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ICAR-CIARI Celebrates 77th Republic Day with Patriotic Fervour at Garacharma Campus

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The ICAR–Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic zeal and enthusiasm at its headquarters at the Garacharma campus on Monday. Similar celebrations were also held at the Institute’s Regional Centre in Minicoy, Lakshadweep, and at the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in South Andaman, North and Middle Andaman, and Nicobar.

The programme witnessed active participation from staff members, students and their families, creating a vibrant and patriotic atmosphere. The celebrations commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, followed by his address to the gathering.

In his speech, Dr. Jai Sunder highlighted the historical and constitutional significance of Republic Day, recalling the adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, and its ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. He noted that the day also commemorates the Purna Swaraj declaration of 1930, symbolising India’s resolve for complete independence.

The Director called upon the audience to renew their commitment to national service, scientific excellence and inclusive development, underscoring ICAR-CIARI’s unique role in advancing island agriculture. He expressed pride in the Institute’s achievements during 2025–26, including major progress in research, extension, infrastructure, outreach and human resource development.

Dr. Jai Sunder announced that 18 varieties had been recommended by the State Variety Release Committee, while seven varieties—comprising four rice and three pulse varieties—had been notified and released by the Central Variety Release Committee. He also highlighted the standardisation of biofloc culture, initiation of seaweed farming research, and national recognition of CIARI’s fisheries extension efforts, with five success stories featured in an NFDB compilation and a National Award conferred on Mr. Arjun.

The Director further spoke about the performance of the Minicoy Research Station, noting that the installation of a second Fish Aggregating Device would enhance fishing prospects and support fishermen’s livelihoods. He also highlighted the commercialisation of five CIARI technologies, securing of patents and copyrights, and the significance of the exclusive “Dweep” trademark in strengthening the Institute’s identity.

Commending the Agrometeorological Advisory Service under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa, Dr. Jai Sunder described it as a critical support system for island farmers during extreme weather events. He appreciated the efforts of all three KVKs and expressed optimism regarding the construction of a permanent facility at KVK Nicobar. The Agro-Eco Walk initiative was also highlighted as a major attraction promoting CIARI technologies while integrating education, conservation and eco-tourism.

The Director acknowledged the contributions of various divisions and teams, including AKMU, HRD Cell, PME Cell, ITMU, Estate, Farm, Administration and Finance, and expressed confidence in achieving 100 per cent fund utilisation for the year. He also noted the appreciation received from the Parliamentary Standing Committee during its visit to the Institute.

Congratulating Team ICAR-CIARI for their performance in the Eastern Zonal Sports Meet, he also appreciated the social and cultural initiatives of CIARIWA and recognised the vital role of contractual and project staff as the backbone of the Institute.

Dr. Jai Sunder urged all to continue working towards the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2047 through effective implementation of the VKSA state-specific plan. The celebrations concluded with a colourful cultural programme featuring patriotic songs, dances, a quiz and extempore speaking, marked by high spirits and national pride.

Concluding the event, the Director called upon everyone to reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of the Republic and to collectively strive towards making ICAR-CIARI a national benchmark for sustainable island agriculture.