reached farmers, farmwomen, and rural youth through participatory and field-oriented extension approaches. A total of 38 programmes were conducted during the campaign period, benefiting 8,132 farmers across the operational villages of KVK Belagavi-II.

The campaign significantly enhanced awareness of balanced fertilizer use, integrated nutrient management, soil health improvement, and sustainable agricultural practices, thereby contributing to long-term agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.





ICAR – KVK, BIDAR

“Knowledge Before Sowing: ICAR-KVK Bidar Leads Pre-Kharif Technology Campaign”

As part of its Pre-Kharif Campaign aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting climate-resilient farming practices, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bidar, successfully conducted five training programmes on “Scientific Technologies in Major Kharif Crops” during the month of May. The programmes were organized on 18, 22, 26, 28, and 30 May 2026 at Narayanpur, Hajnal, Gutti, Mudbi, and Rajgira villages located in different talukas of Bidar District.

The training programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from 387 farmers and farmwomen, reflecting the growing interest among farming communities in adopting scientific and sustainable agricultural technologies. The campaign was designed to prepare farmers for the upcoming Kharif season by equipping them with the latest recommendations and best management practices for major crops grown in the region.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Rajashekhar Basanayak, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK Bidar, highlighted the importance of timely pre-season farm preparations and the adoption of scientific technologies to improve crop productivity and profitability. He emphasized the need for selecting suitable crop varieties, maintaining field sanitation, ensuring the availability of quality seeds, and undertaking soil testing before the commencement of sowing operations. He also encouraged farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices to minimize risks associated with changing weather patterns.

Dr. Chandrakanth, Scientist (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK Bidar, elaborated on the significance of soil and water testing in scientific crop management. He explained how soil health directly influences crop growth and yield and stressed the importance of balanced nutrient management based on soil-test recommendations. Farmers were also educated on efficient water-management practices and the role of soil organic matter in sustaining long-term productivity.

Dr. Shivkumar, Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR-KVK Bidar, provided detailed information on major pests and diseases affecting important Kharif crops. He explained various preventive and management strategies and emphasized the importance of seed treatment and seed-hardening techniques for ensuring healthy crop establishment and improving resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

The training programmes concluded with interactive discussions during which farmers clarified their field-level problems and received scientific solutions from the KVK experts. Through such initiatives, ICAR-KVK Bidar continues to strengthen farmers’ knowledge and preparedness for a productive and sustainable Kharif season.





Importance of Food Packaging and Labelling

On 07.05.2025, ICAR-KVK, Chamaraajanagara conducted off campus capacity building programme on "Importance of Food Packaging and Labelling" at Bisalavadi village, Chamaraajanagara Taluk and District. Dr. Deepa, J., Scientist (Home Science) deliberated the participants with the information on principles of packaging, 7 core packaging functions i.e the protection, containment, preservation, convenience, communication, security and sustainability. She also explained about the primary, secondary and tertiary packaging methods, principles of labeling, functions, types and importance of labeling for the food products. She also highlighted about the importance of branding and FSSAI license for the developed value added products for the marketing purpose. Totally, 26 participants were participated in the programme.

Survey on Mango Crop Loss Due to Climate Variability in Chikkaballapura District

A joint survey was conducted by the scientists of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and officials of the Department of Horticulture during 6-7 May 2026 in Chintamani, Sidlaghatta, and Chikkaballapura taluks to assess mango crop damage caused by climatic abnormalities during the 2026-27 season.

The team observed that irregular weather conditions extended the flowering period from December to March instead of the normal flowering season of December-January. Due to high temperatures ranging from 36°C to 39°C, flowers dropped before fruit set, severely affecting yield. An increased incidence of hopper pests also contributed to flower shedding. Poor pollination, moisture stress, and drought conditions further reduced fruit set and fruit size.

In several orchards, sunburn symptoms were observed on fruits located on the western side of trees. Drying of branches and premature fruit drop were also noticed in many plantations. Based on field observations, it was estimated that mango yield in Chikkaballapura District during the current season may decline drastically, with only about 25-30 per cent of normal production expected due to climate-induced crop damage.



World Bee Day Celebration and Training Programme

ICAR-KVK, Chikkaballapura, celebrated World Bee Day on 20 May 2026 by organizing a training programme on the importance of honey bees in agriculture and environmental sustainability.



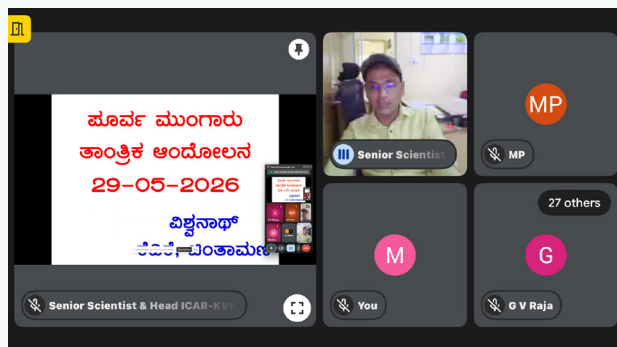
Farmers, rural youth, and students participated in the programme and gained knowledge on scientific beekeeping practices, colony management, and the role of pollinators in enhancing crop productivity. Scientists highlighted the economic benefits of beekeeping as an allied enterprise for income generation.

The programme created awareness about the conservation of honey bees and their vital contribution to food security and biodiversity.

Online Orientation Training Programme on Pre-Kharif Campaign for Extension Personnel

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chikkaballapura, conducted an online training programme for extension personnel of Chikkaballapura District on 29 May 2026 as part of the Pre-Kharif Campaign.

Scientists briefed the participants on the objectives of the campaign and the availability of improved crop



varieties released by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, that are suitable for the district. The training also covered scientific crop production practices, balanced fertilizer use, soil testing, and efficient nutrient management for enhancing crop productivity.

Extension personnel were encouraged to disseminate the latest agricultural technologies and recommendations among farmers during the upcoming Kharif season.

Intensive Awareness Campaign on Balanced Fertilizer Use

An intensive awareness campaign on balanced fertilizer use was conducted by a team of scientists from ICAR-KVK, Chikkaballapura, during May 2026 in Mitterhari, Kurthahalli, Kaiwara, and surrounding villages of Chintamani on 15, 18, 20, and 27 May.

Different teams of scientists participated in the campaign and educated farmers on the importance of balanced nutrient management, soil testing, and the judicious use of fertilizers for sustainable crop production. Farmers were also sensitized to the ongoing Pre-Kharif Campaign, recommended fertilizer doses, and the benefits of integrating organic and inorganic nutrient sources. The programme witnessed active participation from farmers and helped enhance awareness of improving soil health and crop productivity.



National Campaign on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers

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AR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chikkamagaluru, organized an awareness programme under the National Campaign on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers on 26 May 2026 at Gavigiriyapura Village, Shivani Hobli, Ajjampura Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District, in collaboration with DATC, Lingadahalli, and the Department of Agriculture, Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru District.

The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness among farmers about the judicious and balanced use of fertilizers to improve soil health, crop productivity, and environmental sustainability. The programme was presided over by the President and Members of the Gram Panchayat. Dr. Prashantha G. M., Scientist (Soil Science), and Dr. Sureshkumara B., Scientist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, Mudigere; Mrs. Usha Kumari, Assistant Director of Agriculture, DATC, Lingadahalli, Chikkamagaluru; and Mr. Shivaprasad M., Agriculture Officer, RSK, Shivani, participated in the programme.

Dr. Prashantha G. M., Scientist (Soil Science), highlighted the urgent need for adopting balanced fertilizer practices to maintain long-term soil fertility and ensure sustainable crop production. He explained the importance of applying the right fertilizer at the right time and in the right quantity. He also demonstrated soil sample collection techniques and discussed the importance of green manure crops.

He encouraged farmers to adopt soil testing and integrated nutrient management practices for achieving better yields and higher economic returns.

Dr. Sureshkumara B., Scientist (Horticulture), elaborated on how the excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers not only degrades soil quality but also adversely affects the environment and human health. He explained the importance of balanced nutrient management in arecanut, coconut, and vegetable crops.

Mrs. Usha Kumari emphasized the role of improved crop varieties and balanced nutrient management practices in achieving higher productivity in agricultural and horticultural crops.

Mr. Shivaprasad M. spoke about the activities and facilities available through the RSK. He advised farmers to promote the use of organic inputs and bio-fertilizers to improve produce quality and reduce dependence on excessive chemical fertilizers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their field-level problems and experiences. The scientists addressed their queries and clarified doubts regarding balanced nutrient management practices.

The programme witnessed the active participation of 80 farmers from Shivani Hobli, Ajjampura Taluk.

Balanced Use of Fertilizers for Soil Health Management

A one-day training programme on “Balanced Use of Fertilizers for Soil Health Management” was organized at Mattodu Village, Hosadurga Taluk, on 18 May 2026. The event was conducted by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chitradurga, in collaboration with the Karnataka State Farmers Association and Hasiru Sene.

The training programme was attended by prominent leaders of the farmers’ association, including Mr. Siddaveerappa, Executive Chairman; Mr. Sadashivappa, President of the Mattodu Unit of the Farmers’ Association; and Mr. Rangaswamy, President of the Taluk Farmers’ Association. Mr. Niranjan Murthy, General Secretary; Mr. Vijay, Joint Secretary; and local farmers Mr. Shivanna, Mr. Jagadeesh, and Mr. Govind Raju, along with other residents of Mattodu, were also present.

During the programme, Dr. Parashuram Chandravanshi, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Chitradurga, addressed the gathering on the vital importance of balanced fertilizer use for maintaining soil health and ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity. Dr. Onkarappa S., Scientist (Plant Protection), delivered a comprehensive lecture on integrated pest and disease management in agricultural and horticultural crops. Dr. Mahanthesh P. S., Scientist (Horticulture), provided detailed information on integrated crop management practices for horticultural crops. The training programme concluded successfully with the participation of approximately 85 farmers from Mattodu Village.



Empowerment of Self-Help Groups of Integrated Farming Clusters

To transform agricultural inputs into value-added products and ensure sustainable livelihoods, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra took the initiative to organize an exposure visit programme on 05.05.2026 for members of the Integrated Farming Clusters (IFCs) of Puttur and Sulia taluks.

The Sulia team comprised 10 members, including the Taluk Programme Manager, Taluk Manager (Farm), Cluster Supervisor, MBK, LCRP, Krishi Sakhi, GPLF member, and other stakeholders. The Puttur team comprised 13 members, including the Taluk Programme Manager, Taluk Manager (Farm), PDO, BR-EP, Former President of Nidpally Gram Panchayat, and other representatives.

Dr. M. R. Manikantan, Principal Scientist, Department of Physiology, Biochemistry, Harvest and Post-Harvest Technology, provided technical inputs on various value-addition technologies. Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Head, Division of Crop Protection, accompanied the participants to the field and explained integrated pest management practices in plantation crops.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. T. J. Ramesha, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra. As an outcome of the programme, participants expressed their willingness to acquire value-addition technologies from ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, for initiating entrepreneurial ventures.



Capacity Development Programme for Extension Personnel

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, organized a Tri-Monthly Workshop on 26.05.2026 at its office premises.



The objective of the programme was to update departmental officials on recent advances in horticultural crops so that they could effectively address location-specific problems faced by farmers.

Dr. Mallikarjun, Scientist (Soil Science), delivered a lecture on the balanced use of fertilizers in horticultural crops. Dr. Jeena Devasia, Divisional Head (Plant Breeding), Central Coffee Research Institute, Chikkamagaluru, and Deputy Director (In-charge), Coffee Research Sub-Station, Chettalli, delivered a lecture on coffee as an intercrop in arecanut plantations.

Dr. Kedarnath, Scientist (Plant Protection), ICAR-KVK, also participated in the programme. As part of the programme, an exhibition was organized, and bioagents procured from ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, were displayed to educate departmental officials.

Convergence Programme with the Department of Agriculture, Goa

A capacity development programme on integrated pest and disease management was organized by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada, Mangaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Goa, on 25.05.2026.

Dr. Kedarnath, Scientist (Plant Protection), provided technical information on integrated pest and disease management practices in horticultural crops of the coastal region.



Mr. Pruthviraj, Agriculture Officer, Department of Agriculture, Goa, and 41 farmers participated in the programme.

Workshop on Integrated Disease Management in Horticultural Crops

A workshop on Integrated Disease Management in Horticultural Crops was organized by the Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society, Alankaru, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada, Mangaluru, on 12.05.2026 at the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Auditorium, Alankaru.



Dr. Kedarnath, Scientist (Plant Protection), provided technical information on integrated disease management practices in horticultural crops. A total of 155 farmers participated in the programme.

Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

IC AR-Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Davanagere, organized a Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers in different taluks of Davanagere District from 02.05.2026 to 30.05.2026 on a daily basis.

Dr. T. N. Devaraja, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, inaugurated the campaign at the KVK Campus, Kadalivana, and highlighted the significance of the campaign to farmers and KVK staff.

All the scientists of KVK joined hands in conducting the campaign and created awareness on soil sampling and soil testing, the need to reduce excessive use of inorganic fertilizers such as urea, DAP, MOP, and complex fertilizers (15:15:15 and 10:26:26), and the importance of micronutrients and their integrated use along with organic manures.

The scientists emphasized the importance of applying fertilizers based on soil-test recommendations. Technical information was also provided on organic carbon enrichment, crop residue management, integrated nutrient management in agricultural and horticultural crops, soil mulching, the importance of different types of organic manures, and the use of soil conditioners for sustaining soil health.

As part of promoting the use of organic manures, ICAR-Taralabalu KVK established a demonstration unit on areca husk composting at its Kadalivana Farm. Through this technology, many farmers benefited by producing organic manure from areca husk, which was previously discarded through burning or dumping in backyards and along roadsides. A total of 1,288 farmers benefited from the Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers conducted across different taluks of Davanagere District.



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Participation of ICAR-KVK, Dharwad Scientists as Resource Persons

Dr. Vijaylaxmi I. Mundinamani, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, participated as a resource person in the NSS Special Camp organized by the College of Agriculture, Dharwad at Honnapura village of Alnavar taluk on 21.05.2026. During the programme, she delivered a lecture on "Preparedness for Monsoon Season Management in Livestock" to 80 NSS students. The session focused on essential livestock management practices during the monsoon season, including disease prevention, shelter management, fodder conservation and ensuring animal health and productivity during adverse weather conditions.



Dr. Airadevi P. Angadi, Scientist (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, served as a resource person and delivered a lecture on "Establishment of Horticultural Plant Nurseries and their economic impact" at the Centre of Excellence on Vegetables, Dharwad, on 22.05.2026. The programme was organized for farmers from five villages of Dharwad district, namely Amargol, Gamanagatti, Honnapur, Ramapur and Tabakada Honnalli. She highlighted the scope, management practices and income-generating potential of horticultural plant nurseries, emphasizing their role in improving farmers' livelihoods and strengthening the rural economy. A total of 60 participants, including 38 farmers and 22 farm women, attended the programme.



