

समृद्धि

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Director's Message

Under the visionary leadership of the Honorable Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a nationwide pre-Kharif campaign "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) 2025" was launched to reach farmers across India and equip them with the knowledge and resource needed for a successful kharif season. Spanning over 700 districts, the campaign mobilized around 2,000 teams of agricultural scientist, directly engaging with approximately 1.5 to 2 crore farmers across the country. VKSA is a visionary initiative of Viksit Bharat @2047, aimed at transforming Indian agriculture through inclusive, farmer-centric, and technology-driven development. The Abhiyan seeks to strengthen the connection between scientific institutions and grassroots farming communities, ensuring that modern agricultural knowledge, schemes, and innovations effectively reach every farmer in the country.

Under this zone covering 48 KVK's across Karnataka and Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep, a total of 4,237 programmes were conducted during VKSA. In Karnataka, 71 teams comprising 191 KVK scientists and 237 ICAR scientists, in Kerala, 28 teams including 68 KVK scientists and 159 ICAR scientists and in Lakshadweep, 2 teams with 5 KVK scientists and 3 ICAR scientists were involved. The 101 teams reached 5,891 villages and 10 islands, averaging coverage of approximately 4 villages per day. The Viksit Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (VKSA) in Karnataka witnessed participation from 642,899 farmers while in Kerala, the campaign engaged 235,431 farmers. In Lakshadweep, outreach efforts connected 9,708 men and 3,681 women.

Different mass media outreach activities conducted during the VKSA are included: Radio talks (225), TV Programmes (205), Newspaper Coverage (842), WhatsApp messages (13855), Facebook updates (1663), YouTube updates (998) and X updates (1056). These efforts fruitfully culminated in bringing awareness with respect to agricultural innovations and schemes across the states. A unique aspect of VKSA is its emphasis on farmer-led innovations where in total of 55 farmers innovations were captured.

My hearty congratulations to the team, KVK-Lakshadweep for Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra: National Award and Zonal award under ATARI Zone-XI from NAAS-Dhanuka Award for excellence in Agricultural Extension.

(V. Venkatasubramanian)

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan



In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming Indian agriculture, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA-2025) at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted the campaign's ambitious goal to reach over 1.5 crore farmers across India through technology dissemination, capacity building, and grassroots engagement.



He emphasized that fisheries is an integral pillar of India's food security and a viable pathway for livelihood development, and stressed that all technologies developed by ICAR-CIFA must effectively reach farmers to enhance their income and build a developed and resilient fisheries sector. The inaugural ceremony was graced by several eminent dignitaries, including Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment & Energy, Government of Odisha; Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Government of Odisha.

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भाकृअनुप - कृषि प्रौद्योगिकी अनुप्रयोग अनुसंधान संस्थान

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Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (continued from page 1)



From the ICAR leadership, the event witnessed the presence of Dr. M. L. Jat, Director General, ICAR & Secretary (DARE); Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) and Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension). DG ICAR, Dr. M. L. Jat, described VKSA-2025 as a transformational pre-Kharif campaign that bridges cutting-edge scientific research with farmers' needs on the ground. He called upon all stakeholders to unite in realizing the vision of Viksit Krishi for a Viksit Bharat, ensuring prosperity and resilience in Indian agriculture.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agricultural Extension), who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and stakeholders for their overwhelming support in making the launch ceremony a grand success.

Achievement under VKSA in Karnataka, Kerala and UT of Lakshadweep

	Karnataka	Kerala	Lakshadweep	Total
Teams	71	28	2	101
Programs	2284	656	75	3015
Villages	4608	1283	10	5901
Male Farmers	471526	140967	9708	622201
Female Farmers	171373	94464	3681	269518
Total Farmers	642899	235431	13389	891719
Target	555000	225000	12000	792000
Achievement	+ 87899 (116%)	+ 10431 (105%)	+ 1389 (116%)	+ 99719 (112%)



400 scientists from 10 ICAR institutes and 15 stations, 265 scientists of 48 KVKs and Development Department officials formed 101 teams, covered all 44 districts & 10 Islands.



VKSA VIP's participation



Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan participated in the event organized at ICAR IIHR Bengaluru on 08.06.2025.

As part of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan and Pre-Kharif Campaign, Sri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR-IIHR), Bengaluru. His visit marked a pivotal moment in reinforcing the Government's commitment to advancing Indian agriculture through sustainability, innovation, and a farmer-centric approach, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. Before arriving at ICAR-IIHR campus, the Minister toured the fields of progressive farmers cultivating high-value crops like dragon fruit (Kamalam) and tomatoes, gaining first hand insight into the innovations and successes at the grassroots level. He praised these farmers for their entrepreneurship and profitable cultivation models that inspire income security.

The Minister also visited the ICAR-IIHR Nursery, where lakhs of quality planting materials are produced and distributed to farmers, ensuring access to superior planting stock that can significantly enhance crop yields and resilience. Further, he explored the BESST- Hort Incubation Centre located on the ICAR-IIHR campus. This innovative facility supports young entrepreneurs and farmers who lack space, machinery, or technological expertise by providing shared resources to process their produce and access markets effectively. The incubation centre exemplifies the institution's commitment to fostering agribusiness and rural enterprise development. In his address to over 500 farmers, scientists, and staff, he emphasized the critical role farmers play in ensuring national food security and economic prosperity.

