

# ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru NEWSLETTER



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## Director's Message

Water is a critical input into agriculture. Good seeds and fertilizers fail to achieve their full potential if plants are not optimally watered. Adequate availability of water is important for livestock as well. Fisheries are, of course, directly dependent on water resources. India accounts for about 17% of the world's population but only 4% of the world fresh water resources. Distribution of these water resources across the vast expanse of the country is also uneven. Consumption of water is rapidly increasing by India's burgeoning population and supply of fresh water remains more or less constant.

The declining trend of groundwater level in all parts of the country also indicates that the assured supply of good quality water will become a concern. The overall efficiency of the flood irrigation system ranges between 25-40%. Overall, micro irrigation shows superiority over other traditional irrigation methods in term of water use efficiency, energy saving, yield increase and net return per unit volume of groundwater. Keeping these in view, the scheme "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana: Per Drop More Crop" was launched by the Dept. of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India on 1st July 2015. The scheme mainly focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at the farm level through Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System. Besides, it also supports micro-level water storage, and water conservation/management activities to supplement source creation for Micro Irrigation. The goal is to maximize crop yields with minimal water use.

'Per drop more crop' archetype paves a foundation to solve water-related issues by systematically increasing water productivity and conservation, especially in the agricultural sector, to free up water for other productive uses. By raising awareness about the water footprint of different food choices, consumers can make informed decisions and support practices that reduce the overall water consumption in the agricultural sector. This shift towards water-conscious food choices, along with improved irrigation methods and crop selection, can contribute significantly to water security and a more sustainable future.

(V. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN)

## PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released 16<sup>th</sup> installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi worth Rs 21,000 crores at Yavatmal in Maharashtra on 28.02.2024. During the programme, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects related to rail, road and irrigation worth more than Rs 4900 crores. Hon'ble Prime Minister also initiated the distribution of one crore Ayushman cards across Maharashtra and launched the Modi Awaas Gharkul Yojana for OBC category beneficiaries. He also flagged off two train services. KVKs pan India arranged live webcasting of PM's programme. A total of 2510 participants viewed live telecast programme at their respective KVKs of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.



Contd....2

# PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme (continued from page 1)



**KVK Davanagere**



**KVK Gadag**



**KVK Dakshina Kannada**



**KVK Idukki**

Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Ajit Pawar were present on the occasion among other Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council and Government of Maharashtra. Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda made his presence virtually.

Hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated the four biggest priorities - poor, youth, women and farmers. "Empowerment of these four will ensure the strength of every family and entire society", he said. He linked the launched projects in the event with the empowerment of all four. He mentioned irrigation facilities for farmers, pucca houses for the poor, financial assistance to rural women and the infrastructure for the future of the youth.

Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that 11 crore farmers have received Rs 3 lakh crore under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister also informed about the increase in FRP of sugarcane to Rs 340 per quintal. He also mentioned the world's biggest scheme for constructing food storage, which was launched recently at the Bharat Mandapam.

"Strengthening of the rural economy is imperative to the creation of Viksit Bharat", Hon'ble Prime Minister said, highlighting the government's impetus to tackle all the issues faced by the families dwelling in villages by providing them with financial support. Referring to Modi's guarantee of creating Lakhpati Didis from villages, Hon'ble Prime Minister informed that the target of one crore women has already been achieved and this year's Budget has plans to grow the number of Lakhpati Didis to 3 crores. He also mentioned more than 10 crore women associating with self-help groups that are provided with Rs 8 lakh crores from the bank and a special fund worth Rs 40,000 crores by the central government, benefitting lakhs of women from Maharashtra.

Taking inspiration from the Antyodaya philosophy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Hon'ble Prime Minister gave details of projects dedicated to the poor during the last 10 years such as guarantee of free ration and free medical treatment. Referring to the pucca houses for the poor, Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned a scheme of houses for OBC families under which 10 thousand OBC families will get pucca houses that was launched today.

# Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture inaugurated Farmer's Hostel of KVK Vijayapur-I

Farmer's hostel of ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Vijayapur-I was inaugurated on 13.03.2024 by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi. During the function Minister distributed power operated sprayer to farmers under SCSP project and 5 folders were released on QR code. Speaking on the occasion Sushri Shobha Karandlaje expressed her happiness for inaugurating the farmers hostel for which she had laid the foundation stone on 22.02.2023 and will be used for farmers training on recent advance in agriculture and allied subjects and promised more funds to farmers for project on processing and value addition in the coming years. Shri Vittal. D. Katakond, Member of Legislative Assembly, Vijayapur presided over the function. Shri Ramesh Jigajinagi, Member of Parliament, Vijayapur, Dr. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone -XI, Bengaluru, Dr. P. L. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. S. S. Anagadi,

Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad, Shri. Srinivas Kotyan, and Shri Jaykumar Member Board of Regents, UAS, Dharwad graced the occasion.

