

# NEWSLETTER

## ICAR-CENTRAL ISLAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

#### AICRP

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### From the Director's Desk ....

#### Tribal Empowerment in Island Agriculture

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), established in 1978, is the only agricultural research institute serving the fragile island ecosystems of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands. The Institute addresses challenges such as limited land, fragile soils, freshwater scarcity, and high climate vulnerability through the development and dissemination of location-specific technologies in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and fisheries. Beyond technological support, ICAR-CIARI has undertaken focused initiatives for the empowerment of tribal farming communities under the Scheduled Tribe Component since 2012. Special skill-development programmes include livelihood and entrepreneurship promotion, nutritional kitchen gardening for health and wellness, infrastructure development for year-round vegetable production, and strengthening of self-help groups. To date, 12,497 tribal farmers (including 5,573 women) have been trained in scientific farming systems. Recently, a direct marketing outlet has been established at KVK, Car Nicobar, involving local tribal farmers.



In the ecologically fragile islands of Nicobar and Minicoy, ICAR-CIARI has promoted agriculture over more than 25 ha, enhancing livelihood and food security. Interventions have resulted in 139–1216% increases in net returns, with benefit-cost ratios reaching up to 2.95 through intensive multi-crop vegetable farming, Integrated Farming Systems (crop–livestock–fish–horticulture), and diversified fruit and vegetable cultivation. Additional initiatives include deployment of Fish Aggregating Devices, introduction of coconut climber devices, leaf separators, GPS tools, and establishment of seed banks for conserving indigenous crop varieties.

As a result of improved scientific knowledge, tribal farmers now produce vegetables, fruits, tubers, eggs, meat, and compost throughout the year. Many have emerged as entrepreneurs through technologies such as mini-incubators, lined rainwater-harvesting ponds, and Dweep MASMIN poultry feed. The Coastal Fisheries Information Hub at Car Nicobar has benefited over 600 tribal fishers, improving fishing efficiency. These interventions have led to improved dietary diversity, enhanced nutritional security, and higher incomes, including women-led farm enterprises generating net returns of ₹2.0–3.5 lakh per ha. Overall, ICAR-CIARI has played a pivotal role in strengthening the socio-economic status of tribal communities and stands as a benchmark institution for similar fragile ecosystems globally.

(Dr. Jai Sunder)  
Director (A)

## Research Highlights

### AICRP on Integrated Farming System

**I.Jaisankar, Abhilash, Ramakrishna Y., Perumal P., Chittranjan Raul and Gurunath Raddy**

The Coconut-Based Integrated Farming System (IFS) established in 2021 on 1 ha of hilly land aims to enhance farm production, productivity, and income through a scientifically designed combination of coconut + goat + poultry cum fish components. During the current year, the system was expanded by incorporating the Noni field and Padauk field, increasing the total operational area to 2 hectares. This expansion has strengthened the farm's long-term sustainability and resource recycling capacity. The soil across the area is sandy-loamy, slightly acidic, medium in organic carbon, and low in phosphorus and potassium, making it highly responsive to organic amendments and integrated nutrient management.

The livestock component is a key strength of the integrated farming system. The number of Andaman local goats increased from 20 to 33 adult goats and kids, showing excellent growth, reproduction performance, and adaptability to the hilly terrain. The poultry unit consists of 45 Srinidhi and 35 Vanaraja birds, managed in 2 cycles/ year and integrated above the fish pond for nutrient recycling. Additional species such as 30 Kadaknath, quail, guinea fowl poultry,

and 40 ducks were introduced this year, enhancing diversity and income opportunities.

The fish pond is integrated into the farming system and also supports the elevated poultry shed by utilizing poultry droppings as nutrient input. The pond is stocked with 20 gifted Tilapia, 137 Rohukatla, 200 Grass Carp, and 100 Tilapia. Another lined pond with a capacity of 230 m<sup>3</sup> is used for rainwater harvesting, which provides water during summer for plants and animals, ensuring both water and feed resource support within the integrated system. A separate small tank is used for rearing 31 guppy fish for the aquarium trade an additional and fast-growing income-generating activity.

Overall, the integrated farming model recorded a net return of ₹3,45,263 during the year, with noticeably higher yields observed in plots treated with compost and value-added compost. The Coconut-Based IFS demonstrates a successful, sustainable, and climate-resilient farming approach, capable of improving livelihoods, enhancing nutrient recycling, and ensuring year-round productivity.

### Anti microbial activity of Noni

**I.Jaisankar**

Noni possess antibacterial activity, Noni pulp and Noni root have a zone of inhibition in all three concentrations against *Bacillus subtilis*. The stronger being 17.6±0.84 diameter in the pulp sample and 14±0.70 in the root sample, respectively followed by the Bark and Stem samples, which show good

zone formation against the *E. coli* bacterial strain, with the diameter of 13.45±0.35 for the Bark and 12.1±0.14 for the Stem part. Noni leaf part showed a solid inhibition zone against *Staphylococcus aureus*, measuring around 11.95±0.35 zone diameter.