With conviction, he declared, "I am a farmer first," underscoring his dedication to serve the farming community as a sevak rather than a politician. This humility and focus set the tone for the day's events. "India must become the world's food basket," he stressed, calling for empowered farmers supported by strong institutions and enabling policies. Highlighting real-world success stories, the Minister felicitated several progressive farmers who exemplify agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship.

As a part of his visit, the Minister inaugurated a vibrant exhibition at ICAR-IIHR showcasing the latest varieties of mango, flowers, vegetables, and medicinal plants. The exhibition highlighted cutting-edge research outputs of ICAR-IIHR and the Bengaluru based ICAR institutes on climate-resilient crop varieties, post-harvest handling and technologies, integrated pest and disease management strategies, innovations in apiculture and mushroom cultivation, development of medicinal and aromatic plants. These exhibits demonstrated the robust lab-to-land connectivity and technological progress driven by institutes under the umbrella of ICAR.



The programme was graced by several dignitaries, including: Dr. K. Sudhakar, Member of Parliament (Chikkaballapur), Shri. S. R. Vishwanath, MLA (Yelahanka), Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR, Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, Dr. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI. Dr. Tusar Kanti Behera, Director, ICAR-IIHR hosted the programme. Their presence underlined the collaborative effort among policymakers, research institutions, and farmers to realize agricultural progress.

VKSA VIP's participation



Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways and Jalshakti, Shri V. Somanna participated in two events in Tumakuru district (Karnataka) on 09.06.2025 and 10.06.2025.

On 2nd June 2025, Shri Jaggesh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), graced the VKSA awareness program at Sri. Adichunchanagiri College of Agriculture, Mayasandra.



The programme was inaugurated on 30th May 2025 at Ollukkara Block by Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Tourism, Shri Suresh Gopi MP., in the presence of 475 farmers.



On 31st May 2025, Hon'ble Minister met 672 farmers at Irinjalakkuda Block to address their concerns and promote sustainable farming.



VKSA VIP's participation



Hon'ble Minister of state for Minority Affairs, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri George Kurian Participated in the event at Kavaratti, UT of Lakshadweep on 10.06.2025 and 11.06.2025.



Shri B. Y. Raghavendra, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Shivamogga constituency inaugurated the programme.



Shri Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, MP, Uttara Kannada participated on 01.06.2025



Shri Jagadish Shettar, Hon'ble MP, Belagavi, participated on 11.06.2025

VKSA VIP's participation



Smt. O.S. Ambika, MLA, Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala participated on 29.05.2025



Shri. S.R. Vishwanath, MLA, Yelahanka, Bengaluru participated on 08.06.2025

DDG (Animal Science), ICAR interacts with farmers at ICAR-CMFRI



Hon'ble DDG (AS)-ICAR, Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, participated in the campaign held at Mathilakam block on 4th June 2025 and also engaged with the tribal farming communities in Chalakkudy block on 6th June 2025 with a total participation of 2,100 farmers. During his address, he stated that the ongoing 'Lab to Land' initiative under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan would significantly enhance crop productivity in the coming seasons. Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ATARI Zone XI, and Dr. Grinson George, Director, CMFRI Kochi, also participated in the programme further strengthening institutional support for sustainable agriculture in the region. ICAR-CMFRI Principals Scientists Dr Madhu K and Dr Saju George also spoke on the occasion.

A "Campaign on Wheels" was conducted, covering the entire district and showcasing a variety of agricultural technologies. The dignitaries interacted directly with the farmers, addressing key concerns such as input costs, animal husbandry challenges, market linkages, crop insurance, and human-wildlife conflict. Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta visited exhibition stalls set up by farmer groups, women SHGs, and FPOs at Mathilakam block, which featured nursery plants, value-added products, and agro-machinery demonstrations. On the occasion, DDG, ICAR distributed fishing materials including cast net, life jacket, rain coat, headlights and tarpaulin sheets to 80 coastal farmers belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community. ICAR-CMFRI scientists are using this campaign to popularize its cutting technologies in cage fish farming, marine ornamental fish farming, seaweed cultivation, etc.



Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan - A Unique Experience



VKSA - Media outreach

Media	Karnataka	Kerala and Lakshadweep
Radio talks (No.)	175	52
TV Programmes (No.)	176	28
Newspaper coverage (No.)-	714	120
WhatsApp messages sent (No.)	8346	5306
Farmers through WhatsApp (No.)	410296	297484
Facebook updates (No.)	1293	355
Facebook updates views(No.)	137503	70008
YouTube updates (No.)	941	57
YouTube updates views(No.)	76851	1653
X updates (No.)	855	183
X updates views(No.)	20852	1853

Messages delivered to the farmers

Access and use mobile-based

Messages delivered to the farmers – Karnataka

- Seed – new varieties- paddy, millets, vegetables, flowers, fruits
- Soil – SHC / LRI – balanced and cost-effective nutrient management
- Pests and diseases – tolerant varieties, bio control, use of apps
- Livestock – vaccination, feed/fodder, quality milk production, mineral mixture
- Access and use mobile-based weather and pest advisory apps
- Perennial crops – pruning, training, irrigation and pest/disease
- Eco-friendly practices – natural farming and organic farming.



