

## Two-Day Training on Coconut Value Addition and Virgin Coconut Oil Production Concludes at KVK South Andaman



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A two-day training programme on value addition in coconut, with a major focus on the preparation of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), concluded successfully at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, on Friday.

The capacity-building programme, conducted on June 18 and 19, was sponsored by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The initiative aimed to empower women and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by equipping them with the technical knowledge and practical skills required to convert raw coconuts into value-added products, thereby creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and income generation in the islands.

During the programme, Director of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Dr. Jai Sunder, interacted with the participants and encouraged them to make the most of the training. He emphasized the importance of adopting modern processing techniques and utilizing the acquired skills to establish successful entrepreneurial ventures.

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The training was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Pooja Kapoor, Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science), KVK South Andaman, who served as the Course Director. Participants received hands-on training in the preparation of Virgin Coconut Oil using the modern centrifugation method. Sessions also covered packaging, labeling, quality control, and other aspects essential for developing market-ready products.

A total of 37 participants successfully completed the programme, gaining both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in coconut value addition and VCO production.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session during which sample bottles of freshly prepared Virgin Coconut Oil were distributed to the trainees. Representatives from the Directorate of Social Welfare and KVK South Andaman urged the participants to apply the skills learned during the training to achieve self-reliance, enhance household incomes, and contribute to the economic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.