Shri Ramesh Jigajinagi requested more funds for upliftment of farmers in the under developed district like Vijayapur and Shri Vittal Katakond requested minister to give more funds for cold storage and value chains. Dr. P.L.Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor spoke about the welfare of farmers and achievements of KVK, Vijayapur, Dr. S. S. Anagadi, Director of Extension welcomed the dignitaries. The function ended with vote of thanks by Dr. R. B. Belli, Associate Director of Extension, Zone-III, Vijayapur. The function was attended by 280 farmers and 200 students of college of Agriculture, Vijayapur.



# Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on January 08, 2024 via video conferencing. Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned in his address that Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) has connected with about 11 crore people. Hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated the chief goal of VBSY is not to leave any deserving beneficiary from the benefits of the government schemes. Hon'ble Prime Minister said that VBSY has become not only the journey of the government but also the journey of the country with the support of government offices and people's representatives. He stated that the government is reaching the doorsteps of the beneficiaries and proactively providing the benefits and wanted to help large population of the country to come out of the struggle for small daily needs. Therefore, Government is focusing on the future of the poor, farmers, women and youth. When the poor, farmers, women and youth are empowered, the country will become powerful. Throwing light on the impact of VBSY, Hon'ble Prime Minister informed that health checkups for more than 2 crore people have been carried out so far and the doctors are reaching the doorsteps of the poor, dalits, deprived and the tribals. He also highlighted the schemes related to health which are useful to the villagers and poor people. On this occasion, KVKs have web casted the program and briefed about the Government of India's Schemes to the participants. A total of 9476 people in Karnataka and 2087 in Kerala have participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.



**KVK Raichur**

The chief goal of VBSY is not to leave any deserving beneficiary from the benefits of the government schemes.



**KVK Kollam**



**KVK Bagalkote**



**KVK Belagavi II**



**KVK Chikkamagaluru**



**KVK Udipi**

# Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (continued from page 4)

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on January 18, 2024 through video conferencing. Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the gathering and expressed that Yatra's Vikas Rath has turned into Vishwas Rath and there is trust that no one will be left behind. He highlighted that the Yatra turned into a people's movement and 15 crore people have joined this Yatra and it has covered about 80 percent panchayats. He said that the main objective of Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra was to reach such people who, due to one reason or the other, were till now deprived of the government schemes. He highlighted that the all Government of India schemes have reached every corner of the country and helps

25 crore people to come out of poverty. He explained the steps to empower Self Help Group movement and efforts to connect these groups with banks. While talking about the governments priority of modernizing the rural economy and empowering farmers, Hon'ble Prime Minister listed the steps to strengthen the small farmers. He mentioned 10,000 FPOs out of which eight thousand are already in place and 50 crore vaccinations for foot and mouth disease resulting in 50 percent increase in the milk production. On this occasion, KVKs of Karnataka and Kerala have actively participated in the program. A total of 6342 people in Karnataka and 898 in Kerala have participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.



**KVK Chitradurga**



**KVK Ernakulum**



**KVK Idukki**

50 lakh Ayushman cards, 33 lakh new PM Kisan beneficiaries, 25 lakh new Kisan Credit Cards and 25 lakh free gas connections were achieved during the course of the yatra.



**KVK Vijayapura II**



**KVK Hassan**



**KVK Chamarajanagara**

# Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture inaugurated Farmers Hostel, Staff Quarters and Automated Drip Irrigation Unit at KVK Belagavi-II



Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Govt of India, New Delhi inaugurated Farmers Hostel, Staff Quarters and Automated Drip Irrigation Unit at ICAR-KVK, Belagavi II and released video, six publications, bio-agents of KVK and felicitated two farm women and four farmers in presence of Dr. Prabhakar Kore Chairman, KLE Society, Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, Dr. P. L. Patil, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad on 09.03.2024. Hon'ble minister appreciated the efforts of Host Organisation for construction of farmers hostel and staff quarters with modern amenities to facilitate the farmers to stay in the campus and also to ensure trainings and residential facilities for staff working in the KVK. In addition, the minister also expressed happiness over the commissioning of automated drip irrigation system as a model and called on farmers adopt this model in their farm for efficient use of water without soil health hazards due to excess irrigation. Speaking on the issue of efficient water management, the minister stressed the farmers on adoption of drip irrigation method to get more crop per drop of water

