



As part of the nationwide *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*, the ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) organised an awareness programme at Gram Panchayat Wandoor on Monday to promote sustainable agricultural practices and soil health management among farmers.

A total of 12 farmers, including four men and eight women from Wandoor village, participated in the programme aimed at encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly farming methods.

The Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Wandoor, who attended the event as the Chief Guest, lauded the efforts of ICAR-CIARI in sensitising farmers to the importance of sustainable agriculture. Addressing the gathering, the Pradhan urged the farming community to embrace environmentally responsible practices to improve soil fertility, enhance crop productivity, and ensure the long-term sustainability of farming systems.

During the technical session, Mr. Mohit delivered a lecture on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). He emphasised the importance of balanced fertiliser use, reducing dependence on chemical pesticides, and adopting environmentally safe crop protection measures to safeguard both agricultural productivity and ecological health.

Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar, Scientist at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, spoke on the economics of agriculture and highlighted cost-effective farming approaches, efficient resource management, and strategies for enhancing farm income. He underscored the need for farmers to optimise available resources while adopting sustainable technologies to improve profitability.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion during which farmers shared their experiences and sought clarifications on various aspects of sustainable agriculture. Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed keen interest in adopting the technologies and practices promoted under the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*.