Messages delivered to farmers – Kerala

- Acid soils management, drainage, choice of crops
- Appropriate rice varieties for different eco systems
- Homestead integrated farming systems with eco-friendly approaches
- Demonstration of Drone for application of Nutrients
- Tuber crops varieties and planting material production and use
- Management of new and exotic crops eg- strawberry – a new crop
- Spices varieties, value addition, crop protection, plant material.
- Entrepreneurship in different mushroom species
- Demonstration of four-wheeled riding type transplant machine.
- Demonstration on using castor oil based repellent against wild boars.



VKSA Researchable Issues, Knowledge and Skill gaps

Researchable Issues, Knowledge and Skill gaps - Karnataka

- New crops, exotic crops, grown by farmers. POP needed for non-conventional areas.
- Continuous use of water soluble fertilizers adversely affecting the soil health, need remedial measures.
- SOP for pressure/volume sprayers, drone and high volume normal sprayers.
- Efficiency and effectiveness of sexed semen to be improved.
- Weed control using non-chemical approaches needed.
- Cropping systems in perennial crops.
- Skill enhancement in Farm Machinery Maintenance
- Livestock Reproductive Health Management, balanced feed with local resources
- Grafting techniques in vegetable crops to combat bacterial wilt
- Root grub management in most crops – Biocontrol effective but need skill support
- Pest and Disease management in GI tagged crops – jasmine, brinjal, banana, betel vine etc.



Researchable Issues, Knowledge and Skill gaps - Kerala

- Yellowing disease in coconut and arecanut - multi-dimensional issue
- Tuber crops new varieties - limited planting material, need participatory seed production mechanisms.
- New rice varieties, heat-tolerant vegetable varieties, disease resistant fish species needed for different micro-situations.
- Wild animals management need multi-stakeholder involvement – solar powered, sensor-based smart solutions.
- High labour cost in Kerala State – very small holdings – need innovative farm machineries - community custom hiring centres
- FPO - Community Value Addition and Processing Centres
- Scaling up of suitable marine ornamental fishes
- Freshwater Fish farming is restricted to few species – diversification need technologies, supporting ecosystems.
- Recirculating Aquaculture, Bio-floc technology, vertical farming in fish culture need both technological and financial support.



Researchable Issues, Knowledge and Skill gaps - Lakshadweep

- The difficulty of transport of both the produce and inputs from and to mainland.
- There is an urgent need to extend suitable transport facilities and subsidized fares for farmers.
- Replacement of senile coconut plantation to protect the island environment.
- Technology to improve quality of value added products in coconut and fish.
- Scaling up of suitable marine ornamental fishes through training, incubation and handholding.



VKSA Action Plan - Way Forward

- Synthesize individual scientists feedback - communicate to research institutes
- Integrate district-wise technology gaps into KVK activities – FLDs, Entrepreneurship Development
- Aspirational districts (Yadgir, Raichur, Waynad) specific plans
- Region-specific action plan: Dry-districts, Command areas and Coastal areas
- Women-specific skill and empowerment activities
- Market-enabling digital interventions – facilitate



ICAR-KVK Lakshadweep Bags Prestigious National Award



In a momentous achievement for the island territories, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) - Lakshadweep, ICAR-CMFRI, has been conferred with the Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra: National Award and Zonal Award under ATARI XI. The honour comes as part of the esteemed NAAS–Dhanuka Award for excellence in agricultural extension, a recognition of innovation, dedication, and impactful community outreach in agriculture and allied sectors.

This national accolade is a recognition of KVK-Lakshadweep's unwavering commitment in empowering island communities through scientific interventions, climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable mariculture practices. From rooftop nutrigardens and container farming, marine fish and seaweed farming demonstrations, the centre has consistently delivered need-based technologies tailored to the unique agro-climatic conditions of the Lakshadweep archipelago. A landmark achievement indeed, this award shines a spotlight on the role of KVKs in remote and ecologically sensitive regions like Lakshadweep, where the fusion of tradition, technology, and community participation has charted a path for self-reliance and sustainability. The contribution of KVK towards declaring Lakshadweep as an Organic territory has been a well acclaimed and recognised intervention. The success of KVK-Lakshadweep sets a national benchmark and serves as a powerful inspiration for agricultural extension systems working in diverse and challenging ecosystems across India. Dr. P.N. Ananth, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK-Lakshadweep received the award on the Foundation Day of NAAS, New Delhi on 5th June, 2025. The award was presented by Dr. Himanshu Pathak, President, NAAS and Former DG and Secretary DARE, ICAR.



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