During presidential address, KLE Society's Chairman Dr. Prabhakar Kore said that, KLE Society is serving the people in the field of education, research, health and technology. The society was also keen in serving the agriculture sector which is backbone of our country and hence started Krish Vigyan Kendra in Bailhongal taluk during 2011. During his introductory remarks, Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru said that, host organization KLE Society is providing best infrastructure facilities to the farmers since its inception during 2011. He complemented the efforts of the host organization for building farmers hostel and staff quarters with latest facilities so as to facilitate KVK to conduct long duration trainings to the farmers/farm women and rural youths of the region. Addressing the gathering Dr. P. L. Patil, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad expressed that, KVKs provide complete knowledge on development of agriculture on integrated mode involving horticulture, sericulture, forestry etc.



## Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare interacts with the farmers of Lakshadweep



Sushri Shobha Karandlaje Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visited Amini and Agatti Islands, Lakshadweep on 5-6 March, 2024. The Hon'ble minister visited the Islands to review the activities of Agriculture. The visit was arranged by the UT Administration of Lakshadweep jointly with the KVK Lakshadweep.

Prior to reviewing the activities on agriculture, the Hon'ble minister interacted with farmers and members of the Self-Help Group, young entrepreneurs promoted by the Department of Agriculture and the KVK Lakshadweep. During the interaction, Hon'ble minister distributed Soil Health Cards that were arranged by KVK in connection with the resurvey performed to renew the organic status of the U.T. Farmers raised the issue of whitefly and its menace and sought if it can be controlled by organic methods. The Hon'ble minister instructed the Administration to map out with the ICAR institutions the organic methods for controlling whitefly that decreases the coconut production. The Hon'ble minister insisted the farmers to take advantage of the development schemes that are provided to the farmers by the Central Government. The organic status of the Island was appreciated by the minister. The farmers lauded the efforts of KVK and ICAR-IIHR in promoting vegetable cultivation in the islands which was endorsed by the Hon'ble minister. The interaction meet was attended by all the staff of the Department of Agriculture and KVK.



The Hon'ble minister distributed Soil Health Cards, seedlings of vegetables to the farmers and appreciated the joint efforts by the organisations for promoting vegetable cultivation in the islands.



# Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) visits ICAR -ATARI Bengaluru

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) visited ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Bengaluru on 10.01.2024. Dr. U. S. Gautam, Deputy Director General (AE) and KVKs of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep joined in an online interaction with Hon'ble DG.



Hon'ble DG inaugurated the millet display at ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru.

Hon'ble DG reviewed the progress of online marketing app 'KISAN KART' and Kisan Samruddhi brand. A presentation on operation of KISAN KART was made before him in an interactive session with scientists and staff for knowing the applicability and scaling up of the same. He complemented the ATARI Bengaluru, KVK Pathanamthitta and KVKs of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep for the initiative and suggested pilot testing for upscaling before presentation at council. He also asked to study operational aspects and comparative assessment with existing models.



# Zonal Women Agripreneur Conclave 2024

The Zonal Women Agripreneur Conclave 2024 was a collaborative effort between ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru and Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) conducted from January 20-21, 2024, in the Thrissur district of Kerala. This conclave was a testament to women's indomitable spirit and remarkable contributions to agriculture across our nation. The conclave gathered around 600 women agripreneurs and delegates from 48 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) within the ATARI Zone (XI). The participation of these women agripreneurs clearly indicates the dynamic and diverse nature that characterizes the agricultural scenario of the zone.



In the inaugural session, Dr. B Ashok IAS, the Vice-Chancellor of Kerala Agricultural University, delivered the welcome address and presidential speech. The inaugural address and the unveiling of the plaque for the Farmer's Hostel Building at ICAR KVK Kottayam and ICAR KVK Palakkad were done by Sushri. Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare & Food Processing Industries. Shri. P. Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture in Kerala, delivered the special address online. Adv. K. Rajan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Housing in Kerala gave a special address and released a video showcasing the achievements of Women Agripreneurs in Kerala



Dr. V. Venkatasubramanian, Director of ICAR, ATARI, Zone XI, Bengaluru, released the 'Directory of Women Agripreneurs mentored by KVKs of Kerala Karnataka and Lakshadweep,' Ms. Geetha Saleesh, an agripreneur was honored by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare & Food Processing Industries. Indira Mohan, President of Madakkathara Panchayath, Prof. V. Palanimuthu, Director of NIFTEM, and Dr. Madhu Subramanian, Director of Research at KAU graced the occasion. The event concluded with a note of gratitude in the form of a vote of thanks by Dr. Jacob John, Director of Extension at KAU.