### Surveillance of major pests in the Lakshadweep Islands

**E.K. Saneera**

A severe infestation of the cowpea aphid, *Aphis craccivora*, was recorded on *Gliricidia sepium* plants with an incidence of about 20.05%. Dense colonies of the aphid were found on young shoots, stems, and the abaxial surface of leaves. Aphid feeding caused pronounced leaf curling, distortion, and chlorosis

due to continuous sap-sucking. Excess honeydew secretion promoted extensive growth of sooty mold, resulting in a black coating on leaves and branches that significantly reduced photosynthetic efficiency and plant vigor. Prolonged infestation led to stunted growth and partial dieback of affected shoots. Feeding



on tender twigs caused the development of corky tissues on the bark. Although natural enemies such as ladybird beetles were observed, their population

was insufficient to suppress the pest, indicating the need for integrated pest management strategies for effective control under island conditions.



**Plate 1. Surveillance of major pests in the Lakshadweep islands**

## Schedule Tribe Component

Programme	Number	No of Beneficiaries (M+F=T)
<b>Trainings</b>	5	132+63=195
<b>Demonstration</b>	13	367+130=497
<b>Input distribution</b>	7705	829+423=1252

## Important Events Held

### Farmer-Scientist Interaction under PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana Live Streaming Event

On October 11, 2025, the ICAR Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, successfully organized a farmer-scientist interaction along with the live streaming of the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana at the T.R Dutta Conference Hall, CIARI. The occasion was marked by the active participation of local farmers and the display of technological innovations developed by ICAR-CIARI for the benefit of the island's farming community.

Dr. Jai Sunder, Director of CIARI, led the event accompanied by a team of scientists representing various fields including agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. The CIARI experts engaged in interactive discussions with attending farmers, emphasized the significance of the event, and highlighted the innovative technologies designed to support sustainable and productive agriculture on the islands.

A total of 141 participants (72 male and 69 female) took part in the event among which 101 participants belong to farming community (43 Males and 62 Females).

### ICAR-CIARI and Its KVKS Observe Vigilance Awareness Week across Islands

Vigilance Awareness Week on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" from 27 to 31st October, 2025 was observed successfully by ICAR-CIARI in coordination with its KVKS of three districts. All the employees of CIARI participated with zeal for promoting integrity, transparency and accountability in public life. A week long programme was organised comprising of various activities starting with Pledge followed organising Gram Sabha for farmers on



**Plate 2. ICAR-CIARI Hosts Farmer-Scientist Interaction & PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana Live Streaming**



vigilance awareness, drawing, slogan writing and painting competitions for school students and walkathon. Farmers, citizens, school teachers and students from Nicobar Island took pledge and participated with high spirit. During the programme, three lectures viz., Awareness on cyber-crime and tips to be vigilant on trafficking by Shri.Bhupender Kumar Singh, Head Constable, Cyber-crime branch, Sri VijayaPuram, Timely clearance of files by Shri. Kanishk Bhukar, Administrative Officer, ICAR- CIARI, Preventive Vigilance from financial point of view by Shri. Santhosh Kumar Satapathy, Finance and Accounts Officer, ICAR- CIARI, A total of 439 participants including staff of ICAR- CIARI successfully completed the programme.



**Plate 3. ICAR- CIARI & KVks observe Vigilance Awareness Week Across Islands**

### **Celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at ICAR- CIARI**

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31 October 2025 with great enthusiasm to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. The event was observed simultaneously at the Institute Headquarters, Sri Vijaya Puram, and the Regional Station, Minicoy.

The celebration began with the administration of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge by all staff members, reaffirming their dedication to uphold the spirit of unity, integrity, and security of the nation. A total of 134 staff members participated in the pledge across both locations.

Following the pledge, a Unity Run was organized within the campus to promote the message of national integration, collective strength, and harmony among the staff. Participants carried banners emphasizing

the significance of “Unity in Diversity” in building a strong and inclusive nation.

As part of the observance, a short documentary film on “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Life & Work” was screened, highlighting the cultural and linguistic diversity of India and underlining the importance of mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation among its citizens.



**Plate 4. Celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at ICAR- CIARI**

### **Inaugural Event Celebrating 150 Years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” Held at ICAR- CIARI**

The inaugural event commemorating 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” took place at ICAR- CIARI on November 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Dr. T.R. Dutta Hall. Dr. Jai Sunder, the Director, addressed the audience and elaborated on the origins and importance of the song. He underscored how “Vande Mataram,” composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, embodies the essence of unity, dedication to the motherland, and the collective determination that fueled India’s struggle for independence. Dr. Sunder stressed that the song continues to inspire patriotism and pride, serving as a reminder to every citizen of their responsibilities towards the nation and its advancement. He encouraged the staff to embody these principles in both their professional and personal lives, drawing motivation from the enduring message of “Vande Mataram.” A mass singing of “Vande Mataram” was conducted, followed by a live broadcast of the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s address. A total of 80 participants, including Scientists, Technical Officers, Administrative Officers, Research Scholars, and contractual staff, took part in the program. The event was held at all three KVks in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as well as at the Regional Center in Minicoy. The event was



coordinated by Shri D. Karunakaran, Scientist, alongside other staff members from the Agricultural Knowledge Management Unit, including Shri. Ali Akbar, Technician, and Mr. C. P. Vijayan, Young Professional-1, all under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Jai Sunder Director of ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.