Mrs. Vidya V. Sangannavar, Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, participated as a resource person in training programmes on “Backyard Kitchen Garden” organized by Manuvikas NGO at Dummawad village on 26.05.2026 and Kalaghatagi on 27.05.2026 in Kalaghatagi taluk. During the programmes, she delivered lectures on the importance of nutri gardens, their cultivation practices and their health and nutritional benefits for promoting sustainable and healthy livelihoods. She highlighted the significant role of backyard kitchen gardens in improving household nutrition, ensuring food security and enhancing dietary diversity among rural families. More than 50 farm women actively participated in the training programmes.



Awareness programmes on “Judicious and Balanced Use of Fertilizers”

Dr. Pallavi T., Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, conducted awareness programmes on “Judicious and Balanced Use of

Fertilizers” in association with ATMA, Department of Agriculture, Hubballi. The first programme was organized at Bammapura village, Hubballi taluk on 07.05.2026 and the second programme was conducted at Kamplikoppa village, Hubballi taluk on 21.05.2026. During these programmes, farmers were sensitized on the judicious and balanced use of fertilizers, alternative fertilizer sources to urea and DAP, the importance of complete fertilizers and the adoption of the Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) approach for sustaining soil health and enhancing crop productivity. The programmes emphasized efficient nutrient management practices to achieve sustainable agricultural production while maintaining long-term soil fertility.



Celebration of World Bee Day 2026 by ICAR-KVK, Dharwad

ICAR-KVK, Dharwad celebrated World Bee Day 2026 on 20.05.2026 in association with the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Dharwad and Snehatanda, College of Agriculture, Dharwad. The programme was inaugurated by watering a plant, symbolizing environmental conservation and sustainability. The programme was graced by Dr. C. P. Mallapur, Associate Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. M. G. Hegde, Head, Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Dharwad and Dr. P. Nagaraju, Nodal Officer (KVKs), UAS, Dharwad who highlighted the vital role of honey bees in

pollination, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem sustainability and agricultural productivity. They also emphasized the importance of beekeeping as an income generating enterprise for farmers and rural youth.

Dr. Guruprasad G. S., Dr. D. N. Kambrekar, Dr. Harish, Dr. Subash Kandakur, Professors of the Department of Entomology and Dr. K. P. Gundannavar, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, along with KVK staff and progressive beekeeper Shri Girish Marati from Yellapur, participated in the programme and interacted with the participants. An exhibition was organized to showcase various honey bee products and demonstrate the potential of beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood option. Dr. Arjun R. Sulagitti, Scientist (Entomology), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, coordinated the programme and briefed the participants about the Beekeeping Unit of ICAR-KVK, Dharwad and its activities. More than 45 participants actively participated in the event.



Radio Talk on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

Dr. Pallavi T., Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), ICAR-KVK, Dharwad, delivered a radio talk on "Balanced Use of Fertilizers" at the Krishi Community Radio Station, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad on 22.05.2026. During the programme, she highlighted the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application, balanced use of NPK fertilizers and scientific methods of fertilizer application for improving nutrient use efficiency. She also discussed alternative fertilizer sources to urea and DAP, the benefits of complex fertilizers and the adoption of the Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) approach for sustaining soil health and enhancing crop productivity. The talk emphasized the need for judicious fertilizer use to achieve higher yields while maintaining long-term soil fertility and environmental sustainability.



From Essential Oils to Consumer Products: KVK Ernakulam Partners with CSIR-CIMAP for Aromatic Crop Value Addition under SCSP Programme

KVK

Ernakulam has entered into a strategic collaboration with CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, for technology transfer and value addition in aromatic crops. An MoU was signed on the occasion of National Technology Day (11 May 2026) between Dr. Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP, and Dr. Shinoj Subramanian, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK Ernakulam.

The initiative forms part of KVK Ernakulam's Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Programme, aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities, entrepreneurship, and income generation among Scheduled Caste communities through aromatic crop-based enterprises.

The collaboration builds upon KVK Ernakulam's ongoing efforts to promote lemongrass and other aromatic crops in forest-bordering and human-wildlife conflict-prone areas. Earlier, the KVK established a distillation facility at Vavely, enabling the extraction of essential oils.

Under the present agreement, the KVK has acquired technologies developed by CSIR-CIMAP for the manufacture of Herbal Floor Disinfectant, Herbal Floor Cleaner, and Mosquito Repellent Room Spray using essential oils derived from lemongrass and other aromatic plants. These technologies will facilitate the conversion of locally produced essential oils into commercially viable household and hygiene products, thereby strengthening the value chain and creating new livelihood opportunities for Scheduled Caste farmers, women's self-help groups, and rural entrepreneurs.



As part of the technology transfer programme, Shri Thirumoorthy P., Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), underwent specialized training at CSIR-CIMAP on product formulation, quality standards, and manufacturing protocols.

The initiative demonstrates an integrated farm-to-market approach encompassing cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihood enhancement and enterprise development among Scheduled Caste communities in Ernakulam District.

District-Level Campaigns on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

Recognizing the critical need to restore soil health and counter the long-term degradation caused by imbalanced nutrient application, KVK Ernakulam launched a comprehensive district-level campaign on the "Balanced Use of Fertilizers."

Conducted throughout the critical pre-monsoon months of April and May, this intensive outreach initiative spanned ten Grama Panchayats to educate and empower farming communities directly at the grassroots level. The campaign aimed to translate the scientific principles of precise nutrient management into practical strategies, helping farmers understand

that long-term agricultural sustainability and high crop yields depend on the judicious application of both macronutrients and micronutrients based on specific soil and crop requirements.

To reinforce these village-level efforts, the KVK concurrently organized three specialized on-campus campaigns at the KVK campus. These focused institutional programmes provided farmers with hands-on exposure to science-driven methodologies, including Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), soil test-based fertilizer recommendations, and regenerative agricultural practices.

By combining extensive outreach across the ten Panchayats with targeted practical training at the campus, the dual-pronged campaign successfully equipped farmers with the knowledge and tools necessary to transition toward more resilient, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable farming systems.

The Grama Panchayats and municipalities covered under the campaign included Aikkaranadu, North Paravur, Maradu, Edakkattuvayal, Angamaly, Okkal, Kanjoor, Kalady, Sreemoolanagaram, and Udayamperoor. KVK experts visited these locations as part of two field teams. A total of 447 farmers actively participated in the campaign.



District level seminar on cashew



ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gadag District in association with Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development, Cochin organized District Level Cashew Seminar on 15-05-2026. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Kumbar, Rtd. Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Gadag and spoke on various horticulture crops grown in Gadag district. However, Vengurla-4 and Vengurla-7 varieties of Cashew are best suited to agro-climatic situation of Gadag district.

Shri Shailendra Biradar, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Gadag graced the occasion as Chief Guest and highlighted the department's efforts in expanding cashew cultivation in 2000 acres in collaboration with KVK, Gadag and DCCD, Cochin.

During the event, Shri S.K.Mudlapur, Rtd. SMS (Plant Protection) explained the major pests and diseases affecting cashew crop and their management practices and Shri V.D.Vaikunthe, Rtd. SMS (Agronomy) shared their experience on Good Agricultural Practices to reap good harvest and appreciated the journey of KVK Gadag in popularising and spreading Cashew throughout the district.

Dr.R.K.Gacchinmath, Rtd. Professor, DGM Ayurvedic Medical College, Gadag addressed gathering on how he gained interest in agriculture and cashew attracted him to take up crop in his dryland farm. Horticulture SMS of KVK,

Smt. Hemavati Hiregoudar briefed about the seminar and recollected all organisations supported to KVK in spreading Cashew crop in Gadag district.

More than 150 cashew growers were participated and farmer-scientist interaction session, field visits to the KVK's cashew orchard was organized as part of the event.

Training to Krishi Sakhi

ICAR-K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti in collaboration with Sanjeevini-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Zilla Panchayat, Gadag and organised training on agro-ecological practices for Community Resource Persons i.e., Krishi Sakhis of Farm Livelihood Module-4 from 21st April to 23rd May, 2026. A total of 122 Krishi Sakhis participated in the programme, which was conducted in four batches, each consists of six days of intensive training.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri M.V.Chalageri, Project Director, NRLM, Zilla Panchayat, Gadag and insisted participants to make best use of the programme and cater various agriculture needs of farmers, farm women and youths of their respective panchayats.

Dr.Sudha V. Mankani, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Hulkoti said that, all the Sakhis have to transfer the information and the technologies to the women in the village. Besides this, they should strive hard to transfer the recent researches and issues viz., natural farming, nutrition garden, and etc.

Training covered wide range of topics, including Farmers Field School, marketing and agriculture product, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling and value addition, use of farm machinery and small agriculture implements, soil conservation and sustainable soil management practices, agri-nutri-garden etc. Participants were



exposed to practical learning through field visits to Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs), visit to processing units, hands-on-training on the operation and maintenance of small farm implements.

One-Day Workshop on Importance Of Millets on Human Health

ICAR-K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti organized one day Workshop on importance of Millets on human health in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Gadag. Millet man of India, Padmashri Dr. Khadar Vali inaugurated the programme and spoke on importance of Millet in human health and he urged the participants to start consuming Millets on daily basis and keep away from all diseases. Further, he opined that, the increase in life style disease like blood pressure, thyroid, diabetes etc., is due to the consumption of rice and wheat. The daily intake of millets helps in getting dietary fiber which reduces the acidity and constipation problems.



Shri D.R.Patil Ji, Chairman, ASF-KVK, Hulkoti gave opening remarks and expressed that KVK Hulkoti has initiated conductance of the Workshop and awareness programmes on Millet cultivation and it's nutrition for benefit of farmers and other stakeholders.

Dr.L.G.Hiregoudar, Secretary, ASF, Hulkoti shared his experience of consuming Millets and its impact on health. Shri Odugoudar spoke on health benefits of Millets. Shri Raju Koravanavar, Honorary Secretary, ASF, Hulkoti shared his experience of growing Millets and various technologies available.

Dr. Sudha V. Mankani, Senior Scientist and Head, spoke on various value-added products of millets that can be prepared out of Millet. Shri N.H.Bhandi,

SMS (Soil Science) spoke on water conservation measures and soil health.

During the event, Smt. Seema Savanur, ADA, Gadag was present. More than 200 farmers, farm women, rural youths, college & school students participated in the programme.



World Earth Day Celebration

On 28-04-2026, ICAR-K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti organized a one-day workshop on the occasion of World Earth Day in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority and Department of Agriculture, Gadag. The programme was inaugurated by Shri C. S. Shivanagoudra, Honourable Senior Civil Judge and Member Commissioner, District Legal Services Authority, Gadag. In his address, he emphasized environmental protection and encouraged farmers to adopt eco-friendly, organic

and natural farming practices. Mrs. Spoorthi G.S., Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gadag, explained the importance of land conservation and ecological balance in her introductory remarks. Smt. Chetana Patil, Joint Director of Agriculture, Gadag, presided over the function and stressed on proper use of chemical fertilizers, promotion of organic farming and water conservation practices.

During the technical session, Dr. Kalavathi Kambli, Head, Agricultural Research Station, Gadag, highlighted the harmful effects of excessive use of plastic on land, water and the environment. Shri. Shivanagouda Patil, a natural farming practitioner from Ron block, explained how farmers can become financially stronger through self-prepared natural fertilizers and pesticides.

Dr. Chethan Babu RT, SMS (Agronomy), ICAR-KVK, Hulkoti, spoke on Integrated Nutrient Management and the use of nano urea, nano DAP, micronutrients, biofertilizers, and biopesticides for environmental protection.

The programme was moderated by Smt. Meghana Nadigera, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Gadag, and concluded with a vote of thanks by

Shri Basalingappa Halavara, Taluka Technical Manager [ATMA], Gadag. Around 70 farmers and farm women from all blocks of the district participated in the workshop.



World Bee Day Celebration

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kandali, Hassan, organized the World Bee Day Celebration on 20.05.2026 at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.



The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Rajegowda, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK. In his inaugural address, he emphasized that honeybees are the primary pollinating agents for nearly 90 per cent of agricultural crops and, therefore, play a vital role in agriculture. He also highlighted the health benefits of honey and encouraged farmers to take up beekeeping as a profitable enterprise.

Dr. Manoj H., Scientist (Plant Protection), presided over the programme and stressed that farmers should adopt beekeeping as an integral component of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS). He explained that beekeeping can increase crop yields by nearly 30 per cent through enhanced pollination while also providing additional income through the sale of honey.

He further remarked that, as the popular saying goes, "Live and let live." If honeybees are protected, humanity will continue to thrive; however, the decline of bee populations could pose a serious threat to human survival. Therefore, he appealed to farmers to reduce the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides and actively conserve honeybee populations.

He also informed the participants about the various facilities, incentives, and support schemes available through government departments for promoting beekeeping.

The programme was attended by Dr. Arun Kumar B. R., Scientist (Soil Science); Dr. Srinivas Deshpande, Scientist (Agricultural Engineering); Ms. Lakshmi Masthiholi, Scientist (Horticulture); and 42 farmers from Hassan District.

Training Program on Eco-Friendly Agriculture and Use of Balanced Fertilizers



A

one-day training program aimed at raising awareness on “Ecological Farming and Balanced Fertilizer Use” was conducted in partnership with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hanumanamatti, the Organic Institute at UAS, Dharwad, and the Vanasiri Rural Development Institute, Ranebennur. Dr. S. A. Biradar, who inaugurated the event, addressed the attendees, urging farmers to embrace eco-friendly, organic, and sustainable farming practices to enhance soil fertility. He advised farmers to gradually reduce their reliance on chemical inputs, noting that the use of green manure and compost contributes to improved soil health. He stressed the importance of increasing agricultural income through the cultivation of quality crops. During his address, he provided detailed information on various biological fungicides and insecticides, including Trichoderma, PSB, Vyamma, and Bio Culture.

Following this, Dr. A. H. Biradar, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, chaired the program and highlighted the significance of indigenous seeds and soil testing for developing climate-resilient crops. The training program was presented by Dr. Rashmi C. M, SMS (Soil Science), with Mr. G. P. Nadafa, Coordinator of the Vanasiri Rural Development Organization, providing the welcome address. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Akshata Ramannanavar, SMS (Home Science). This program saw participation from progressive farmers such as Mr. Mahadevappa Negalu from Asundi, along with over 110 farmers and farmer women from the Ranebennur, Byadagi, Hirekerur, and Rattihalli taluks, all of whom are associated with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the Vanasiri Rural Development Institute, and benefited from the training offered.

