

ICAR-CIARI Celebrates Van Mahotsav 2026 with Plantation Drive at Garacharma Farm



ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated Van Mahotsav 2026 by organizing a large-scale plantation drive at its Garacharma Farm in collaboration with the South Andaman Forest Division under the Department of Environment and Forest, Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

The programme was organised as part of the national initiative to promote environmental conservation, enhance green cover and create awareness about the importance of tree plantation.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, stressed the need to increase green cover, conserve natural resources and integrate tree plantation into sustainable agricultural landscapes. He encouraged staff members to actively contribute towards environmental protection through continued plantation and conservation initiatives.

Mr. Erularajan, Range Officer, Garacharma Range, South Andaman Forest Division, along with his team, facilitated the plantation programme by providing technical support for site layout, pit preparation and planting operations. The Forest Department also supplied 750 seedlings, including bamboo, jackfruit and lemon, for the plantation drive. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Erularajan highlighted the significance of Van Mahotsav in promoting biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration and community participation in afforestation activities.

A total of 174 participants took part in the plantation programme, including 42 officials from the South Andaman Forest Division and 132 scientists, technical, administrative, supporting, project, contractual and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) staff of ICAR-CIARI. The participants planted the seedlings across designated areas of the Garacharma Farm.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. I. Jaisankar, Principal Scientist, and Dr. Abhilash, Scientist. Dr. I. Jaisankar welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Abhilash, who acknowledged the support extended by the South Andaman Forest Division and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of all officials and staff members. The plantation drive reaffirmed ICAR-CIARI's commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable land management and the conservation of natural resources in the island ecosystem.