**Plate 6. Observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada at ICAR-CIARI**

KVK, South Andaman, Regional Station of ICAR-CIARI, Minicoy (Lakshadweep) and KVK Car Nicobar.

## ICAR-CIARI Launches AMR Awareness Campaign and Conducts Outreach Visits across Andaman

ICAR-CIARI proudly launched the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Campaign, underscoring the urgent global need to safeguard the effectiveness of antibiotics for humans, animals, and the environment. Aligned with the international theme “Go Blue for AMR”, the institute reaffirmed its commitment to promoting responsible antimicrobial use and strengthening awareness among farmers, livestock owners, veterinary professionals, and the general public.

As part of the initiative, ICAR-CIARI emphasized scientific understanding, best management practices, and community participation to combat the rising challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The campaign encouraged all stakeholders to adopt preventive measures, follow good husbandry practices, and reduce unnecessary antibiotic usage.

During Antimicrobial Awareness Week (November 18–25), ICAR-CIARI teams actively reached out to various Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Departments located at Port Mout, Rangachan, Garacharma, and Goal Ghar. The teams interacted with departmental staff and local communities, spreading key messages on AMR and distributing/displaying informative posters designed to improve public understanding of antimicrobial risks.



**Plate 7. Launches AMR Awareness Campaign and Conducts Outreach Visits across Andaman**



**Live telecast of release of 21<sup>st</sup> Installment of Prime****Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi programme**

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, organized a programme to witness the live telecast of the release of the 21<sup>st</sup> installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) on 19 November 2025.

The event was held in the esteemed presence of Honourable Member of Parliament Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Dr. Jai Sunder, Director (A), ICAR-CIARI, PRI members, and farmers from various villages. In his address, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray shared his experiences in natural farming and urged farmers to adopt advanced scientific technologies developed by ICAR-CIARI for improving the socio-economic status of island farmers. He also interacted with participants, responding to their queries related to agriculture and allied sectors. Dr. Jai Sunder highlighted the importance of Natural Farming Practices, the Gokul Mission, and the necessity of poultry vaccination for ensuring sustainable agricultural growth in the islands. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK South Andaman, explained natural farming-based approaches for pest and disease management. Dr. Ajit Waman, Senior Scientist, CIARI, discussed whitefly management and shared strategies to enhance the yield of local spice crops. Shri Chittaranjan Raul, Scientist, briefed the participants on biofloc technology and inland fish farming.



**Plate 8. Release of 21<sup>st</sup> Installment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme at ICAR-CIARI,**

During the national telecast, Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the 21<sup>st</sup> installment of PM-KISAN after inaugurating the South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 in

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The installment, amounting to over Rs. 18,000 crore, has benefitted nearly nine crore farmers across India, supporting them in purchasing essential farm inputs and meeting family needs such as education, healthcare, and other household expenses. A total of 271 farmers and farmwives from various island villages participated in the programme conducted at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, KVK North & Middle Andaman, and KVK Nicobar.

**ICAR-CIARI celebrated World Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2025 from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**

World Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week-2025' was celebrated at ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the top global health threats of the 21st century. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. The 'World AMR Awareness Week' is a global campaign to raise awareness and increase understanding of AMR and to promote global action to tackle the emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens. The theme for this year's campaign is "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future." Throughout the week, a vibrant array of programs and activities brought the campaign to life. The initiative kicked off on 18th November with eye-catching posters displayed at veterinary dispensaries across eight locations in South Andaman and Car Nicobar, all bearing the message 'Go Blue for AMR' to shine a spotlight on the silent pandemic and demonstrate collective resolve against drug-resistant infections. On 19<sup>th</sup> November, hands-on training on "Antibiotic sensitivity testing" was given to paravet staff of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The momentum continued on 20th November with an essay and drawing competition on AMR awareness, engaging 135 students from eight schools. College students and project staff also



showcased their creativity by submitting 11 e-posters. On 21<sup>st</sup> November, 42 farmers from across South Andaman gathered for an awareness programme. The week culminated on 24th November with a workshop where Dr. Jai Sunder, Director of ICAR-CIARI, shared insights on the status of AMR in the A&N Islands.

The valedictory programme unfolded on 24th November, graced by Dr K.A. Naveen, Director of Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, A&N Administration, as Chief Guest, and Dr. Kalyan P. Kadkhane, Deputy Director (Ayush), Directorate of Health Services, A&N Administration, as Guest of Honour. Dr. T. Sujatha, Organizing Secretary, briefed about the activities during the awareness programme. Dr. Kadkhane passionately highlighted the vital role of alternative medicine, especially herbal remedies, in the fight against AMR. Dr Naveen called for a united, holistic effort spanning human and animal health care, agriculture, and beyond to tackle AMR. The event concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by Dr. Arun Kumar De.