ICAR-KVK, IDUKKI

ICAR DDG (Agricultural Extension) Reviews Farmer-Centric Initiatives and Technology Demonstrations at KVK Idukki

H

on'ble Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, Dr. Rajbir Singh, visited ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Idukki, as part of his official tour to review the activities and achievements of the KVK. He was accompanied by Dr. V. Venketasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone XI, Bengaluru, and Dr. Mathew J. Grace, Senior Administrative Officer, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru.

During the visit, the Hon'ble DDG held detailed interactions with the KVK staff. He reviewed the functioning of the KVK and appreciated the sincere efforts and commitment of the staff in implementing various extension programmes, technology dissemination activities, frontline demonstrations, training programmes, and farmer-oriented interventions across the district.

The Hon'ble DDG visited all the demonstration units established on the KVK campus and examined the technologies being promoted for the benefit of farmers. He reviewed the functioning of the Integrated Farming System (IFS) units, crop production demonstrations, livestock and fisheries components, natural farming initiatives, nutrient management demonstrations, protected cultivation structures, value-addition facilities, and other technology demonstration units maintained by the KVK. He appreciated the practical relevance of these demonstrations in enhancing farmers' knowledge and promoting the adoption of improved agricultural technologies.

The infrastructure facilities of KVK Idukki, including training halls, laboratories, farmers' hostels, instructional farms, technology demonstration units, and other support facilities, were also inspected. The Hon'ble DDG reviewed the progress of various ongoing programmes, projects, and extension activities being implemented by the KVK and provided valuable suggestions for improving their effectiveness

and outreach.

As part of the field visit, Dr. Rajbir Singh interacted directly with progressive farmers engaged in pineapple and small cardamom cultivation in different parts of Idukki District. He visited farmers' fields, observed innovative farming practices, and discussed the production constraints and opportunities associated with these important crops. He appreciated the entrepreneurial initiatives and scientific approaches adopted by the farmers and encouraged them to make greater use of advanced technologies, climate-resilient practices, and sustainable farming methods to enhance productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

The Hon'ble DDG also emphasized the importance of strengthening linkages among research institutions, extension agencies, and farming communities to ensure the faster transfer of technologies from laboratories to farmers' fields. He highlighted the significant role of KVKs in empowering farmers through capacity building, skill development, and location-specific technological interventions.

The visit served as a source of encouragement and motivation for the KVK team and reinforced the institution's commitment to sustainable agricultural development and farmer welfare in Idukki District.



ICAR-KVK, KALABURAGI-I

Training Program on Pre-Kharif-2026 preparation

ICAR

-KVK, Kalaburagi-I conducted one day training programme on pre kharif preparation in collaboration with Myrada and KSDA, Kalaburagi on 27.04.2026. In this program, Dr. Raju G. Teggelli interacted with farmers regarding present scenario of Agriculture, Seed treatment, crop cultivation and importance of organic fertilizers usage etc. Dr. Yusufali, Scientist (Agronomy) encouraged the trainees to promote organic fertilizers, the use of agricultural waste and residue management, while Dr. Zaheer Ahmed (Pathology) explained Integrated disease management in pulse crops. Dr. Shreenivas B. V, Scientist (Soil Science) has delivered a lecture on soil and water sampling methodology, nutrient management using soil health card and importance of using organic fertilizers in today's Agriculture scenario also emphasised on balanced use of fertilisers for sustainable soil health and food production. After the programme, participants visited to different method demonstration units of the KVK like, compost, vermicompost, vermiwash, hydroponics, azolla units, poultry unit, rabbit, aquaculture, watershed model, medicinal & aromatic plots, soil testing labs, organic inputs demo, museum, terrace garden, biodiversity park, crop cafeteria, farm pond, farm machinery unit and dairy farm. Nearly 35 farmers from Kalaburagi & Chittapur taluka were participated.



Exposure visit by Appa University Students

Appa University, M.Sc., (Botany) final year Students exposure cum learning visited to ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-I on 14.05.2026. During the programme, Dr. Shreenivas, B. V., Scientist (Soil Science) explained about the importance of

soil and water testing in Agriculture, soil health and procedures to estimate the both major and micro nutrients in the soil further emphasized about the generate and usage of soil health cards. Dr. Yusufali Nimbaragi, Scientist (Agronomy) interacted with participants on integrated farming system, about natural farming. Dr. Yusufali Nimbaragi briefed about importance of organic and natural farming in present days.



Resource Person at SBI-KITSERD and DATC by KVK Scientists

A one-day training programme on different topics arranged for Rural Youths by SBI-KITSERD and DATC, Kalaburagi in the month May, 2026. ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-I scientists were participated as resource person.

Dr. Yusufali Nimbaragi, Scientist (Agronomy) interacted with participants on integrated farming system, about natural farming to the farers and Krishi Sakhis on 16th May, 2026. During the sessions, the importance of natural farming and organic farming in Agriculture and also explained about integrated crop management in pulses. More than 85 farmers were participated in the training and gained valuable knowledge.

On 18th May, 2026 organized training programme on Soil health management at SBI-KITSERD center, Kalaburagi. Dr. Shreenivas, B. V., Scientist (Soil Science) explained about the importance of soil and water testing in Agriculture, soil health and procedures to estimate the both major and micro nutrients in the soil further emphasized about the generate and usage of soil health cards and briefed about balanced use of fertilisers.. More than 65 rural youths were actively participated.



Seed Day-2026

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-I sales disease-resistant certified pigeon pea seeds on 25.05.2026 after inauguration Seed Day-2026 programme. The programme was inaugurated by ADR Dr. Jagjeevan Ram and distributed the seed bag to the farmers. Farmers are queuing up for purchase of pigeon pea seeds in KVK and ZARS, Kalaburagi premises. Kalaburagi district is the major growing region of the pulses variety in the South. Short duration varieties such as TS-3R, GRG-811 and GRG-152, that are resistant to diseases such as wilt and sterility mosaic virus, are in great demand attracting the interests of farmers even from neighboring district and States. Along with scientists were advised seed treatment with biofertilizers, apply fertilizers based on soil test with organic fertilizers like compost or vermicompost, Integrated Nutrient management and integrated pest and disease management in pulses mainly redgram which is covered more than 6.5 lakhs hectares. More than 800 farmers were purchased seeds and got technical information from the scientists. Senior Scientist and Head, Dr. Raju G. Teggelli and Farm Superintendent Dr. Anand Naik and staff of KVK and ZARS and farmers were participated.



ICAR-KVK, KALABURAGI II

Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

A

Soil Health Awareness Programme on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers was organized on 19.05.2026 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalaburagi-II (Raddewadgi). The programme was inaugurated by Rajyotsava Awardee Shri Somanath Reddy Purma of Kodal Village, Sedam Taluk, along with other dignitaries, by watering saplings and formally launching the event.

During the programme, the speakers emphasized the importance of crop diversification, intercropping, and integrated farming practices in agriculture. Farmers were advised to improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers through sustainable agricultural methods. It was highlighted that agriculture and yoga are interconnected in promoting a healthy and balanced lifestyle, and farmers, officials, and students were encouraged to adopt these principles in their daily lives.

Smt. Farzana M. K., Senior Technical Officer (Soil Science), who coordinated the programme, explained the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application and provided information on various schemes of the Central Government. She expressed concern that the excessive use of urea and DAP fertilizers is adversely affecting soil health and the environment and may lead to unsafe food production in the future.

Dr. Chandrakant, Scientist (Soil Science), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bidar, delivered a special lecture advising farmers to maintain soil health and reduce fertilizer costs through the use of organic inputs such as vermicompost, compost, bio-fertilizers, and green manure. He also encouraged farmers to adopt eco-friendly practices to increase economic returns while reducing cultivation expenses.

Dr. P. Vasudev Nayak, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, presided over the programme and informed the participants that quality pigeonpea seed varieties GRG-152 and GRG-811 would be available at the centre from the 26th of May 2026. He also expressed optimism regarding the prospects of good rainfall during the season and advised farmers to treat seeds with bio-fertilizers before sowing. Farmers were encouraged to visit the KVK for technical guidance on various crops during the upcoming agricultural season.

More than 50 farmers, technical staff, and workers participated in and benefited from the programme.

The programme was welcomed and anchored by Shri M. C. Patil, Senior Technical Officer (Farm Management), while the vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Sanjeevkumar Patil, Senior Technical Officer (Computer Applications).





ICAR-KVK KANNUR

Organization of Various Programmes and Off-Campus Training Activities

Krishivi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kannur, organized a Balanced Fertilizer Use Awareness Programme to educate farmers on the scientific and judicious application of fertilizers in their fields. The programme aimed to create awareness about the importance of balanced nutrient management for improving crop productivity and maintaining soil health.

An interactive session was conducted between farmers and scientists, providing an opportunity for farmers to clarify their doubts regarding the appropriate quantity, timing, and method of fertilizer application. The scientists emphasized the need for soil test-based fertilizer recommendations and encouraged the adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices.

The programme also highlighted the benefits of increasing the use of organic inputs such as farmyard manure, compost, and bio-fertilizers in place of excessive inorganic fertilizers. This approach helps reduce cultivation costs, improve soil fertility, promote sustainable agriculture, and enhance crop yield and quality in the long term.



Off-Campus Training Programme on Jackfruit Value Addition

An off-campus training programme on Jackfruit Value Addition was organized on 16.05.2026 at Kuttiattoor CDS Hall. The programme was conducted for 25 women farmers with the objective of promoting value addition and entrepreneurship opportunities through jackfruit processing.

The training session was led by Dr. Shruthi P., who provided detailed information on the importance of value addition, processing techniques, quality maintenance, and marketing opportunities for jackfruit-based products.

The programme mainly focused on hands-on training and demonstrations on the preparation of jackfruit chips, jackfruit squash, and jackfruit jam. Participants actively took part in the practical sessions and learned the step-by-step procedures involved in the preparation, preservation, packaging, and storage of these value-added products.

The training enhanced the participants' knowledge and skills in utilizing locally available jackfruit resources for income generation and encouraged them to explore small-scale processing ventures as a means of improving household income and reducing post-harvest losses.



Off-Campus Training Programme on Value Addition of Fruits and Vegetables

An off-campus training programme on Value Addition of Fruits and Vegetables was organized on 25.05.2026 at the Peravoor Farmer Producer Organization, Maloor. The programme aimed to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills in the processing and value addition of horticultural produce to increase income and reduce post-harvest losses.



The training session was conducted by Dr. Shruthi P., Assistant Professor, KVK Kannur. During the programme, participants received both theoretical and practical knowledge on the preparation of value-added products from fruits and vegetables.

Hands-on training and demonstrations were conducted on the preparation of mango jam, mango squash, and mango pulp. Participants actively engaged in the practical sessions and gained experience in processing techniques, hygiene practices, and preservation methods involved in the preparation of these products.

Approximately 20 farmers participated in the programme and benefited from the interactive discussions and practical demonstrations. The training encouraged farmers to explore small-scale processing and value-addition enterprises as a means of enhancing farm income and promoting entrepreneurship.

On-Campus Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development and Extension Activities of KVK

An on-campus training programme on "Entrepreneurship Development and Extension Activities of KVK" was conducted on 25.05.2026 in association with RUDSET Institute, Kannur.

The session was led by Dr. Meera Manjusha A. V., Programme Coordinator, who provided valuable insights into entrepreneurship development, extension services, and the role of KVKs in supporting farmers and rural communities.

Around 50 trainees and officials participated in the programme and gained a better understanding of the activities, services, and outreach programmes conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The session was interactive and informative, helping participants enhance their knowledge of entrepreneurship opportunities and extension initiatives for rural development.



On-Campus Training Programme on Cultivation of Yam and Elephant Foot Yam for SC/ST Farmers under SCSP

An on-campus training programme on the Cultivation of Yam and Elephant Foot Yam for SC/ST farmers under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Project was organized on 30.05.2026.

The programme aimed to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills in the scientific cultivation practices of these important tuber crops, thereby improving productivity and income.

The training session was conducted by Dr. Saniga N. S., who provided detailed information on improved cultivation techniques, selection of quality planting

materials, land preparation, nutrient management, pest and disease management, and the recommended package of practices for yam and elephant foot yam cultivation.

The programme also included interactive discussions during which farmers had the opportunity to clarify their queries and gain practical insights into tuber crop cultivation. The training emphasized the importance of adopting scientific cultivation methods to achieve higher yields and better economic returns.

Around 50 farmers participated in the programme and benefited from the technical guidance and knowledge shared during the training session. The programme contributed to strengthening the capacity of SC/ST farmers and promoting sustainable tuber crop cultivation in the region.



ICAR-KVK, KASARAGOD

Awareness Campaign on Balanced and Judicious Use of Fertilizers

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), CPCRI, Kasaragod, organized awareness campaigns on the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers across six blocks of Kasaragod District in association with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kasaragod.

Farmers were sensitized to the importance of soil test-based nutrient management for improving soil health and enhancing farm profitability. During the campaign, scientists highlighted Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices such as the use of green manures, organic manures, bio-fertilizers, and balanced fertilization, which enhance nutrient availability and sustain long-term crop productivity.

The scientists also emphasized chemical-free natural farming practices, including the use of bio-inputs, mulching, and natural bio-formulations. As part of the campaign, a method demonstration was conducted on 'NutRe', a sensor-based Internet of Things (IoT) tool developed by Biota Precision Agriculture Pvt. Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram, which provides real-time soil testing and generates crop-specific advisories for participating farmers.



Training Programme on Backyard Poultry Rearing and Distribution of Poultry Feed under SCSP

A training programme on Backyard Poultry Rearing was conducted on 18 and 26 May 2026 at the Seminar Hall of ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod, by Dr. Ramavath Pandu, Subject Matter Specialist (Livestock Production Management).

The programme focused on scientific backyard poultry management practices, including housing, feeding, healthcare, and disease management, to enhance livelihood opportunities for rural households. A total of 17 farmers participated in the training programme and actively interacted during the sessions.

Following the programme, poultry feed bags were distributed to Scheduled Caste (SC) beneficiary farmers under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Programme to support backyard poultry rearing activities.

Promoting Jackfruit-Based Enterprises through Skill Development Training

Two on-campus training programmes on Jackfruit Value Addition were conducted on 20 May 2026 and 29 May 2026 at the Post-Harvest Processing and Nutrition Laboratory, ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod, by Dr. Saritha Hegde, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science).

The training programmes focused on the preparation of value-added jackfruit products such as jackfruit papad, jackfruit bulb powder, jackfruit seed powder, and dehydrated tender jackfruit.

Participants were provided with hands-on exposure to processing techniques, product preparation methods, and value-addition opportunities for enhancing farm income and reducing post-harvest losses. A total of 20 farmers participated in the programmes and actively engaged in the practical sessions.





ICAR-KVK, KODAGU

Promoting Balanced Fertilizer Use and Sustainable Nutrient Management among Farmers of Kodagu

A month-long awareness and capacity-building programme on balanced fertilizer use and sustainable nutrient management was organized by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gonikoppal, through a series of on-campus and off-campus training programmes across Kodagu District.