# ICAR-KVK, Dakshina Kannada nominated farmer Shri Satyanarayana Beleri receives 'Padma Shri' award

Satyanarayana Beleri is a farmer- turned- paddy conservator of Nettanige a small, quaint hamlet located in the district of Kasargod, the Northern most part of Kerala bordering Karnataka has conferred with the prestigious civilian award 'Padma Shri'. He is the eldest son of Late Kunjirama Maniyani from whom he has inherited four acres of land along with his two younger brothers. He is now preserving more than 650 traditional paddy cultivars mainly traditional land races of Karnataka and Kerala states. Besides this, he also grows rubber as the main crop along with areca nut and spices as intercrops.

Conservation of paddy germplasm is a cumbersome process requiring much investment of space, time, labour and energy. The land owned by Sathyanarayana with its highly undulating terrain and red lateritic soils is unsuitable for paddy cultivation. However, these constraints did not hamper his conservation efforts, rather it led him to innovate.



He started growing paddy in polybags. Different varieties are harvested, sun-dried and then stored in paper bags. By following this method, he has conserved as many as 650 land races in an area of 200 square metre. Besides conserving he also has shared these germplasms with important research institutions, State Agricultural Universities of South India and farmers that too free of cost. His invaluable collections include some of the oldest varieties of Kerala grown during pre-independent era such as Aryan, Chitteni, Kayama, Parambuvattan, Thekkencheera; important varieties with medicinal properties such as Navara, Rakthasali, Karigajavali, Chakayoporiyatt and so on. Along with traditional varieties of paddy, he is also conserving important traditional varieties of areca nut, nutmeg, black pepper and jack. Further, he is an apiarist and has the skill in grafting/budding of plants.

Sathyanarayana with single-minded devotion is trying to preserve this seed heritage, that too without any monetary returns or rewards. Now with this background at this most opportune juncture, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada is proud to nominate Shri. Sathyanarayana Beleri for Padma shri award.



Sathyanarayana is maintaining germplasm of 650 varieties of rice which include about 196 traditional varieties from Karnataka, 127 land races of Kerala, 45 land races from West Bengal, 7 traditional varieties of Tamil Nadu, 9 varieties from Maharashtra, 6 from Assam, 5 from Manipur, 4 from Gujarat, 3 from Jharkhand, 2 from Andhra Pradesh, Thailand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh respectively and one each from, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Malaysia respectively. He is also conserving around 150 arecanut varieties, 7 varieties of Jack, 5 nutmeg varieties, 4 Black pepper varieties, 4 Indian Yams, 4 Cassava varieties, medicinal plants and millets. Sathyanarayana has shared the germplasm of ten rice varieties with Regional Agricultural Research station, Pattambi (Kerala Agricultural University). He has given sample seeds of 130 landraces to Organic Farming Research Station, Mysuru, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore; 20 land races to ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dakshina Kannada, Manguluru functioning under the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar. He has also shared rice varieties with Non-Governmental Organizations and farmers

# International Conference on Reviving Ancient Grains: Millets on the Global Stage

ICAR- KVK, Kolar organized International Conference on Reviving Ancient Grains: Millets on the Global Stage in collaboration with COH, Kolar, SDUAHER, Kolar & ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru on February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at SDUAHER, Kolar.

The opening session was inaugurated by Dr. Venkatasubramanian, Director, Zone XI ATARI, Bengaluru who emphasized the importance of ancient food grains “Millets” for achieving nutritional security in his inaugural speech. Dr. N. K. Hegde, Hon’ble Vice chancellor, UHS, Bagalkot who joined online highlighted on grabbing entrepreneurship opportunities in millets through value addition.