**Plate 9. World Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week celebration at ICAR-CIARI**

### **Celebration of Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram**

In celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India, Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) was celebrated with great enthusiasm at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, along with its Regional Station at Minicoy and KVks located in South Andaman, North & Middle Andaman, and Nicobar. The event began with a Pledge-Taking Ceremony that took place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 11:00 AM in Dr. T.R. Dutta Hall, ICAR-CIARI. Staff from all categories including Scientific, Technical, Administrative, Supporting personnel, Research Scholars, and Contractual staff were participated in the ceremony, taking the pledge in both English and Hindi, thereby reaffirming their dedication to the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

After the pledge, a film about Constitution Day was

shown in the conference room to raise awareness regarding the creation of the Constitution and the vision. This was succeeded by an enlightening discussion on constitutional values, fundamental rights, fundamental duties, and democratic principles, emphasizing the importance of the Constitution in steering the nation's development. As part of the festivities, staff members actively participated in reading the Preamble and quiz program online. Certificates were awarded to participants of the quiz and related activities.

During this time, school students visited the Institute as part of an outreach initiative. They interacted with the staff and presented brief talks on constitutional values, adding depth to the celebration with their insights and enthusiasm.



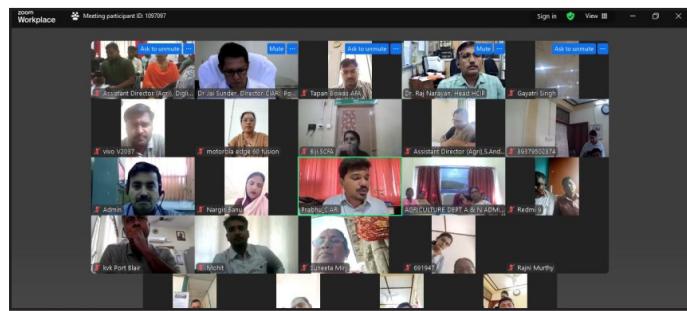
**Plate 10. Celebration of Constitution Day**

### **Online Training Programme on the Packages and Practices of Major Crops for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

An Online Training Programme on the Packages and Practices of Major Crops for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was inaugurated today, marking the beginning of a three-day session focused on agricultural advancements and best practices for crop production in the region. The programme, held from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of agriculture officials and field workers in the region. The event was inaugurated virtually by the Director of the Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, who delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and capacity building in agricultural practices to improve crop productivity and sustainability in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mrs. Sri Dewi, Joint Director of Agriculture, highlighted the Environmental issues and region-specific farming practices that are tailored to the unique climatic and geographical conditions of the islands. The Organizing Secretary, Dr. Raj Narayan, Principal Scientist and Head of Horticulture and Crop



Improvement, CIARI, welcomed all participants and outlined the importance of the training programme. The scientific team from CIARI, including Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head of KVK, South Andaman, Dr. Santosh Mishra, Head of KVK, Nicobar and Dr. Prabhu P., Scientist, CIARI, took part in the event. The event concluded with the Proposed Vote of Thanks by Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, CIARI, who expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries, participants, and organizing team members for their valuable contributions to the success of the programme. The training programme is expected to enhance the capacity of the agricultural community in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, enabling them to implement improved crop management techniques, promote sustainable farming practices, and ultimately contribute to the region's agricultural growth. Dr. Jai Sunder, Director of ICAR-CIARI, emphasized that the challenges posed by the Islands' climatic conditions can be effectively addressed through the adoption of modern technologies, good agricultural practices, and sound management strategies both at the field and post-harvest stages. He highlighted the crucial role of extension functionaries in ensuring timely and efficient dissemination of these technologies to farmers. Dr. Sunder further noted that such programmes should be designed to be highly interactive rather than purely theoretical, enabling participants to gain practical insights and understanding.



**Plate 11. Training Programme on the Packages and Practices of Major Crops**

### **ICAR-CIARI conducts Agriculture Education Day (AED) – 2025**

ICAR-CIARI celebrated "Agriculture Education Day" on December 3, 2025, in honor of Dr. Rajendra Prasad's birth anniversary, who was the first President of India and the Union Minister of Agriculture. To mark this occasion, ICAR-CIARI organized a series of events for school students from November 27 to December 3, 2025. On November 27, 2025, a drawing

and painting competition themed "Agricultural Farms in 2047" was held for students in grades 5 to 8. The following day, November 28, 2025, a quiz competition was conducted under the theme "Agriculture Basic & General Knowledge" and on December 1, 2025, an elocution competition took place with the theme "Role of Agriculture in Making India a Developed Nation" for students in grades 9 to 12. A total of 120 students participated, representing 12 schools including Ummit Public School, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamaraj English Medium School, PM Shri Kendra Vidyalaya – No. 1 & No. 2, Nirmala Senior Secondary School, Government Sr. Secondary School, Haddo PM Shri Govt. Sr. Secondary School, Garacharma, Carmal Sr. Secondary School, Khalsa Public School, Navy Children School, Saraswati Shishu Mandir Senior Secondary School, and St. Mary's School, Bathu Basti.