The initiative primarily focused on tribal farming communities with the objective of promoting environmentally safe and scientifically balanced fertilizer practices to protect soil health and preserve “Mother Earth” for future generations.

The inaugural programme for district fertilizer dealers was held at KVK, Gonikoppal, wherein Dr. Kolekar, ATARI, Bengaluru, participated as the Chief Guest and emphasized the importance of responsible fertilizer use, balanced nutrient application, and sustainable agricultural practices for maintaining long-term soil productivity and environmental safety.

As part of the campaign, extensive awareness programmes and technical sessions were conducted involving tribal farmers, Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) members, cooperative society members, and agricultural input dealers. Participants were educated on the harmful effects of excessive and indiscriminate fertilizer use, including nutrient imbalance, declining crop productivity, soil degradation, environmental pollution, and health hazards.

Special emphasis was given to soil test-based fertilizer recommendations, adoption of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Principles (Right Source, Right Dose, Right Time, and Right Method of Application), and the integration of organic and biological inputs with chemical fertilizers to improve nutrient-use efficiency and promote sustainable agriculture in the district.

Under the programme, practical training sessions were also conducted on the preparation and use of organic inputs such as vermicompost, Jeevamrutha, and Ghanajeevamrutha to encourage low-cost, eco-friendly, and sustainable nutrient management practices among farmers.

Farmers were also encouraged to adopt bio-fertilizers and beneficial microbial inputs such as Trichoderma and Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Consortium (AMC), along with the foliar application of micronutrients, to improve nutrient availability, soil biological activity, plant health, and overall crop productivity in a sustainable manner.



ICAR- KVK, KOLAR

Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR

-KVK, Kolar, in association with the Department of Forestry, Zilla Panchayat (ZP), Kolar, conducted an Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers at KVK, Kolar, on 02.05.2026 with the participation of around 60 farmers.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Amar Narayan, IAS (Retd.). The programme was graced by the presence of the DCF (Regular), DCF (Social Forestry), DCF (Research), Kolar District, and Dr. Shivanand V. Hongal, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Kolar.

The programme focused on creating awareness among farmers about the importance of the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers for improving soil health and crop productivity. Around 100 farmers benefited from the programme.



Awareness and Training Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-KVK, Kolar, in collaboration with ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, organized an awareness and training programme on the balanced use of fertilizers at Kuradagur Village, Kysamballi

Hobli, KGF Taluk, on 06.05.2026.

Scientists from IIHR, Dr. Prasannakumar N. R. and Dr. Chethan, along with KVK scientists Dr. Anil Kumar S. and Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T. B., highlighted the importance of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), bio-fertilizers, organic farming, and natural farming practices to reduce chemical fertilizer use and improve nutrient-use efficiency. Around 60 farmers participated in the programme.



Tomato Crop Seminar and Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar, in collaboration with PI Industries Ltd., organized a Tomato Crop Seminar and Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers at KVK, Kolar, on 07.05.2026.

During the programme, Mr. Ramesh, Deputy General Manager (Marketing), South Karnataka, PI Industries Ltd., along with Dr. Anil Kumar S., Scientist (Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry), and Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T. B., Scientist (Plant Protection), ICAR-KVK, Kolar, delivered lectures on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and Integrated Disease Management (IDM) and created awareness about the balanced use of fertilizers for sustainable tomato cultivation. Around 20 field officers participated in the programme.

Awareness and Training Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-KVK, Kolar, in collaboration with ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, and the Department of Agriculture (ATMA), Kolar, organized an awareness and training programme on the balanced use of fertilizers at KVK, Kolar, on 08.05.2026.

Dr. T. Sakthivel, Dr. Sathish G. C., Dr. T. R. Rupa, and Dr. Rathanaprabha, Principal Scientists, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, along with Dr. Anil Kumar S., Scientist (SS&AC), Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T. B., Scientist (Plant Protection), Mr. Manjunatha, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), Kolar, and Smt. Lakshmi Devi, ATMA Deputy Project Director (DPD), highlighted the importance of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), IIHR bio-fertilizers, and organic and natural farming practices to reduce chemical fertilizer use, improve nutrient-use efficiency, and maintain soil health. Around 80 farmers participated in the programme.

Awareness Programme on "Balanced Nutrient Use in Mulberry Cultivation for Quality Cocoon Production"

ICAR-KVK, Kolar, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, and the Department of Sericulture, Bangarpet, jointly organized an awareness programme on "Balanced Nutrient Use in Mulberry Cultivation for Quality Cocoon Production" at the Kuppanahalli Sericulture



Farm, Bangarpet, on 13.05.2026.

Dr. Manjunath B. L., Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, emphasized organic-based nutrient management and balanced fertilizer application.

KVK scientists Dr. Anil Kumar S. (Soil Science), Dr. Manjunatha Reddy T. B. (Plant Protection), and Dr.

Shashidhar K. R. (Sericulture) educated farmers on soil testing, soil health management, and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for sustainable leaf and cocoon production.

The event featured distinguished guests including Sri S. N. Srinivas (Deputy Director, Government Cocoon Market, Kolar), Sri Anjaneya Reddy (Deputy Director, ZP Kolar), Sri Srinivasagowda (Assistant Director of Sericulture, Bangarpet), and Dr. Parameshwara Naika (Scientist-C, REC, Madivala). Around 150 sericulture farmers actively participated in the programme.

Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-KVK, Kolar, along with ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, organized an awareness campaign on the balanced use of fertilizers at Byrakuru Village, Mulabagal Taluk, on 18.05.2026.

Dr. Manjunatha Reddy, Scientist (Plant Protection), provided information on the balanced use of fertilizers in crop production, while Dr. Shashidhar K. R., Scientist (Sericulture), delivered a lecture on balanced nutrient use in mulberry cultivation for quality cocoon production.

Around 80 farmers participated in the programme. IIHR scientists distributed Arka Microbial Consortium and seed kits to the participating farmers.

World Bee Day 2026

On the occasion of World Bee Day 2026, under the theme "Bee Together for People and the Planet: A Partnership That Sustains Us All," ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kolar, organized a training programme on Scientific Honey Production on 20.05.2026 at KVK, Kolar.

The programme was sponsored by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of



MSME, Government of India, Bengaluru State Office, promoting the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Sweet Revolution" through sustainable beekeeping and rural entrepreneurship.

The programme was attended by Dr. Mohan Rao, Director, KVIC; Dr. Kumar Swamy, Joint Director of Horticulture (JDH); Mr. Srinivas Rao, Lead District Manager, Canara Bank; and Dr. Shivanand V. Hongal, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Kolar.

Dr. Ganganagar Narabench, Professor, served as the resource person and delivered a lecture on scientific

beekeeping and modern honey production practices.

Dr. Anil Kumar S., Scientist (SS&AC), coordinated the programme and created awareness about the balanced use of fertilizers and integrated farming practices. Around 60 farmers and farmwomen participated in the programme.

ICAR-KVK, KOLLAM

Awareness Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers in Ginger Cultivation

An awareness programme on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers in Ginger Cultivation was conducted on 19 May 2026 at Aryankavu, Kollam District, as part of an intensive campaign aimed at promoting scientific nutrient management practices among farmers. The programme was organized in conjunction with a field training programme and a visit to a ginger cultivation plot.

The programme commenced with an introductory session by Dr. Renjan B., Associate Professor and Head, KVK Kollam. He welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of balanced fertilizer application in achieving sustainable crop production, improving soil health, and enhancing ginger productivity. He also created awareness among farmers regarding the judicious use of fertilizers and the importance of adopting soil test-based nutrient management practices.

Subsequently, Dr. Saroj Kumar V., Assistant Professor (Horticulture), delivered a technical session on ginger cultivation practices. He explained various aspects of ginger production, including land preparation, selection of quality planting material, sowing methods, nutrient management, and fertilizer application schedules. The participants were provided with practical guidance on adopting recommended cultivation practices for achieving higher yields.

Another technical session was delivered by Dr. Lekha M., Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology). She discussed the major pests and

diseases affecting ginger crops and elaborated on their identification, preventive measures, and management strategies. Emphasis was given to Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) approaches to minimize crop losses and ensure healthy crop growth.

Dr. Aaysha Kamar, Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension), and officials from the Krishi Bhavan also attended the programme. The field visit enabled farmers to directly observe crop conditions and interact with the experts regarding their cultivation-related queries.

The programme successfully enhanced farmers' awareness of balanced fertilizer use, improved cultivation practices, and effective pest and disease management in ginger cultivation. It concluded with an interactive discussion session during which the participants expressed their appreciation for the practical knowledge gained through the awareness campaign.





ICAR-KVK, KOPPAL

Promoting Balanced Fertilizer Use for Soil Health and Sustainable Agriculture

ICAR

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gangavathi, organized a programme on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers for Maintaining Soil Fertility in collaboration with IFFCO Pvt. Ltd. and the Department of Agriculture.

The programme was inaugurated by the Director, DMG, IFFCO Pvt. Ltd.; the President of the Taluk Krishika Samaja; the Special Officer, Agricultural College, Gangavathi; the Senior Scientist & Head, KVK; and other dignitaries.

The programme aimed to educate farmers on the judicious and need-based application of fertilizers, with a focus on soil health management, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and the use of organic inputs for long-term productivity and environmental sustainability. The importance of balanced fertilization and scientific nutrient management for maintaining soil fertility and enhancing crop productivity was emphasized.

The role of eco-friendly practices and household-level awareness in promoting sustainable agriculture and a healthy environment was also highlighted. Farmers were sensitized to minimize the excessive use of chemical fertilizers to reduce environmental pollution and safeguard soil health. The importance of effective weed management for improving fertilizer-use efficiency was also emphasized, with particular focus on nutrient losses caused by weeds.

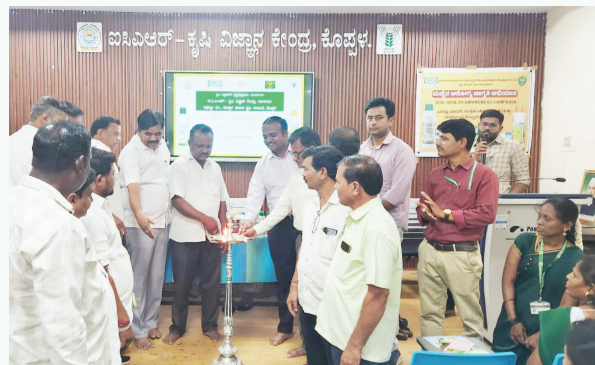
The Marketing Manager, IFFCO Pvt. Ltd., explained the importance of Nano Urea and Nano DAP and their role in revolutionizing modern farming practices. He detailed how these innovative products enhance nutrient uptake, minimize environmental impacts, and significantly reduce input costs for farmers. He further explained that the integration of such advanced technologies can help achieve higher yields while ensuring long-term soil fertility and sustainable agricultural

growth.

The session also highlighted the critical role of farmer education and extension services in bridging the gap between scientific innovations and field-level applications. By empowering farming communities with knowledge and skills to adopt precision-based nutrient management technologies, the agricultural sector can foster a more resilient and sustainable production system.

Dr. Mallesh, Scientist (Agronomy), explained the importance of the balanced use of fertilizers for achieving crop sustainability. He emphasized that precise nutrient application based on crop requirements can significantly reduce nutrient losses and environmental contamination while improving productivity. He also highlighted the importance of organic manures in maintaining soil organic carbon, enhancing microbial activity, and improving overall soil health.

More than 85 farmers and farmwomen participated in and benefited from the programme.





ICAR – KVK KOTTAYAM

Capacity Building Programme for Export Promotion of APEDA's Scheduled Products

A capacity building programme for export promotion of APEDA's scheduled products was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kottayam, on May 8, with the objective of enhancing awareness and capacity among stakeholders for promoting agricultural exports from Kerala.

Around 30 participants, including farmers, entrepreneurs and representatives from the agriculture sector, attended the training programme. The event focused on empowering participants with knowledge and opportunities related to export-oriented agricultural production and value-added products.

Sessions were conducted on promotion of export-oriented production, financial assistance, schemes, processing and value addition of agricultural products. The training supported farmers, producer groups and entrepreneurs in developing export-ready products and accessing international markets. The programme served as a valuable platform for participants to gain insights into export opportunities, government support mechanisms and strategies for strengthening Kerala's agri-export sector.



Training Programme on Export-Oriented Cultivation Practices

KVK Kottayam conducted a two-day training programme on export-oriented cultivation practices for the officials of Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Keralam (VFPC) and the Department of Agriculture on May 15 and 19.

The programme aimed to strengthen the technical capacity of field-level officials in promoting export-quality production of banana and vegetables. A total of 50 participants attended the training programme, which focused on improving production practices, post-harvest management and nutrient management strategies for export-oriented agriculture.

Sessions were conducted on export-oriented banana cultivation, integrated nutrient management in vegetables, precision farming and post-harvest technology in banana. Participants were introduced to advanced cultivation techniques, quality standards required for export market, and best practices in harvesting, handling and storage to minimize post-harvest losses and enhance product quality.

The training programme provided a valuable opportunity for officials of VFPC and Agriculture Department to update their technical knowledge and enhance their capacity to guide farmers in adopting export-oriented production practices.



ICAR-KVK, KOZHIKODE

Vocational Skill Development Programme for Forestry Students

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), IISR, Kozhikode, and the Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU, jointly organized a 10-day Skill Development Training Programme on "Spices-Based Commercial Nursery and Agroforestry" for first-year B.Sc. (Hons.) Forestry students of the college located at Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu.



The training programme was conducted as part of the students' coursework to familiarize them with plant propagation techniques and provide practical exposure to nursery management and related activities. A total of 20 students participated in this residential training programme held at KVK from 21 to 30 May 2026.



The students received hands-on training on various aspects of nursery management and plant propagation techniques, including budding and grafting, plant protection practices, preparation of biocontrol agents, mushroom cultivation, agronomic practices, natural and integrated farming systems, farm mechanization, coconut palm climbing, development of value-added products, aquaculture, and other allied activities.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Ratha Krishnan, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK, and was

coordinated by Dr. K. M. Prakash, SMS (Agronomy); Dr. P. S. Manoj, SMS (Horticulture); and Dr. K. K. Aiswariya, SMS (Plant Protection) of KVK. Expert lectures and practical sessions in allied fields were conducted by Mr. C. K. Jayakumar, Ms. A. Deepthi, and Dr. B. Pradeep.

National-Level Campaign on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers

KVK Kozhikode and the ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) launched an intensive campaign on "Balanced Use of Fertilizers." The objective of the campaign is to promote soil health-based fertilizer application for sustainable soil management and enhanced farm productivity.



Scientists and staff from both institutions formed six five-member teams, each comprising a Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) from KVK. These teams are visiting various villages across the Kozhikode and Malappuram districts on a daily basis.

