

ICAR-CIARI, DST Organise Skill Development Programme on Ethno-Veterinary Preparations for Nicobarese Tribal Healers



Car Nicobar | October 21, 2026

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), organised a five-day Skill Development Programme on advanced ethno-veterinary preparations for Nicobarese tribal healers across Car Nicobar from October 16 to 20, 2026.

The programme was conducted under the DST-supported initiative titled "Promotion of Socioeconomic Status and Self-Employment of Nicobarese Tribes through Scientific Validation of Ethno-Veterinary Tribal Medicinal Knowledge and Herbal Product Development." The initiative aims to integrate scientific advancements with traditional knowledge to promote sustainable livestock health management and support tribal communities.

Training sessions were conducted in Malacca, Perka, Tamaloo, Small Lapathy, Big Lapathy, Kimious, Arong Sawai, Tapoiming, Kinyuka Chukchucha, Kakana and Mus in the presence of the respective tribal captains.

The programme was led by Dr. T. Sujatha, Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator of the DST-SSNT project, who served as the Course Director. Dr. Santosh Kumar, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Car Nicobar, served as the Course Facilitator, supported by co-facilitators Mr. Deepoo Meena, Dr. Ajmal S. and Dr. Sankeeth G.D.

As part of the hands-on training, participants learned techniques for converting traditionally prepared medicinal oils into scientifically validated ointments for addressing ailments such as swelling, wounds and snake bites. The training also highlighted the importance and benefits of drying and storing medicinal plants and preparing ointments for use during emergencies.

The programme encouraged tribal youth to learn ethno-veterinary formulations from experienced traditional healers to preserve and sustain indigenous medicinal knowledge for future generations. The participating tribal healers showed keen interest in learning the techniques.

Around 200 tribal men, women and youth, including traditional healers, participated in the programme.

The initiative was conducted under the leadership and overall guidance of Dr. Jai Sunder, Director of ICAR-CIARI. The programme aimed to strengthen traditional veterinary practices among the Nicobarese community and contribute to improved livestock healthcare and productivity in the remote islands.