On December 2, 2025, students from various schools visited the Garacharma campus to participate in the Technology Exposition and Demonstrations. They explored several facilities, including the Fisheries Museum, Integrated Farming System, Nakshatra Garden, Livestock Farm, Pig Shed, Butterfly Museum, Microplots, Medicinal Garden, Horticulture Plant Propagation Unit, Central Instrumentation Facility, Butterfly Museum, and Library, where they interacted with scientists.

The valedictory function of Agricultural Education Day was honored by the presence of the Chief Guest, Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Sri Vijaya Puram. He conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the Director for the opportunity to engage in the programme and connect with the youth. Dr. Jha further remarked that prior to the formation of ICAR-CIARI, there was a lack of systematic advancement in agriculture, fisheries and animal science in the islands; however, due to the dedication of the scientists at ICAR-CIARI, several innovative technologies have since been developed for island agriculture. In his address to the students, he encouraged them to select their career paths based on their personal interests rather than external influences. He stressed that agriculture presents extensive professional prospects, noting that even numerous IT professionals are transitioning from their careers to launch successful agri-startups. He





**Plate 12. Celebration of Agricultural Education Day 2025**

expressed his gratitude for the interactions between students and scientists, noting that these programs play a significant role in disseminating agricultural knowledge and innovations to the local community. He concluded his remarks by congratulating all the students who received prizes and participated in the competitions.

Dr. Jai Sunder, the Director of ICAR-CIARI, addressed the students and urged them to explore the extensive opportunities present in the agricultural sector, which encompasses many disciplines under ICAR. He inspired the students to contemplate fulfilling careers in agriculture and encouraged teachers to consistently bring their students to CIARI, describing the experience as both enriching and enjoyable. He noted that today's students represent the future scientists who will strive to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency in the nation. By emphasizing that agriculture has transcended traditional practices, he pointed out that it has now transformed into a vibrant field of business and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, he mentioned that while the country has experienced numerous revolutions in the past, contemporary technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Drones, and Sensors are now playing a pivotal role in agricultural advancement. By embracing these cutting-edge tools, agriculture

can be revolutionized to boost productivity, enhance livelihoods, and attain self-reliance. He congratulated all the students who received awards and participated in the competitions.

Earlier, Shri. D. Karunakaran, the Scientist and Nodal Officer of the Programme, extended a warm welcome to the school students and their teachers, offering a brief summary of the events. Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar then presented the vote of thanks. Smt. Asma Bibi, Senior Technical Assistant, coordinated the program in partnership with Shri K. Ali Akbar, Technician, Shri Vijayan, Young Professional-1 from AKMU, Smt. Nazneen Khan, Young Professional-II, and Shri Adithya Nair.

### **ICAR –CIARI conducted Annual sports**

ICAR –CIARI conducted Annual sports held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 encompassing 27 sporting disciplines, comprising 14 indoor and 13 outdoor events. Outdoor athletics included high-intensity track races 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, and Relays alongside technically demanding field events such as Javelin Throw, Shot Put, Discus Throw, High Jump, and Long Jump. These events tested speed, strength, endurance, and technical proficiency, drawing enthusiastic participation across age groups and cadres.



**Plate 13. Annual Sports Meet 2025**

## **Deputation abroad/ PG studies/ HRD**

- Under the HRD cell, a Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva workshop was organised for the staff of CIARI (34 nos) on 29 December 2025 with

Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar and Mr. Kanishk Bhukar as Master Trainers.



## Awards/ Honours/Recognitions

Date	Name	Achievement/ Recognition	Event
07/10/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H & CI Division	Member of Expert	Team constituted for ascertaining the Status of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly and Mealy bug Infestation in the Plantations of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by DPPQS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, New Delhi
17/10/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H & CI Division	Associate Fellow- 2025	Society for Promotion of Horticulture, Bengaluru
23/07/2025 & 14/11/2025.	Dr. Raj Narayan Sr. Scientist, HoD, H&CI Division	Chairman	HVADA, Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram
06.11.2025	Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar, Sr. Scientist, FSD	Best Oral Presentation award entitled 'Ecological sensitivity, shoreline dynamics and resource vulnerability in Car Nicobar: A step towards Small Island Management Plan'	MECOS-4 International Symposium held at Kochi
07/11/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Invited Panelist	Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences, New Delhi
18/11/2025 27/11/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Peer Reviewer	The Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences (ICAR, New Delhi)
18/11/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Expert	Technical Enrichment Programme by Coconut Development Board
21/11/2025	Dr. Pooja Bohra, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Judge	State Level Baal Vaigyanik Puraskar and Flower Show by Department of Education, A&N Administration and CBSE, New Delhi
28/11/2025	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division and Dr. Pooja Bohra Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Member	Technical Support Group, SPICE PRAVAH of Andaman and Nicobar Islands
08/12/2025	Dr. Raj Narayan, HoD, H&CI Division	SCSI Book Award 2024	33 <sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Soil Conservation Society of India, held at PAU, Ludhiana
13/11/2025	Dr. Pooja Bohra, Sr. Scientist, H&CI Division	Peer reviewer	Botany, Canadian Science Publishing