The programme features expert lectures on soil health management for improved crop productivity and plant protection practices. It also includes interactive sessions with farmers, distribution of micronutrient mixtures and biocapsules, and the collection of feedback from farmers.

Training-cum-Demonstration on Foliar Micronutrient Application in Banana

A one-day Training-cum-Demonstration Programme on "Foliar Micronutrient Application in Banana" was held on 23 April 2026 at Kavaratti. The programme was attended by 28 farmers. Dr. V. M. Abdul Gafoor, SMS (Animal Science), welcomed the gathering. During the technical session, Dr. Abhishek Das, SMS (Soil Science), highlighted



the importance of a proper fertilization schedule in banana cultivation. He explained the various organic nutrient sources available in Lakshadweep and emphasized the significance of micronutrient application for improving banana growth, productivity, and overall plant health. The session also covered different foliar micronutrient formulations available for banana cultivation and the identification of visible nutrient deficiency symptoms in plants. Dr. Raju C. A., SMS (Home Science), delivered an informative presentation on the importance of banana in daily diets and

its role in nutritional security. Following the technical sessions, a practical demonstration on the application of "Banana Shakti," developed by ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, was conducted for the participating farmers. Banana Shakti was also distributed among the farmers to encourage the adoption of scientific nutrient management practices in banana cultivation.

Training-cum-Input Distribution Programme on Use of Bio-Inputs in Agriculture

KVK-Lakshadweep, ICAR-CMFRI, organized a Training-cum-Input Distribution Programme on "Use of Bio-Inputs in Agriculture" on 4 May 2026 at the ATI Hall, Kavaratti. Dr. M. U. Sindhu, SMS



(Agricultural Extension), welcomed the gathering, and Dr. V. M. Abdul Gafoor briefed the participants about the programme. The event was attended by 34 farmers. Dr. Abhishek Das, SMS (Soil Science), delivered a technical session on "Use of Bio-Inputs in Relation to Plant Nutrition." He explained the importance of bio-inputs such as Trichoderma and Pseudomonas in improving nutrient cycling, enhancing soil health, and promoting sustainable agricultural production. He also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by KVK for the production and promotion of organic inputs, including vermicompost and coir compost, for island farming systems. Another technical session was handled by Dr. Ansul, SMS (Vegetable Science), on the "Use of Bio-Inputs in Relation to Plant Protection." He emphasized eco-friendly pest and disease management practices through the use of pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps for insect control. He also discussed the application of neem oil and Trichoderma sprays for the effective

management of plant diseases in vegetable crops. As part of the programme, various agricultural bio-inputs, including vermicompost, Trichoderma, and neem cake, were distributed to the participants to encourage the adoption of sustainable and organic farming practices in Lakshadweep. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Abhishek Das and the staff of KVK.

Training-cum-Demonstration Programme on Scientific Goat Farming and Effective Composting Technology

A Training-cum-Demonstration Programme on "Scientific Goat Farming and Effective Composting Technology" was held on 5 May 2026 at Kavaratti. The event witnessed the participation of 38 farmers. Dr. Marepally Udaya Sindhu, SMS (Agricultural Extension), welcomed the gathering. During the technical session, Dr. V. M. Abdul Gafoor, SMS (Animal Science), delivered a detailed presentation on "Scientific Goat Farming." The session covered



important aspects such as housing management, feeding management, fodder sources, the use of azolla as a feed supplement, breeding programmes, and health management practices in goat farming. He also explained the identification and management of common goat diseases, including PPR, foot rot, and parasitic infections. In another technical session, Dr. Abhishek Das, SMS (Soil Science), delivered a presentation on "Effective Composting Technology and Its Benefits for Poultry and Goat Manure." He elaborated on scientific composting methods using Trichoderma-based technology developed by Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and Pleurotus-

based composting technology developed by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The session highlighted the importance of converting animal waste into nutrient-rich organic manure for sustainable agriculture. The programme was followed by a practical demonstration conducted by Dr. V. M. Abdul Gafoor at the goatery unit of KVK-Lakshadweep, where participants were introduced to various scientific goat farming practices and management techniques.

Training-cum-Demonstration on Coir Compost Production Using Arka Decomposer

A Training-cum-Demonstration on Coir Compost Production Using Arka Decomposer was held at the FPO unit of KICPCoS, Kavaratti, on 18 May 2026. The programme aimed to promote sustainable organic waste management and the production of quality soilless growing media for vegetable cultivation. The demonstration was attended by 35 farmers, comprising 27 women and 8 men. Shri Shihab B. K., CEO of KICPCoS, welcomed the gathering. During the technical session, Dr. Abhishek Das, SMS (Soil Science), explained the technology and advantages of coir compost production using Arka Decomposer. He also highlighted the importance of soilless media in vegetable production, particularly under island farming conditions. As part of the composting process, poultry compost was incorporated as a nitrogen source at the rate of 2 kg per layer to accelerate decomposition. Following the technical session, a practical demonstration on the preparation of coir compost was conducted for the participants. Farmers were also taken on a visit to the agri-input shop operated by the FPO unit, where various agricultural inputs and organic products were showcased. The programme concluded with the distribution of vermicompost prepared by KVK among the participating farmers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Abhishek Das under the guidance of Dr. P. N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK-Lakshadweep.



ICAR-KVK, MALAPPURAM

Training on Composting and Balanced Fertilizer Use for Sustainable Soil Health Management

A

general training programme under extension activities was conducted on 8 May 2026 at KVK, Malappuram, on the topic “Composting and Balanced Use of Fertilizers.” The training session was handled by Dr. Adarsh S., who delivered detailed presentations on the importance of compost preparation, scientific composting methods, and the balanced application of fertilizers for improving soil fertility and promoting sustainable crop production. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sreena K. S. A total of 47 farmers participated in the training programme. The participants gained practical knowledge and hands-on experience in compost preparation through practical training sessions conducted as part of the programme. The training helped farmers understand eco-friendly nutrient management practices and the importance of balanced fertilizer use in maintaining soil health and enhancing crop productivity.



Awareness Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Science-Based Nutrient Management

An awareness campaign on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Science-Based Nutrient Management was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Malappuram, in response to the growing concern over the excessive use of urea and DAP fertilizers among farmers. The campaign was coordinated by Dr. Sreena K. S., Assistant Professor (Agronomy), with the objective of promoting soil-test-based fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management, and sustainable soil health practices.

During the campaign, several field visits, farmer training programmes, group discussions, awareness classes and farmer scientist interactions were conducted both on the KVK campus and in farmers' fields. Farmers were educated on the adverse effects of the indiscriminate use of urea and DAP fertilizers, the importance of the balanced application of NPK fertilizers, and the benefits of soil-test-based nutrient recommendations. Awareness was also created on the use of organic manures, biofertilizers, micronutrients, green manuring and integrated nutrient management practices.

Dr. Jasna V. K., Assistant Professor (Agricultural Extension); Dr. Visakh N. U., Assistant Professor (Agricultural Entomology) and Ms. Shanila, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), actively contributed to the campaign by conducting technical sessions and interactive classes. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including advisories and awareness messages, were disseminated among farmers. The campaign also utilized digital platforms and farmer groups to enhance outreach and encourage the wider adoption of recommended nutrient management practices.



Scientific crop management training programme conducted at Nilambur Block

A Block Level Agricultural Knowledge Centre (BLAKC) meeting was conducted at Nilambur Block under the leadership of Dr. Visakh N. U., BLAKC Nodal Officer. The meeting was attended by fertilizer dealers of Nilambur Block, Agricultural Officers and officials from the Department of Agriculture. The programme commenced with the participation of Smt. Bijula, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), Nilambur, who welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among agricultural stakeholders to ensure sustainable agricultural development in the block.

As part of the technical session, Dr. Sreena K. S., Assistant Professor (Agronomy), delivered an informative lecture on current agronomic practices and the importance of scientific crop management for enhancing productivity and sustainability with balanced use of fertilizers. The session provided valuable insights into efficient nutrient management

and modern agronomic interventions suitable for the region. This was followed by a technical talk by Sri. Suresh, Deputy Director, on the balanced use of fertilizers in agriculture. He emphasized the importance of judicious fertilizer application based on soil test recommendations, integrated nutrient management practices and the need to avoid excessive or imbalanced fertilizer use. The session highlighted the role of balanced fertilization in improving crop yield, maintaining soil health, reducing production costs, and minimizing environmental impacts. The meeting was attended by fertilizer dealers from across Nilambur Block, Agricultural Officers and other departmental staff. Participants actively engaged in the discussions and shared their field-level experiences regarding fertilizer usage and nutrient management challenges.



Hydroponic Cultivation Training in Collaboration with Thani Urban Farming Services LLP

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Malappuram organized a training programme on Hydroponic Cultivation in collaboration with Thani Urban Farming Services LLP under the guidance of Ms. Shanila, SMS (Horticulture). Thani Urban Farming Services LLP is a start up established by agri-graduates and supported by Kerala Agricultural University, focusing on the dissemination of modern and sustainable farming technologies and practices. The technical sessions were handled by Mr. Mohammed Ansar C., Managing Partner, and Mr. Sachin P. S., Managing Director, Thani Urban Farming Services LLP. The programme aimed to familiarize participants with the principles and practices of soilless cultivation and its potential for sustainable and efficient crop production. The resource persons covered various topics, including the introduction to hydroponics, different types of hydroponic systems, crop and nutrient management, monitoring and maintenance of pH and EC levels, preparation of nutrient solutions, transplantation techniques, and the various substrates used in hydroponic cultivation.

Following the theoretical sessions, a hands-on practical session was organized to provide participants with direct exposure to hydroponic farming systems. The trainees were introduced to the working principles and components of an NFT hydroponic unit, along with demonstrations on seedling transplantation, nutrient solution management, and routine system maintenance. The practical session enabled participants to gain a better understanding of hydroponic production technologies and enhanced their confidence in adopting hydroponic cultivation as an alternative farming method.



Radio Talks on Balanced Fertilization and Spice Crop Management

A radio talk on the topic "Balanced Fertilizer Use and Soil Health Management" was delivered by Dr. Sreena K. S., SMS (Agronomy) through the "Karshikavrihandam" programme broadcast on

Akashvani, Manjeri FM. The programme focused on creating awareness among farmers about the importance of maintaining soil fertility through judicious and balanced nutrient management practices. Dr. Sreena highlighted the adverse effects of excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, particularly urea and DAP, on soil health and crop productivity. She also discussed suitable alternatives to these fertilizers and explained their proper usage. The talk emphasized the integrated use of organic, inorganic, and biofertilizers, along with the incorporation of green manures, organic inputs, and natural bio-inputs to sustain soil health and enhance agricultural productivity.

On the same day, Ms. Shanila, SMS (Horticulture) delivered a radio talk on "Ginger and Turmeric Cultivation Practices" through the "Karshika vrithandam" programme on Akashvani, Manjeri FM. The session provided farmers with comprehensive information on the scientific cultivation of these important spice crops. Topics covered included suitable varieties, land preparation, fertilizer recommendations, and essential intercultural operations required for successful crop growth. The resource person also discussed harvesting practices and the management of major pests and diseases affecting ginger and turmeric. The radio programme served as an effective platform for disseminating practical and location-specific cultivation technologies to the farming community.



ICAR-KVK, MANDYA

Bee Keeping for Sustainable Income” - KVK, Mandya

A

training programme on “Bee Keeping for Sustainable Income” was organized on 20.05.2026 at the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, V.C. Fram, Mandya in the occasion of World Bee Day. The programme was presided over by Dr. Kamalabai Koodagi, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Mandya. The special guest for the programme was Dr. R.N. Kencharaddi, Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Head, Extension Education Unit, Madikeri. In her presidential address, Dr. Kamalabai Koodagi explained the importance of bees in agriculture and highlighted the opportunities available for youth in bee keeping activities. During the technical session, Dr. R.N. Kencharaddi spoke in detail about bee keeping, the contribution of honey

to human health and the marketing opportunities for bee products. Dr. Darshan R., Scientist (Plant Protection), KVK Mandya, explained the existing problems in bee keeping under present agricultural conditions and discussed their management practices. Dr. Atheefa Munawery, Scientist (Soil Science), KVK Mandya, stated that sustainable agriculture and soil health improvement are closely linked with the adoption of bee keeping practices. Dr. Divya B., Scientist (Horticulture), KVK Mandya, emphasized that bee keeping supports better yield and quality improvement in horticultural crops and encouraged farmers to adopt bee keeping in their farms. Dr. Bhavya, M., Scientist (Agronomy), KVK Mandya, stressed the importance of honeybees in sustainable yield increase. A total of 56 farmers and farm women participated in the programme along with all the scientists of the KVK



ICAR –KVK, MYSORE

Ex-Trainees Sammelan

A

three-day Ex-Trainees Sammelan was organized from May 1 to May 3, 2026, in conjunction with the National Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers to create awareness among farmers about sustainable agricultural practices. The



programme was inaugurated on May 1, 2026, by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission and the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru. The chief guest of the programme was A. B. Patil, President of the Institute of Agricultural Technologists and Technical Advisor to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka. The programme was presided over by Dr. S. V. Suresh, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.

During the Sammelan, Shri Channappa Angadi delivered a comprehensive lecture on Indian agriculture and culture. Dr. Vithal I. Benagi discussed holistic organic and natural farming practices and their benefits for sustainable agriculture. Dr. Nagarajappa Adivappar addressed the topic of crop diversification and mixed cropping systems, highlighting the challenges faced by farmers and suggesting possible solutions. Dr. H. A. Bindu informed the participants about the importance of standardization of agricultural produce and guided farmers on marketing their products through both private and government channels. Shri Nagendra Kumar shared valuable insights on the export of agricultural commodities and emphasized the importance of accessing global markets to secure better returns.

A video presentation on the National Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers was screened for the participants. Experts also provided information on increasing soil organic carbon to improve soil health and productivity. In addition, a special session on snail farming was conducted, highlighting its potential as an alternative income-generating enterprise for farmers. More than 250 farmers and farm women participated in the three-day programme, making the Ex-Trainees Sammelan a grand success.

Awareness Campaign on the Use of Balanced Fertilizers



A special awareness campaign on the balanced use of fertilizers in agriculture was organized on 14.05.2026 at Jalahalli village in collaboration with the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. During the campaign, the Senior Scientist and Head, Dr. B. N. Gnanesh, delivered a lecture on the environmental impacts of excessive fertilizer use in agricultural fields. He emphasized the need to gradually reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and increase the use of organic inputs and bio-fertilizers for sustainable crop production. Subject Matter Specialist Dr. G. M. Vinay highlighted the importance of balanced fertilizer application in horticultural crops and stressed the need for regular soil testing to ensure efficient nutrient management. Subject Matter Specialist Smt. H. V. Divya discussed the challenges associated with fertilizer use in pulse crop cultivation and seed production. Principal Scientist Dr. Umamaheswari, along with Dr. Sridhar, Dr. Sujatha, and Dr. Bhanupriya, provided information

about the activities and research initiatives of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. They encouraged farmers to apply fertilizers according to the recommended doses to achieve higher yields and effectively manage pests and diseases. The scientists also advised farmers to reduce excessive fertilizer use and adopt bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides as sustainable alternatives for crop nutrition and pest management. More than 100 farmers and farm women participated in the campaign, making the programme a great success.