The session was chaired by the chief guests Dr. A.B. Patil (Former Registrar, UAS Bengaluru), Dr. Daykar Rao (CEO, Horti Hub, IIMR Hyderabad), Dr. M.K. Thripati (Prof. CIAE, Bhopal), Dr. Shanmugam (Registrar, NIFTEM, Tanjavur), Dr. D.V.L.N. Prasad (Registrar, SDUAHER, Kolar) and Dr. G.S.K. Swamy (Dean, CoH, Bengaluru) who addressed the conference and spread awareness on various aspects of

Millets. Dr. Vengamma (Vice Chancellor, SDUAHER, Kolar) in her presidential remarks depicted the medicinal values of millets and the need for reorientation of millet diversification for creating awareness among the public. Dr. Venkateshalu (Dean, CoH, Kolar) and Dr. Shivanand V Hongal (Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Kolar) presided the inaugural session of the conference ICRAG-2023. Dr. Chikkanna G.S, Scientist (Home Science) KVK Kolar and organizing secretary coordinated the event. Around 800 persons participated in the programme.



## KVK Mysuru organized Technology Week (Krishimela 2024)



ICAR-KVK Mysuru organized Technology Week (Krishimela 2024) during February 6 to 11, 2024. The technology week was inaugurated by Shri Dinesh Gundurao, Hon’ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka in the divine presence His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Shivratri Desikendra Mahaswamiji and Jagadguru Sri Adrishya Kadasiddheshwara

Mahaswamiji of Kanneri Sri Siddhagiri Sansthan Math and other dignitaries. Dr. V. Venkatasubramannian Director, ICAR ATARI, Bengaluru visited to Krishimela and praised work done by the KVK staff



Technology Week (Krishimela) is popularly known as “Krishihabba”. This year's Krishi Mela was organized under the theme 'Hani Hanigu Bharpoora Tene' (Bunch full of grains by drop-n-drop of water) to create awareness about water conservation among the rural folk. Major activities showcased were live crop demonstration, expo of diversified horticulture crops, bullock cart in front of the Krishi Mela, the Govt. of India logo at the selfie point, Chandrayaan 3, QR code scanning system for detailed information on each crop, One Acre IFS Model, livestock, Agri Expo, Seminar, felicitation to farmers, Agriculture Quiz, Workshop on organic farming, Rangooli and Sobane Competition etc.

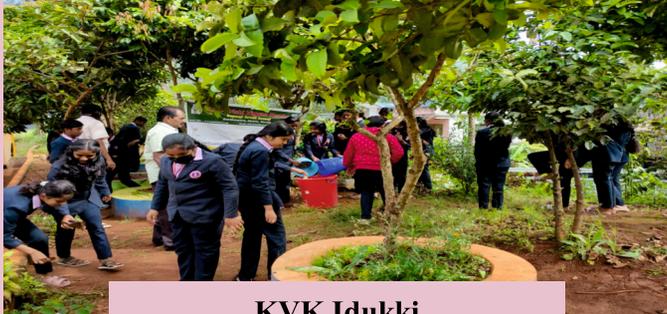
# Swachhta Pakhwada

ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru observed SWACHHTA PAKHWADA from 16 - 31 December, 2023. All the staff of the Institute and KVKs in Zone XI actively involved in various activities during the period for the cause of Swachhta and organized activities on various aspects such as basic maintenance for clean and green campus.



**KVK Pathanamthitta**

The activities organized include housekeeping, cleaning of guest house, institute buildings & toilets, campus, etc., sanitation, cleaning and beautification of surrounding areas, digitization of office records/ e-office, vermicomposting/ composting of biodegradable waste management and other activities on generation of wealth from waste, recycling of used water for agriculture/ horticulture purpose, swachhta awareness programmes organized at local level, swachhta workshops organized, participation in swachhta pledge, displaying of banner, competitions organized, campaign through involvement of print & electronic media, programmes by involvement of the farmers, farm women and village youth in their adopted villages and yoga with the participation of 16648 participants .



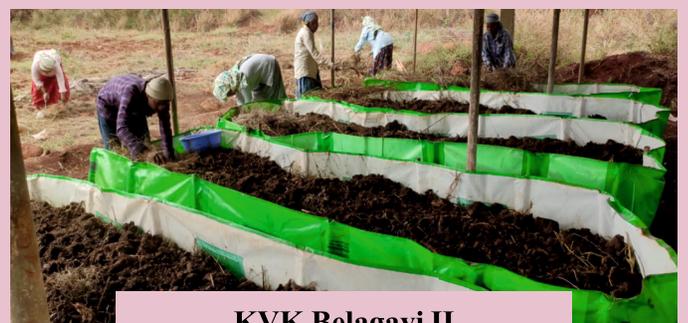
**KVK Idukki**



**KVK Davanagere**



**KVK Trivendrum**



**KVK Belagavi II**



हर कदम, हर डगर  
किसानों का हमसाफर  
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

*Agriseach with a human touch*

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