## Trainings/ Meetings/Campaigns

Name of the training/meeting/Campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing Committee/Coordinators
Ensuring organic intergrity: raining on certification procedures	Kimus	08-10.2025 to 10-10.2025	13/17/30	Dr. Santosh Kumar Sr. Scientist, KVK, Nicobar
Skill Development Training on Nursery management & Propagation of Horticulture Crops	GramPanchayat Kadamtala	09/10/2025 to 11/10/2025	33/02/35	Dr. V. Damodaran, Sr. Scientist & Head, Nimbudera Mr.Rakesh Dawar, SMS Mr.Yatharth Sharma, SMS
Value addition and entrepreneurship in horticulture	Kimus	13/10/2025 to 15/10/2025	20/13/33	Dr. Santosh Kumar, Sr. Scientist, KVK, Nicobar
NFDB sponsored Training on Water Quality management in Aquaculture	Gram Panchayat Laxmipur, Milangram	29/10/2025 to 02/11/2025	25/12/35	Mr. Subam Debroy, SMS Dr.V. Damodaran,Sr. Scientist Head, Nimbudera Mr.Rakesh Dawar, SMS
Field Day-Brinjal Cultivation under coconut plantation	ICAR- CIARI Regional station Minicoy	01/11/2025	6/13/19	Dr. Saneera.E.K. Scientist, RS minicoy Shareefuddeen H.K., STA
Organized exposure visit to Fonialanasi Self Help Group, Sedivalu village which is expertised in making traditional Minicoy snacks.	Fonialanasi Self Help Group, Sedivalu village	03/11/25	1/10/ 11	
Awareness Training on Health and Wellness	ICAR- CIARI Regional station Minicoy	04/11/2025	8/12/20	
Organized exposure visit to Government Handicraft Training cum production Unit, Minicoy	Handicraft Training cum production Unit, Minicoy	05/11/2025	10/5/ T 15	
STC Input Distribution programme for Local Fishers	ICAR- CIARI Regional station Minicoy	07/11/2025	19/0/19	Dr. I. Jaisankar, Sr. Scientist & I/c NRM, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head KVK, South Andaman Dr. Abhilash, Scientist, NRM
Advance tuber crop cultivation for improving the productivity	Tuber crops germplasm and experimental field at ICAR- CIARI, Sri VijayaPuram	08/11/2025	14/1/15	



Name of the training/meeting/Campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing Committee/Coordinators
Intensive Integrated Farming system for improving the livelihood of the farmers	IFS field at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	09/11/2025	14/1/15	Dr. I. Jaisankar, Sr. Scientist & I/c NRM, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head KVK, South Andaman Dr. Abhilash, Scientist, NRM
Awareness Training on Ongoing Schemes in Animal Husbandry Sector	ICAR- CIARI Regional station Minicoy	09/11/2025	14/12/3	
Awareness Training on Government Schemes on Fisheries sector and STC Input Distribution	ICAR- CIARI Regional station Minicoy	11/11/2025	7/13/20	Dr. Saneera.E.K, Scientist, RS minicoy
Organized an exposure visit to MINMAS Fish processing Unit – An Agri Start Up	MINMAS Fish processing Unit	13/11/2025	10/1/11	Shareefuddeen H.K., STA
Distribution of Vegetable seeds and Seedlings	Rammedu Village, Minicoy	15/11/2025	8/12/30	
Training Program on Maternal Nutrition and Wellness for Pregnant and Lactating Mothers	ICAR KVK N & M Andaman	17/11/2025 to 19/11/2025	0/20/20	Mr.Yatharth Sharma,SMS Mr. Subam Debroy, SMS Mr.Rakesh Dawar, SMS
Technical Enrichment Program for Field level Officials of Dept. of Agriculture, A & N Administration	ICARKVK N & M Andaman	20/11/2025	11/10/21	Department of Agriculture in collaboration with ICAR KVK N&M Andaman
Online training on “Packages and Practices of Major Crops for A&N Islands”	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	02/12/2025 to 04/12/2025	19/0/19	Raj Narayan, HoD, H& F Division
Training on Scientific Livestock Farming for Improved farm Productivity in Island Condition	ICARKVK N & M Andaman	04/12/2025	25/16/41	Dr. P. Bala Dr. A.K. De Er. Manoj Kumar Mr. Yatharth Sharma & Mr. Subam Debroy
Training on Scientific Pig Farming for Rural Livelihood & Food Security	ICAR KVK N & M Andaman	04/12/2025	25/16/41	Dr. P.A. Bala Dr. A.K. De Er. Manoj Kumar Mr.Yatharth Sharma, SMS Mr.Subam Debroy, SMS