Jackfruit and Mango Fair (17-18 May 2026)

A Jackfruit and Mango Fair was organized on 17-18 May 2026 at Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry, Mysore, in collaboration with Sahaja Samriddhi, Desi Seeds Producer Company, the Horticulture Department and Kisan Mall. Jackfruit and mango growers from



various parts of Karnataka participated in the event, displaying and selling a wide range of fruits and seedlings. The fair also featured several engaging activities, including a painting competition for children, a jackfruit-eating competition for women, and a jackfruit-lifting competition for men, attracting enthusiastic participation from visitors. More than 300 urban residents and farmers participated in the event.

Field Day on Black Gram and Training on Balanced Fertilizer Use Organized at Suttur KVK

The ICAR-JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Suttur, organized a field day on the black gram (Urad) variety LBG-791 under the Model Pulse Village Programme, along with a training programme on the balanced use of fertilizers.



The field day was conducted in the field of farmer Mr. Prabhuswamy at Madapura village. Addressing the farmers, Mrs. H. V. Divya, Subject Matter Specialist (Seed Technology), informed them that farmers engaged in seed production would receive a price 15 percent higher than the prevailing market rate if they harvested and removed off-type plants, dried the produce properly, and brought the seed to the KVK.

Under the Model Pulse Village Programme, the villages of Hiriyur, C. B. Hundi, Thotwadi, Madapura, Akkur, Chandali, and Chalalli have been selected. Farmers in these villages are being supplied, free of cost, with the new yellow leaf spot-resistant black gram variety LBG-791. Fertilizer recommendations will be provided based on soil test results.

Mrs. Divya delivered a technical session covering soil testing methods, varietal introduction, seed treatment with biofertilizers, improved production technologies for higher yields, seed production practices and the identification and removal of off-type and diseased plants.

As part of the National Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers, farmers were advised to apply fertilizers judiciously based on soil test recommendations. They were informed that the application of micronutrients such as zinc and boron, along with the balanced use of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash fertilizers, would promote healthy crop growth and reduce disease incidence. Farmers were also educated on the importance of green manure, farmyard manure, and organic fertilizers in improving soil organic carbon content. Subject Matter Specialist Mr. Shamraj explained the recommended black gram cultivation practices, including row sowing, weed management, and balanced fertilizer application.

Mr. Shivanna from the ATMA Scheme briefed farmers on the facilities available through the Raitha Samparka Kendra, including seed distribution,

subsidies for hiring agricultural equipment, and other support services. He also informed the gathering about the upcoming green gram seed distribution programme through the Farmer Contact Centre.

Banana Crop Processing, Value Addition and Entrepreneurship Training Conducted

A two-day training programme on banana crop processing, value addition, and entrepreneurship opportunities was organized by ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra in association with Sanjivini Taluk Level Federation and Kadali Van Dhan Vikas Kendra for women farmers of Kadali Van Dhan Vikas Kendra. The programme was held on 25 and 26 May 2026.

Presiding over the programme, the Senior Scientist and Head of ICAR JSS Krishi Vigyan Kendra inaugurated the training and highlighted the importance of banana cultivation. He emphasized the unique qualities and value-addition potential of the famous Nanjangud Rasabale banana, a geographically recognized crop, and encouraged farm women to enhance their income by utilizing

various schemes offered by the Central and State Governments.

District Panchayat President K. Somaprasad attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the participants, he noted that the training on banana processing and value addition would help women farmers and Self-Help Group (SHG) members strengthen their enterprises and improve their livelihoods. Mrs. Divya, Taluk Programme Manager of the Sanjivini Project at the Taluk Panchayat, Mysuru, also addressed the gathering and encouraged women to progress from entrepreneurship toward self-reliance and economic empowerment. During the technical session, Dr. K. V. Deepak provided practical and technical training on processing bananas into value-added products such as banana cookies, banana chips, banana baby food, banana-based bakery products, and other innovative products. He also informed participants about financial assistance and subsidies available under the Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme for the development of micro food-processing enterprises.



ICAR-KVK, PALAKKAD

Three-days skill development training programme on precision farming and protected cultivation

A

A three-day training programme on “Precision Farming and Protected Cultivation” was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Palakkad from 14th to 16th May 2026 with the support of the Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University. A total of 30 participants from various districts attended the programme. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of farmers, students, and agricultural stakeholders in precision farming, IoT in agriculture, protected cultivation, and drone technology through technical sessions, demonstrations, field visits, and interactive discussions.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M. Israel Thomas, Programme Coordinator, KVK Palakkad. Technical sessions on precision farming and IoT applications in agriculture were handled by Er. Praveena K K and Er. Nimmi Kuruppath. Participants also visited Tamil Nadu Agricultural University to observe precision farming practices and protected cultivation structures.

The final day focused on drone technology in agriculture, including a technical session and live drone demonstration by Er. Aboobacker Siddiq K. P. The programme concluded with the distribution of training kits and certificates. A WhatsApp group was also formed to provide continued technical support and agricultural updates to the participants.



National Campaign on Balanced Fertilizer Use

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Palakkad has been actively promoting the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers across various locations in Palakkad district from the third week of April through the month of

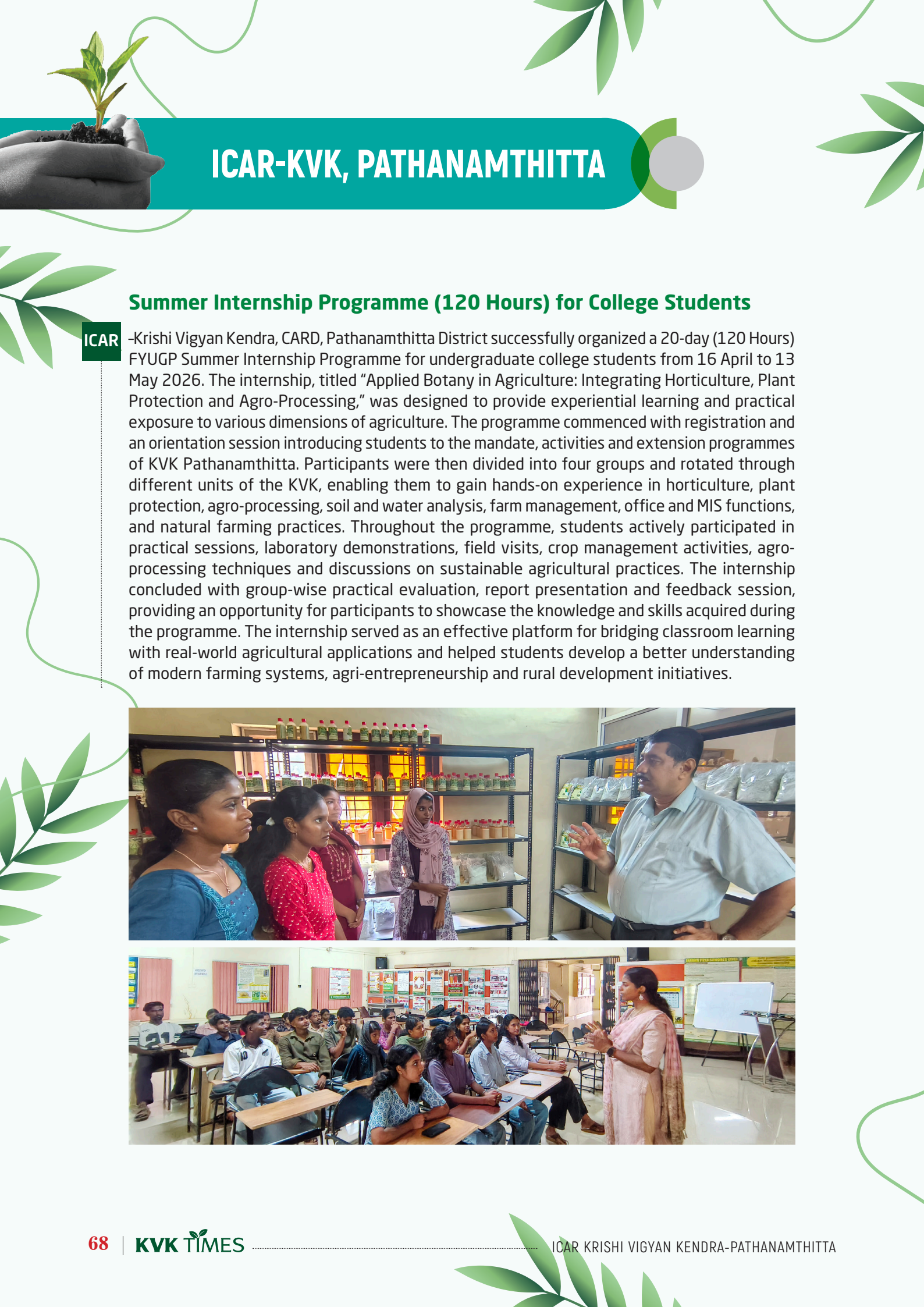


May as part of the national campaign on efficient fertilizer use. The campaign emphasized the scientific and need-based application of chemical fertilizers while encouraging farmers to integrate organic inputs and biological formulations into their farming systems for sustainable crop production. As part of the initiative, sustainable agricultural practices such

as Natural Farming, Organic Farming, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Precision Farming etc. were promoted through awareness campaigns, farmer trainings, demonstrations, and interactive discussions in major crops including rice, vegetables, coconut, banana, and black pepper. More than 180 farmers participated in programmes related to green manuring, biofertilizers, and other organic inputs conducted in areas such as Pattambi, Vallapuzha, Pattithara, Attappady and Thirumittacode.

The campaign was further strengthened through extensive outreach on the official social media platforms of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Palakkad, including Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Instagram creating awareness among more than 15,000 farmers across the district. The importance of soil testing and scientific soil sample collection was also explained in detail to farmers, highlighting the need to assess soil fertility status and crop nutrient requirements before cultivation. Farmers were encouraged to submit soil samples for testing well in advance of the cropping season to facilitate timely and need-based fertilizer recommendations for improving soil health, enhancing crop productivity, and increasing input-use efficiency.





ICAR-KVK, PATHANAMTHITTA

Summer Internship Programme (120 Hours) for College Students

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, CARD, Pathanamthitta District successfully organized a 20-day (120 Hours) FYUGP Summer Internship Programme for undergraduate college students from 16 April to 13 May 2026. The internship, titled "Applied Botany in Agriculture: Integrating Horticulture, Plant Protection and Agro-Processing," was designed to provide experiential learning and practical exposure to various dimensions of agriculture. The programme commenced with registration and an orientation session introducing students to the mandate, activities and extension programmes of KVK Pathanamthitta. Participants were then divided into four groups and rotated through different units of the KVK, enabling them to gain hands-on experience in horticulture, plant protection, agro-processing, soil and water analysis, farm management, office and MIS functions, and natural farming practices. Throughout the programme, students actively participated in practical sessions, laboratory demonstrations, field visits, crop management activities, agro-processing techniques and discussions on sustainable agricultural practices. The internship concluded with group-wise practical evaluation, report presentation and feedback session, providing an opportunity for participants to showcase the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme. The internship served as an effective platform for bridging classroom learning with real-world agricultural applications and helped students develop a better understanding of modern farming systems, agri-entrepreneurship and rural development initiatives.



World Bee Day Celebration

KVK, Pathanamthitta celebrated World Bee Day on 20 May 2026 with the objective of creating awareness among farmers, students and the general public about the vital role of bees and other pollinators in ensuring food security, biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture. The programme was organized in line with the World Bee Day 2026 theme, "Bee Together for People and the Planet - A Partnership that Sustains Us All," which emphasizes the long-standing relationship between people and bees and the importance of collective efforts to protect pollinators and sustain agricultural ecosystems.



During the programme, experts highlighted the significance of bees in crop pollination, enhancing agricultural productivity and maintaining ecological balance. Participants were sensitized to the need for conserving bee populations through bee-friendly farming practices, habitat protection and the judicious use of pesticides. A special pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to protecting pollinators, conserving biodiversity and promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. The celebration provided a valuable platform for strengthening awareness on the indispensable role of bees in supporting livelihoods, food production and environmental sustainability, while encouraging greater community participation in pollinator conservation efforts.

National Campaign on Balanced Fertilizer Use

National Campaign on Balanced Fertilizer Use was organised throughout the month of May by organizing a series of awareness, training and extension activities aimed at promoting scientific nutrient management practices among farmers. The campaign focused on enhancing awareness regarding balanced fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management, soil health improvement and the judicious use of chemical fertilizers along with organic and bio-fertilizer inputs. During the campaign period, the KVK organized 14 awareness programmes, benefiting 360 farmers and conducted

one Kisan Gosthi involving 26 farmers. In addition, 8 training programmes were organized, reaching 274 farmers and providing hands-on knowledge on nutrient management, fertilizer recommendations, and sustainable agricultural practices.

The campaign also facilitated interaction with key stakeholders, including 38 input dealers, to strengthen the dissemination of balanced fertilizer use recommendations at the field level. A total of 291 farmers visited the KVK and interacted directly with scientists to clarify their doubts regarding nutrient deficiencies, fertilizer scheduling, and soil health management. Information dissemination was further strengthened through mass communication and social media platforms. Campaign messages reached 4,182 farmers through WhatsApp, 2,536 farmers through Facebook and 44 farmers through other digital platforms, resulting in a total social media outreach of 6,718 contacts. To enhance public visibility, 6 posters were displayed. Demonstrations on green manuring and bio-fertilizer use were also conducted to showcase eco-friendly nutrient management options.

Overall, the campaign achieved a physical outreach of 980 farmers and a social media outreach of 6,718 contacts, demonstrating the KVK's commitment to promoting balanced fertilizer use, improving soil fertility, reducing input costs and encouraging sustainable agricultural production systems in Pathanamthitta district.





ICAR-KVK, RAICHUR

ICAR-KVK Raichur's Raita Sante Emerges as a Vibrant Farmer-Centric Market and Awareness Platform

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Raichur under the guidance of the Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, has successfully launched Raita Sante, an innovative farmer-centric marketing initiative at the UAS campus, Raichur. The initiative aims to strengthen direct farmer-to-consumer linkages by providing farmers a reliable platform to market fresh agricultural, horticultural, and value-added products without intermediaries, ensuring better price realization and improved income. The Raita Sante is held regularly on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month in the morning, from 6 am to 11 am hrs, creating a consistent and dependable marketplace for both farmers and consumers.

The event has rapidly gained popularity among both farmers and consumers, emerging as a dynamic platform for market access, awareness creation and rural entrepreneurship. The first Raita Sante held on 15th May 2026 recorded an impressive business turnover of ₹1.56 lakh, while the second Raita Sante, held on 23rd May 2026, registered a remarkable transaction of ₹1.45 lakh, reflecting strong public participation and growing consumer trust.

The Raita Sante is not merely a marketplace, but a vibrant agri-learning and awareness hub. A specially designed Raita Sante selfie point attracts customers, visitors and creates memorable experiences. The entire Raita Sante area has been decorated with motivational quotes and posters for spreading messages on sustainable agriculture, healthy living, nutrition, and environmental

conservation.

Special attractions for children include hands-on pottery making and a traditional bullock cart ride, helping young minds connect with rural heritage, farming culture and sustainable living practices.

A wide range of fresh and value-added farm produce is marketed through Raita Sante, showcasing the diversity of local agriculture. Popular fresh produce includes mango, jamun, fig, cucumber, bhendi (okra), tomato, brinjal, bottle gourd, moringa pods, moringa leaves, palak, coriander, curry leaves, lime, tender coconut, cheese, tur dal, cold pressed cooking oil, locally grown jowar and desi eggs and others. Consumers also showed keen interest in traditional homemade products and value-added items such as pickles, rotis, papad, moringa powder, dried sapota flakes, ground nut chutney, garlic chutney, healthy drink mix and other homemade nutritious products.

With the introduction of Raita Sante, farmers are now able to market their produce directly to consumers, getting a better price and bypassing middlemen interventions. Many participating farmers have reported a 30-50% increase in income through direct sales. Farmers also expressed immense happiness and satisfaction, as the platform has emerged as a reliable marketing avenue that helps improve profitability, reduce post-harvest losses, and build direct relationships with consumers. The mutually beneficial interaction between farmers and consumers has fostered greater trust and contributed to the development of a sustainable farmer-consumer ecosystem.

The market also serves as an important platform for promoting women entrepreneurs, self-help groups (SHGs), farmer producer organizations (FPOs), and small-scale rural enterprises, thereby

generating additional livelihood opportunities and encouraging value addition at the farm level.

Through initiatives like Raita Sante, ICAR-KVK Raichur continues to reinforce its commitment towards farmer welfare, nutritional security, entrepreneurship development, and sustainable agricultural marketing, while building stronger and healthier farmer-consumer relationships.

Dr Timmanna oversee overall coordination and farmer mobilization. Dr. Veena managed registration and consumer coordination. Dr. Mallareddy taken care of the infrastructure and logistical arrangements. Dr. Sanmathi Naik ATS, is involved in handling publicity, documentation, and sales monitoring. Non-teaching staff supported the organisation of Raita Sante.



Inauguration



Happy consumers



Enjoying the bullock card



Pottery making



SHG Women selling their produce



ICAR-KVK, RAMANAGARA

National Awareness Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizer

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bengaluru South, ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), ICAR-IIHR Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hirehalli, Vivekananda Ashrama, Kuduru, and the Department of Agriculture, Magadi jointly organized a National Awareness Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Science-Based Nutrient Management on 11 May 2026 at Karnataka Public School, Kuduru Village, Magadi Taluk. The campaign was organized to address the growing concern over the excessive and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers, which has led to declining soil



fertility, increased cultivation costs, and reduced sustainability of crop production. Farmers were sensitized on the importance of soil-test-based fertilizer application, reducing excessive use of urea and DAP, balanced application of NPK and SSP fertilizers, integrated nutrient management, use of organic and bio-fertilizers, and adoption of Soil Health Card recommendations.

The programme was graced by Poojya Swami Paramanandaji, President of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashrama, Kuduru, and presided over by Shri H.C. Balakrishna, MLA, Magadi Taluk, who emphasized the importance of maintaining soil health for sustainable agricultural productivity. Dr. Swetha B.S., Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Bengaluru South, highlighted the role of organic and bio-fertilizers in improving soil biological activity and water-holding capacity, while Dr. Loganandan, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Hirehalli, stressed the significance of balanced fertilizer use for sustainable agriculture and enhanced farm income. Scientists from IIHR and KVKs created awareness on soil testing, balanced fertilizer application, organic manures, green

manures, and bio-fertilizers. Exhibitions on organic and bio-fertilizers were organized, and farmers were provided with seeds, bio-fertilizers, mango saplings, seed kits and Arka Microbial Consortium. More than 200 farmers, along with agriculture enthusiasts, students, and members of the public, actively participated and benefited from the programme.

Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Farmers through Comprehensive Agricultural Input Distribution and Training Programme

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bengaluru South (Ramanagara), in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, organized a one-day training programme on “Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Farmers through Comprehensive Agricultural Input Distribution and Training Programme” under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Seed (Crops) - Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP).



Dr. Vishwanath, Special Officer, AICRP on Seed (Crops), welcomed the gathering and explained that the initiative aimed at strengthening the overall farming system through the integrated distribution of quality seeds, soil health inputs, nutrients, and agricultural tools. Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, UAS Bengaluru, emphasized the importance of scientific farming practices and natural

resource conservation for sustainable agriculture, while Dr. Y.N. Shivalingayya, Director of Extension, UAS Bengaluru, highlighted the significance of improved crop varieties and quality seed production for enhancing farmers' self-reliance and income. During the technical session, Dr. G. Pramod, Scientist, KVK, provided practical guidance on crop nutrient management, scientific sowing methods, fertilizer application, and crop management practices. Dr. A.B. Narayana Reddy, Assistant Professor, AICRP on Seed (Crops), delivered a session on quality seed production and storage techniques. Progressive farmer Thotadamane Girish encouraged beneficiaries to make effective use of the support provided under the scheme. As part of the programme, farmers received quality seeds of ragi, redgram and maize, along with natural NPK mixtures, organic granules, soil health enhancers, plant growth promoters, disease management products, tarpaulins, seed storage bins, and agricultural tools. Dr. B.S. Swetha, Senior Scientist and Head, delivered the vote of thanks. Around 230 Scheduled Caste farmers from various taluks of Bengaluru South (Ramanagara) district participated in and benefited from the programme.

World Bee Day-2026

KVK Bengaluru South (Ramanagara) celebrated World Bee Day 2026 on 20 May 2026 with a series of awareness programmes highlighting the importance of bees in sustainable agriculture, pollination, and rural livelihoods. Dr. Swetha B.S., Senior Scientist and Head, encouraged farmers to adopt improved agricultural technologies, value addition and



beekeeping using locally available resources to enhance farm income. Dr. Tarini K.B., Scientist (Plant Protection), explained the role of bees in pollinating nearly 70% of major crops and provided practical demonstrations on bee colony transfer, honey extraction, hive management and scientific beekeeping practices. Progressive farmer Dr. Ramachandraya emphasized chemical-free farming and crop diversification as pathways to sustainable income enhancement. Scientists from ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, including Dr. Sunil Joshi, Dr. Jagadish, and Dr. Madhu T.N., created awareness on balanced nutrient management and scientific agricultural practices. Dr. Anita S., Scientist

(Home Science), highlighted the nutritional and medicinal benefits of honey and discussed honey processing, branding, and marketing opportunities. Dr. Sowjanya S., Scientist (Agricultural Extension), explained the significance of World Bee Day and the vital role of bees in agriculture, while Dr. Deepa Pujar, Scientist (Horticulture), emphasized the importance of bee pollination in improving mango yield and fruit quality. Dr. Pramod G., Scientist (Agronomy), provided information on improved crop varieties, seed and soil testing, and soil and water conservation practices. More than 20 farmers participated in the programme and benefited from the technical sessions and practical demonstrations.





ICAR-KVK, SHIVAMOGGA

Strengthening Market Linkages for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

ICAR

-KVK Shivamogga in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence on FPO, organized a two-day training programme on “Strengthening Market Linkages for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” from 07.05.2026 to 08.05.2026. The training programme was conducted for FPO CEOs, Directors and staff with the objective of strengthening market linkages and enhancing the managerial and business capacities of Farmer Producer Organizations. During the programme, participants were provided with insights on various aspects of market opportunities, value chain development, marketing strategies and institutional strengthening for FPOs. The training aimed to improve participants’ understanding of effective market systems and facilitate better market access and business prospects for FPOs. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Sunil, C., Senior Scientist and Head KVK, Shivamogga. Dr. Rudragouda F. C., Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. Manjunath B. K. Scientist (Agril. Extension) graced the event. Totally 44 trainees were benefited from the training programme.

World Bee Day

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Shivamogga celebrated World Bee Day on 20-05-2026 to create awareness on the importance of honey bees in agriculture, pollination, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement through beekeeping. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. B.C.Hanumanthaswamy, Associate Director of Extension, KSNUAHS, Shivamogga who highlighted the crucial role of honey bees in improving crop productivity, maintaining ecological balance, and generating additional income for farming communities. He emphasized the need to promote scientific beekeeping practices among farmers and rural youth. The programme was chaired by Dr. C. Sunil, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Shivamogga, who addressed the gathering on the significance of beekeeping as a sustainable enterprise and its contribution to agricultural development. He encouraged farmers to adopt beekeeping as an allied activity for enhancing farm income. Dr. Girish, R., Scientist (Plant Protection) interacted with the participants on various aspects of bee management, honey production, and the role of bees in pollination. KVK Scientists Dr. Rudragouda, F.C., Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. Sudharani, Scientist (Home Science), Dr. Shilpashree, Scientist (Soil Science), Dr. Rekha, B., Scientist (Horticulture) and staff were present during the programme.

The programme witnessed 46 by farmers, beekeepers and students. The celebration concluded with a renewed commitment towards promoting beekeeping and conserving honey bee populations for sustainable agriculture and environmental health.

Training Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shivamogga conducted a training programme on “Balanced Use of Fertilizers” for promoting soil health and sustainable crop production on 25-05-2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. C. Sunil, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Shivamogga. In his inaugural address, he emphasized that balanced fertilization not only improves crop yield and quality but also provides economic benefits to farmers by reducing unnecessary fertilizer

costs. He further highlighted that balanced nutrient management helps protect the environment by minimizing nutrient losses and pollution. Further he advised farmers on the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application and informed them that balanced nutrient management helps reduce production costs, improve soil health and ensure long-term agricultural productivity. This training was organized by Dr. Rudragouda, F.C., Scientist (Agronomy) and all the scientists of KVK associated with this programme. A total of 42 farmers and farm women benefited from the training.

Method Demonstration on Seed Treatment with Biofertilizers

On 20-05-2026 ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shivamogga conducted a method demonstration on seed treatment using biofertilizers by Dr. Rudragouda F. Channagouda, Scientist (Agronomy). He explained that seed treatment improves germination, root growth and nutrient uptake while reducing fertilizer requirements and input costs. The practice also contributes to maintaining soil health and enhancing crop productivity. A total of 25 farmers, farm women and rural youth benefited from the demonstration.

Training on Micro-greens production

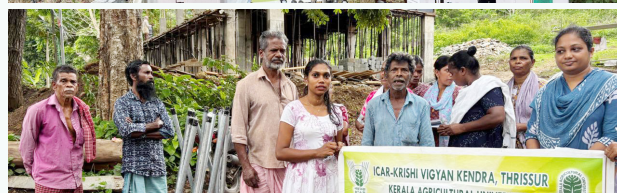
Capacity-building training program on "Micro-greens production and marketing linkage as a new Agri start-up venture" was organized at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan

Kendra (KVK), Shivamogga from 20-05-2026 to 22-05-2026 (3 days). The training aimed to strengthen employment and establish profitable agri-startups for rural youth, farm women and entrepreneurs in the region.

The programme was organized by Dr. Sudharani (Scientist, Home Science), KVK Shivamogga, through lectured schedules with three intensive technical modules:

- **Seed Specifications:** Participants learned criteria for choosing premium, untreated seeds, alongside seed standards vital for successful germination.
- **Production Techniques:** The session offered step-by-step guidance on growth media formulation, tray setups, moisture management, and micro-green harvesting timelines.
- **Value Addition & Marketing:** Focus was placed on post-harvest handling, visual packaging, shelf-life extension, and creating commercial B2B/B2C market links for retail.

The hands-on training empowered participants with end-to-end management skills to set up micro-green production units. This initiative reinforces the directive of ICAR-ATARI Zone XI, Bengaluru to accelerate rural income diversification through high-value, tech-driven agri-enterprises.



Empowerment of SC Stakeholders under SC Sub Plan.

ICAR

-KVK Mitraniketan conducted three SCSP trainings during May 2026 across different panchayats in Thiruvananthapuram district. The training on bush pepper cultivation in homesteads was held at Kattakada Panchayath on 23 May 2026. It was presided over by Ward Member E. R. Lavanya and inaugurated by Panchayath President Smt. V. J. Sunitha. The keynote address was delivered by Smt. A. S. Anila, Agricultural Officer, Kattakada Krishi Bhavan. A total of 37 SC farmers from across the panchayath participated in the programme, and planting materials of bush pepper along with bio-inputs were distributed to the trainees. The SCSP training on micro irrigation was organized at Aryancode Panchayath on 13 May 2026, with the participation of 10 SC youth. In connection with the programme, a method demonstration on the installation and operation of micro irrigation systems was conducted, enabling participants to gain practical exposure to the technology. Another SCSP training on pest and disease management in vegetables was held at Uzhamalackal Panchayath on 25 May 2026. The programme was presided over by Ward Member Smt. Sindhu and inaugurated by Sri. Premraj, Ward Member of Puthukulanagara. The training was felicitated by Sri. Prasanth S., Agricultural Officer, Uzhamalackal Krishi Bhavan. Twenty-five SC farmers attended the programme, and bio-pesticides along with bio-control agents were distributed to the participants.



ICAR-KVK, TUMAKURU I

Awareness on balanced use of fertilizers

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-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tumakuru-I, in collaboration with the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, organized an awareness training programme on the balanced use of fertilizers and soil test-based nutrient management for



farmers. The programme included technical sessions on balanced fertilizer application, scientific soil sampling, soil testing procedures, and integrated nutrient management practices. During the programme, Dr. P. Venkat Rami Reddy, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Entomology), ICAR-IIHR, highlighted the importance of adopting soil test recommendations to improve nutrient-use efficiency, enhance crop productivity, and maintain soil health. Dr. M. H. Shankara, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Tumakuru-I, explained the importance of integrated nutrient management and soil testing for improving soil fertility and increasing crop productivity. As part of the programme, Micronutrient Vegetable Special was distributed to the participants. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 75 farmers, who benefited from the technical knowledge and practical guidance provided by the experts on sustainable nutrient management practices.