Name of the training/meeting/Campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing Committee/Coordinators
NFDB sponsored Training on Awareness of various Chemicals in Aquaculture	Gram Panchayat Kaushalyanagar	10/12/2025 to 12/12/2025	24/24/48	Mr. Subam Debroy, SMS Mr. Yatharth Sharma, SMS Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS
Use of Mulching Techniques in Vegetable Cultivation	Gram Panchayat Urmilapur	17/12/2025 to 19/12/2025	14/14/28	Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS Mr. Yatharth Sharma, SMS
Training Programme on Natural Pest Control, Storage Techniques and Rodent Management.	Gram Panchayat RK Gram	29/12/2025 to 31/12/2025	22/11/33	Mr. Yatharth Sharma, SMS Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS Mr. Subam Debroy, SMS Mr. Rakesh Dawar, SMS

## Publications

Waman, A.A., (2025) Comparative Biochemical Analysis in Fruits of *Piper sarmentosum* Roxb. from Andaman Islands, India and Commercial *Piper longum* L. *National Academy Science Letters- India*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40009-025-01879-w> (NAAS rating: 7.20).

Waman, A.A., Bohra, P., Karthika Devi, R., & Isac, S. (2025). Coir pith compost is a suitable substrate for mass multiplication of true cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* J. Presl.). *Journal of Plantation Crops*, 52(3), in press (NAAS rating: 4.65)

Bohra, Pooja and R, Karthika, Devi. (2025) Fruit morpho-physico-chemical studies in Surinam cherry and substrate standardization for its seed propagation. *Agrica-An International Journal of Plant Science Researches*, 14(2): 141-146 (NAAS rating: 4.65)

Bohra, Pooja and Raj, Riyah. (2025) Propagation studies in Costa Rican Pitahaya (*Selenicereus costaricensis*) under humid tropical conditions. *Journal of the Andaman Science Association*, 30(2), In press (NAAS rating: 4.12)

Sohini, Ghosh, Waman, A.A., Bohra, Pooja. and R. Karthika Devi (2025) Drying studies in Indian bay leaf (*Cinnamomum tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) T. Nees & Eberm.) under warm and humid

conditions of the Bay Islands. *Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops*, 34(1): 50-60 (NAAS rating: 5.01)

Kumar, S., Ajmal, S., Akshay., Sanket, G. D., & Meena, D. (2025). Kewadi sweet preparation from Pandanus for nurturing traditional knowledge and nutritional security. *Plant Science Today*. (NAAS rating: 6.8)

### Book chapter

Bohra, P., Waman, A.A., and Gourish R. Karanjalker (2025) Propagation Techniques for Humid Tropical Fruits. In: (Ed. W.S. Dhillon) *Nursery Production and Orchard Management, Vol. 3: Arid and Tropical Fruits*, Daya Publishing House, New Delhi, pp. 225-254, ISBN 978-93-5919-915-3.

### Training Manual

Subam Debroy, Manoj Kumar, Yatharth Sharma, Rakesh Dawar, V. Damodaran and Jai Sunder (2025). Field Manual on Awareness of the use of various chemicals in Aquaculture, Training Manual, ICAR- Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Garacharma, Sri Vijayapuram-744105, India. 31PP.

Subam Debroy, V. Damodaran, Chittaranjan Raul, Rakesh Dawar and Jai Sunder (2025). Field Manual on Water Quality Management in Aquaculture, Training Manual, ICAR- Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Garacharma, Sri Vijayapuram-744105, India. 31PP.



**Popular articles**

पूजा बोहरा एवं अजित अरुण वामन (2025). द्वीप गूटी 365: बहु वर्षीय बागवानी प्रजातियों के प्रवर्धन की एक नई तकनीक, द्वीप कृषि हिंदी पत्रिका, भा.कृ.अनु.प.-केंद्रीय द्वीपीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, श्री विजयापुरम, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह.पृ. सं. 28-29.

**Video Films**

Ajit Arun Waman and Pooja Bohra (2025). Cinnamon harvesting technique for Andaman and Nicobar Islands. ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.

अजित अरुण वामन एवं पूजा बोहरा (2025). अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में दालचीनी कटाई की तकनीक. भा.कृ.अनु.प.-केंद्रीय द्वीपीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, श्री विजयापुरम, अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह.