Demonstration of Turmeric Var. Prathibha as an Inter Crop in Coconut Orchard

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tiptur, Tumakuru-I, initiated a Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on the cultivation of turmeric variety Prathibha as an intercrop in coconut orchards at Tiptur. During the programme, Dr. Keerthishankar K., Scientist (Horticulture), explained the improved agronomic practices for successful turmeric cultivation, including crop management and productivity enhancement measures, to the participating farmers. Dr. M. H. Shankara, Senior Scientist and Head, highlighted the significance of Frontline Demonstrations in showcasing proven agricultural technologies and promoting their adoption among farmers. He also emphasized the economic benefits of integrating turmeric as an intercrop in coconut-based farming systems. As part of the initiative, quality seed material of turmeric variety Prathibha was distributed to the beneficiary farmers for establishing the demonstration plots.



Demonstration Of New High Yielding Cowpea Variety KBC-12

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tumakuru-I, initiated a Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on the cultivation of the newly released high-yielding cowpea variety KBC-12 under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) programme sponsored by the Government of India at Haralakatta village of Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk. During the programme, Dr. Tasmiya Kouser, Scientist (Agronomy), highlighted the recommended production technologies and



improved cultivation practices for achieving higher productivity and profitability in cowpea cultivation. The importance of quality seed, scientific nutrient management, and timely crop management practices was also emphasized. As part of the demonstration programme, KBC-12 cowpea seeds along with Rhizobium and Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB) cultures were distributed to the Scheduled Caste beneficiary farmers to promote improved pulse production and sustainable soil fertility management.

WORLD BEE DAY "Apiculture for Sustainable Income"

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Konehalli, Tumakuru-I, celebrated World Bee Day by organizing a workshop on "Apiculture for Sustainable Income" at Paruvagondanahalli under the Village Adoption Programme. Dr. M. H. Shankara, Senior Scientist and Head, highlighted the role of beekeeping as a profitable subsidiary enterprise that offers additional

income opportunities to farmers with minimal investment. The KVK Scientist (Plant Protection) delivered technical sessions on the importance of apiculture, scientific management of honey bee colonies, honey production, value addition, and



marketing opportunities. The programme also emphasized the importance of balanced fertilizer application for maintaining soil health, enhancing crop productivity, and promoting sustainable farming practices. Farmers, rural youth, and farm women actively participated in the workshop and expressed keen interest in adopting beekeeping as a viable and sustainable livelihood option.

Training programme on mushroom cultivation at Kalpatuaru Science College, Tiptur

CAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tumakuru-I, conducted a training programme on mushroom cultivation for final-year CBZ students of Kalpatuaru Science College, Tiptur. The Scientist (Home Science) served as the resource person and delivered both theoretical and practical sessions on various aspects of mushroom cultivation. The programme included a detailed demonstration of mushroom production techniques, covering bed preparation, spawning, crop management, and harvesting practices. Students actively participated in the hands-on training and gained valuable technical knowledge and practical skills in mushroom cultivation. The programme aimed to promote entrepreneurship among students by creating awareness about the potential of mushroom cultivation as a low-cost, income-generating enterprise. It also encouraged self-employment opportunities and motivated students to explore agri-based entrepreneurial ventures for sustainable livelihoods.

Exposure Visit

As part of a cross-learning initiative, the staff of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tumakuru-I,

undertook an exposure visit to the ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research to gain practical insights into value addition technologies and scientific plantation management practices. During the visit, the participants were exposed to various aspects of crop production, orchard management, post-harvest handling, processing techniques, and value-added product development. Scientists of the institute demonstrated innovative technologies and shared

their experiences on enhancing farm profitability through efficient resource management and value addition. The visit provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and strengthening institutional linkages, enabling KVK staff to disseminate improved technologies and best management practices more effectively among the farming community.





ICAR-KVK, TUMAKURU II



ICAR

Capacity Building Programme for FPOs/FPCs on Export Procedures and Good Agricultural Practices on 22nd May 2026.

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hirehalli, Tumakuru, organized a Capacity Building Programme for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) on "Export Procedures and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)" on 22 May 2026. The programme aimed to enhance the knowledge of farmer collectives on export regulations, market opportunities, and scientific production practices essential for improving the quality and marketability of agricultural produce.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Shri K.N. Jagadish, Subject Matter Specialist (Agricultural Extension), who emphasized the importance of strengthening FPOs/FPCs through capacity building to enable them to access domestic and international markets and improve farmers' income through value addition and exports.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Loganandan N., Head, ICAR-KVK, Hirehalli, Shri Sai Ganesh, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Tumakuru, and Shri Karanth, Representative from APEDA, Bengaluru. The dignitaries highlighted the vital role of FPOs/FPCs in promoting organized marketing systems and increasing farmers' participation in export-oriented agriculture.

During the technical session, Shri Karanth provided detailed insights into agricultural export procedures, covering registration requirements, quality standards, certification, grading, packaging, traceability systems, documentation, and emerging export opportunities for Karnataka's agricultural and horticultural commodities. He also explained the support extended by APEDA to facilitate exports and improve market access for farmer collectives.

Addressing the participants, Shri Sai Ganesh, DDM, NABARD, explained various NABARD schemes that support FPOs/FPCs through capacity building, infrastructure development, value addition, market linkages, and credit assistance. He encouraged farmer organizations to leverage these initiatives to strengthen their business operations and enhance their competitiveness in national and international markets.

In the concluding technical session, Dr. Loganandan N. delivered a comprehensive lecture on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in horticultural crops. He stressed the importance of adopting scientific crop production methods based on Soil Health Card recommendations and balanced fertilizer application according to soil nutrient status for improving productivity, quality, and sustainability. He also highlighted the role of biofertilizers, biopesticides and green manures in maintaining soil health and reducing dependence on chemical inputs, while introducing participants to the bio-inputs and organic farming technologies available at ICAR-KVK, Hirehalli. The programme served as an effective platform for FPOs/FPCs to gain practical knowledge on export requirements, institutional support mechanisms, and sustainable agricultural practices. Participants actively interacted with the experts and appreciated the valuable guidance provided for strengthening their export readiness and promoting quality agricultural production.



ICAR-KVK, UDUPI

Jack and Fruit Fair 2026

ICAR

-KVK, Udupi in collaboration with Zonal Agriculture and Horticulture Research Station, Diploma College of Agriculture, Brahmavara, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agriculture and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga, Rotary Club Brahmavara organized a three day Jack and Fruit Mela at S.M.S. Community Centre, Brahmavara, Udupi. The mela was inaugurated by Rajesh Shetty Birthi, leading entrepreneur and social worker. In his address he lauded the activities of KVK in reaching to farmers to transfer technologies and guiding them. Dr. Dhananjaya B., Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Udupi in his opening remarks narrated the way Jack and Fruit Mela started a five year back in Brahmavara to bring consumers and fruit growers under one roof. He said this mela has become very popular now in the region with massive business

for farmers and small scale value added product traders. Dr. Sudhir Kamath, Principal, Diploma College of Agriculture, Brahmavara; Dr. Revanna Revannavar, Associate Director of Research (ADR), Zonal Agriculture and Horticultural Research Station, Brahmavara were also present during the event. Local leader, Mr. Suprasad Shetty and other Rotarians were present during the occasion. Over 250 stalls of Jack fruit, exotic fruits, mango fruits, their value added products, ancillary products, nursery stalls of various horticultural crops such as jack, mango and exotic fruits participated in the event. Various technical sessions on value addition and horticulture crops were conducted during the period. More than one lakh visitors were recorded for three days during this annual Jack and Fruit Mela.



Visit to ARYA Project Beneficiary's Processing Unit

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Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science) from ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Uttara Kannada visited the food processing unit of Mrs. Nayana Hegde at Kenchagadde. Mrs. Hegde is a beneficiary of the Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) Project and received specialized training in banana and jackfruit processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development. Leveraging the knowledge and skills gained through the project, she has successfully established a food processing enterprise focused on producing high-quality value-added products. Her product range includes banana chips, potato chips, jackfruit chips, moringa powder, kashaya powder, rasam powder and sambar powder, which are marketed under the brand name "Shree Ganesh Home Products"

During the visit, the scientists reviewed the

processing activities and discussed various aspects of banana chips production, including the selection of quality raw materials, peeling, slicing, frying, seasoning, packaging and storage. Technical guidance was provided on improving product quality and ensuring consistency in processing operations. Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science) also emphasized the importance of maintaining hygiene and sanitation in the processing unit. Information was shared on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), personal hygiene, proper cleaning of equipment, safe handling of raw materials and hygienic packaging methods to ensure the production of safe and high-quality food products.

The visit provided an opportunity to assess the progress of the enterprise, offer technical support, and encourage the entrepreneur to further strengthen her processing and marketing activities



ICAR-KVK, VIJAYAPURA I

Campaign on "Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers"

ICAR

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Vijayapur-I and the Department of Agriculture ATMA staff of Vijayapur jointly conducted a campaign on "Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers" at Ingaleswar, Yambatnal, Ukkali, and Masibinal villages of Vijayapur district. During the programme, farmers were educated on the importance of balanced fertilizer application for improving soil health, enhancing crop productivity, and promoting sustainable agriculture. A total of 381 farmers benefited from this campaign. Dr. Shivaraj Kamble, SMS (Soil Science) explained the importance of balanced use of fertilizers for

maintaining soil health as well as improving the quality of agricultural produce. He also emphasized on integrated use of chemical fertilizers, organic manures, and bio-fertilizers to supply essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, zinc, and other micronutrients in balanced proportions for sustainable crop production. Dr. S. M. Vastrad, Senior scientist and head, explained the importance of applying the right type and right quantity of nutrients to crops based on soil test results, crop requirement, and crop growth stage for improving nutrient use efficiency, maintaining soil fertility, and achieving sustainable crop production. Deputy project director, ATMA project, Vijayapur district explained the advantages of adoption of integrated nutrients management in all the crops.



ICAR-KVK, VIJAYAPURA II

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Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers

part of the nationwide campaign on sustainable nutrient management and to promote the scientific use of fertilizers among farming communities, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Indi (Vijayapura II) organized a series of Awareness Programmes on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers across various villages in the taluks of Indi, Chadchan, Almel, Sindagi, and Devarahipparagi during the month of May 2026.

A total of 22 awareness programmes were conducted under the campaign, through which the ICAR-KVK, Indi team reached more than 1,000 farmers, including farm women, rural youth, and extension personnel. The campaign aimed to educate farmers on the importance of balanced and judicious application of plant nutrients for improving crop productivity, maintaining soil health, reducing input costs, and minimizing environmental degradation.

Scientists of ICAR-KVK, Indi interacted with farmers and highlighted the concept of 4R Nutrient Stewardship—Right Source, Right Dose, Right Time, and Right Method of fertilizer application. During the programmes, farmers were sensitized on the adverse effects of excessive and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers, particularly nitrogenous fertilizers, and the importance of applying fertilizers based on Soil Health Card recommendations.

Special emphasis was given to Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices involving the combined use of organic manures, biofertilizers, crop residues, and chemical fertilizers for sustainable crop production. The KVK scientists demonstrated methods for identifying nutrient deficiencies in crops and explained corrective measures through balanced fertilization. Information was also provided on micronutrient management, fertigation techniques, foliar nutrition, and the efficient use of water-soluble fertilizers in horticultural and field crops.

Farmers actively participated in the interactive sessions and discussed nutrient-related issues encountered in major crops grown in the region, including pigeonpea, chickpea, onion, pomegranate, and acid lime. The scientists addressed farmers' queries and provided location-specific recommendations for improving fertilizer use efficiency and enhancing crop productivity.

The campaign received an encouraging response from the farming community. Educational materials and technical advisories on balanced fertilizer application were distributed to the participants. The awareness campaign successfully enhanced farmers' knowledge of scientific nutrient management and reinforced the importance of balanced fertilizer use for achieving higher productivity, better profitability, improved nutrient-use efficiency, and long-term soil sustainability.



ICAR-KVK, WAYANAD

Field Day

ICAR

-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Wayanad conducted a Field Day on sesame under the Front Line Demonstration (FLD) programme at Kazhambukunnu summer fields on 05 May 2026. The programme focused on creating awareness among farmers regarding improved sesame cultivation practices, varietal performance, crop management, and productivity enhancement under summer conditions. During the field visit, observations on crop growth, field performance, and farmers' feedback were recorded. Farmers actively participated in the interaction and discussed the scope of sesame cultivation as an alternative income-generating crop under changing climatic conditions in Wayanad district.

Summer Camp for Students

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Wayanad in association with Science Technology Education and Research Centre Wayanad conducted a three-day summer camp from 15th -17th of May 2026 for 30 students from the state, focusing on the Artificial

Intelligence and Agriculture. Dr. Abdul Hakim V.M, Associate Director of Research, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Ambalavayal, inaugurated the summer camp. Specialists in the field of Artificial intelligence and Agriculture led the sessions.

Input Distribution as part of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Wayanad as part of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan distributed inputs to students of Eklavya Model Residential School, Pookode on 29th of May 2026 and beneficiaries from Chundale Estate on 31st of May 2026. As part of Technological intervention to strengthen food, nutrition and livelihood security, vegetable seedlings were distributed to the school and egg laying BV380 chicks, a nutrient supplement for dairy cow named ksheeramin to increase milk and arecanut seedlings were distributed to the Scheduled Caste farmers of Chundale estate. The intervention was coordinated by Dr Deepa Surendran.



ICAR-KVK, YADGIR

ICAR

National campaign on Balanced Fertilizer use

The national campaign on efficient and balanced use of fertilizers was organized on 12.05.2026 at Hattikuni village. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Jaiprakash Narayan, SS&H explained to promoting scientific and sustainable fertilizer use among farmers. Balanced application of NPK nutrients, soil test based fertilizer application, and adaption of integrated nutrient management practices. Use of organic manures, bio fertilizers and green manures along with chemical fertilizers. Protection of soil health, crop productivity and the environment. There are more than 40 farmers participated in the programme.



Agricultural Exhibition and Silver jubilee celebration at Agricultural college B.gudi

Agricultural Exhibition and Silver jubilee celebration at Agricultural college, B.gudi on 09.05.2026. The function was inaugurated by Dr Hanamanthappa, Vice Chancellor UAS Raichur. Dr Goudappa, Registrar UAS Raichur, Dr Jaiprakash Narayan, Senior Scientist and Head ICAR KVK Yadgir, Mr. Mallikarjun, Alumni students and more than two thousand farmers from different villages have participated in the programme.

On this occasion, an agricultural exhibition showcasing improved crop varieties, farm machinery, innovative technologies, organic farming practices, and value-added agricultural products was organized. Similar silver jubilee agricultural celebrations have highlighted technology exhibitions, farmer interactions, and agricultural innovations.

Students displayed models and posters on sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient farming, soil health management, and precision farming. Farmers and visitors interacted with scientists and experts to learn about the latest agricultural technologies. Cultural programs, alumni interactions, and award ceremonies added colour to the celebration.

The event served as a platform to showcase the college's achievements over the past 25 years and reaffirm its commitment to agricultural education, research, and extension for the benefit of the farming community.



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