## IPRs/Commercialisation of Technology

Patent Granted	Inventors
<b>Dweep Microclimate Monitor</b> —an affordable, IoT-enabled device designed for real-time recording and transmission of microclimate data.	Dr. E.B. Chakurkar Dr. Abhilash Dr. I. Jaisankar Dr. Talaviya Harshangkumar
<b>Commercialized to</b> Mr. Sanjesh Kumar Tripathy, Proprietor: AgriClimSense, Liwan, Sonipat Haryana-122006 Ph: 9554206507	

## Women empowerment activities/trainings

S. No	Name of the trainings/meetings/ campaigns programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing committee/ coordinators
1.	Training program on maternal nutrition and wellness for pregnant and lactating mothers	ICAR KVKN & M Andaman	17 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov, 2025	0/20/20	Mr. Yatharth Sharma Mr. Subam Debroy Mr. Rakesh Dawar

## Participation in seminars/ symposia/ conferences/ workshop

Name	Programme	Details
Dr I. Jaisankar Sr. Scientist & I/c NRM	AICRP on IFS Annual Group meeting	Participated and presented ICAR- CIARI project report on 28.11.2025 to 30/11/2025 at RARI, Jaipur.
	International symposium on Tropical root & tuber crops for Nutrition, Agri-Food Systems, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)"	17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2025 at Hotel O by Tamara
	Mid-Term Review Meeting of the AICRP on Tuber Crops	22/11/2025 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram



Name	Programme	Details
Mrs. Naga Venkat Laxmi Technical Asssitant	HRD training	Phytochemical analysis techniques in commercial crops, held at ICAR-National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture on 08/12/2025 to 16/12/2025
Dr. R Kiruba Sankar Sr. Scientist, FSD	MECOS-4 International Symposium on Marine Ecosystems and Challenges	Held in Kochi from 04-06 Nov 2025, organised by CMFRI, Kochi.
Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar Sr. Scientist, FSD	Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme	Held at NAARM Hyderabad from 15-17 December 2025.
Dr. Raj Narayan, HoD H & CI Division	MDP Training on Leadership development (Pre RMP)	Organized by ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad w.e.f. 11 to 22 Dec., 2025
Dr. Pooja Bohra, Sr. Scientist H & CI Divison	12 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Emerging Issues in Agricultural, Food technology, Biological & Applied Sciences for Global Development (virtual mode)	Organized by AEDS, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh during November 15-17, 2025
Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Sr. Scientist, H & CI Divison	Indian Horticulture Congress- 2025 and International Meet	Held at UAS, Bengaluru during November 6-9, 2025

## Distinguished visitors

- Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, Advisor to the Administrator, Lakshadweep, visited the ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Regional Station, Minicoy, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- A joint field visit was conducted on October 10 and 11, 2025, involving scientists from CPCRI, NBAIR, and CIARI to assess the infestation of Whitefly and Mealybug in coconut fields of Nicobar. KVK Nicobar personnel accompanied the

visiting scientists, facilitating the field inspections and providing local insights on affected areas. During the visit, detailed observations were made on pest incidence, severity, and impact on coconut yield. Farmers' fields were examined for symptoms of infestation, and discussions were held on integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, including biological control measures, cultural practices, and judicious use of insecticides.

## New projects/ initiatives & Infrastructure development

- A new project titled “*Conservation assessment and captive breeding of the threatened freshwater fish of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for ecosystem services* (BT/PR58541/BSA/33/612/2025) has been approved by the DBT, New Delhi for funding with the project team Dr. J. Praveenraj, Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar and Dr. Chittaranjan Raul
- NABARD Project “*Boosting Livelihoods and Ensuring Nutritional Security through Horticulture Development in Nicobar*” PI: Dr. Santosh Kumar, Sr. Scientisr & Head KVK, Nicobar.



# Personnel

New Entrants							
Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Discipline	ICAR Joining	CIARI Joining		
1.	Dr. Puneeth P.V.	Scientist	Vegetable Science	07/07/2025	27/10/2025		
2.	Dr. Jess Maria Wilson	Scientist	Aquaculture	07/07/2025	27/10/2025		
3.	Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopahayay	Scientist	Agricultural Chemicals	07/07/2025	27/10/2025		
4.	Dr. Chaithrashree J.	Scientist	Agricultural Extension	07/07/2025	27/10/2025		
6.	Dr. Saneera E.K.	Scientist	Agricultural Entomology	01/01/2026	03/10/2025		
9.	Shri. Santosh Kumar Satapathy	FAO	-	-	15/10/2025		
Transfer							
Sl.No	Name	Designation	Transfer	Relieve			
2	Shri. BVB swamy	SSS	ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad	04/11/2025			
6	Dr. Gladston Y	Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, RS, Vizhinjam Thiruvananthapuram	10/10/2025			
7	Dr. Ajina S.M.	Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, RS, Vizhinjam Thiruvananthapuram	10/10/2025			
Left for Heavenly Abode							
Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Expired				
1	Late M. Srinivasan	Ex- Technician	26/11/2025				



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Compiled & Edited by	:	Dr. T. Sujatha, Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar and Mr. D. Karunakaran
Typesetting & Designing	:	Mrs. Asma Bibi and Mrs. Nazneen Khan
Photographs	:	Mr. K. Ali Akbar
Address	:	ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram-744105, A & N Islands
Phone No.	:	03192-250436
E-mail	:	director.ciari@icar.org.in

