



NEWSLETTER

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

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April-June, 2026



हर कदम, हर उमर
किसानों का हमसफर
शाश्वत कृषि अनुशासन परिवर्तन

AgriSearch with a human touch

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Sustainable Island Agriculture through “Kheti Bachao Abhiyan”



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During the quarter from April to June 2026, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) intensified its grassroots extension and capacity-building efforts under the “Kheti Bachao Abhiyan” banner in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, A&N Islands. Leveraging Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), structured mass awareness campaigns effectively brought together smallholders, tribal farming groups, and youth cohorts to ensure food security across geographically isolated island territories. Aiming at transforming the agricultural landscape of the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, the institute organized a comprehensive series of training programs, field demonstrations, and awareness campaigns focusing heavily on Natural Farming, Organic Inputs, and Sustainable Resource Management.

The institute successfully executed 121 distinct capacity building programmes through deploying of 09 MGMG teams across 55 island village clusters. The campaign covered a total of 3568 active island farmers. The participant demographic comprised 2176 male farmers and 1392 female farmers, demonstrating a highly impactful 39.4% female participation rate. This highlights our success in empowering local women via kitchen gardening and homestead agri-management systems. CIARI promoted use of balanced Fertilizer and Nutrient Management with Spearheaded 67 distinct field demonstration sessions across 50 villages covering 26 ha of cultivable land. focusing entirely on *vermicompost preparation*, *green leaf manure utilization*, and eco-friendly biological control agents like *Trichoderma* application. Specialised programmes such as Panchayat Sammelan, interface meetings for local agri input dealers, Programs for FPOs/SHGs/PACS were also organized. Further, around 84 news items reached 8226 people through social medias such as news paper, TV, AIR and youtube channels.

Special diagnostic camps focusing on “Soil Test Based Fertilizer Application” and balanced crop nutrition were also conducted. Specialized natural farming trainings (such as natural plant protection packages for papaya crops) were organised across regions of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

The empirical success of this quarter’s “Kheti Bachao Abhiyan” demonstrates that intensive and scientifically backed community sustainability.

Dr. Jai Sunder
Director (A), ICAR-CIARI

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

[Natural Farming](#)

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[AICRP](#)

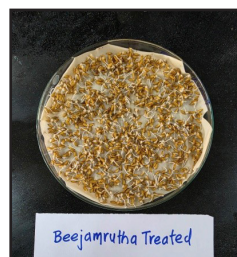
Research Highlights

Evaluation of Organic and Natural Farming inputs in rice-based cropping systems under island ecosystem

Dr. Gurunath Raddy

The natural farming inputs, such as Beejamrutha and Ghanajeevamrutha were tested on Dweep Dhan-7 paddy under island conditions. Treating

seeds with Beejamrutha boosted laboratory germination to 93.6%, compared to 82.6% for the water-treated control.



a



b



c



d



e



f

Plate 1. a) Beejamrutha treatment b) Water treatment c) Beejamrutha d) Ghanajeevamrutha e) Nursery Bed f) Transplanting

Arecanut husk-based hydrogel for sustainable soil moisture management

Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay

Developed a sustainable hydrogel from arecanut husk with a grafting efficiency of 69.20–71.43%. The hydrogel absorbs 300 to 600 times its weight in distilled water. When mixed into acidic soil

at 0.5–1.0% (w/w), it increased the soil's water-holding capacity by nearly 1.5 times, showing strong potential to improve crop resilience in rainfed and drought-prone areas.

Minimum inhibitory concentration of endemic medicinal trees

Dr. I. Jaisankar

Minimum inhibitory concentration studies on four endemic medicinal tree species revealed strong antibacterial activity, with *Morinda citrifolia* root extract and *Pterocarpus dalbergioides* leaf extract inhibiting *Bacillus subtilis* by approximately 82.5%. Additionally, *Morinda*

citrifolia stem and *Pandanus lerram* fruit pulp showed high inhibition against *Staphylococcus aureus*, while *Macaranga nicobarica* bark inhibited *B. subtilis* and its leaf extract active against *E. coli*, confirming the strong bioactive potential of these endemic resources.

Preliminary evaluation of vegetable crops' genotypes

Dr. Raj Narayan and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

An evaluation under the island agro-ecosystem revealed significant genotypic variation in vegetable yields, highlighting the need for location-specific cultivars. The okra variety Arka Anamika produced the highest yield at 396.30 q ha⁻¹, outperforming the regional average by

191.4%. For summer brinjal, Collection-II and Dweep Brinjal-1 exceeded average productivity by 58.7% and 42.6%, respectively. Similarly, Cowpea Collection-1 yielded 157.85 q ha⁻¹, surpassing the regional average by 62.7%.

Preliminary evaluation of vegetable crops for seasonal vegetable calendar development

Dr. Raj Narayan and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

An intensive diversified vegetable production system demonstrated high land-use efficiency, yielding a cumulative 81.11 kg from 42 m² (equivalent to 13.52 t ha⁻¹). Ridge gourd and radish drove the majority of this productivity,

collectively accounting for 64.2% of the total yield. Individual crop contributions followed the order of ridge gourd (39.5%), radish (24.7%), okra (13.5%), amaranthus (10.0%), bottle gourd (8.8%), and cowpea (3.6%).

Genetic diversity analysis of chilli genotypes using SCoT markers

Dr. Raj Narayan and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

Conducted molecular characterization and genetic diversity analysis of chilli genotypes using Start Codon Targeted (SCoT) markers to evaluate genetic variability and germplasm

relationships. The resulting diversity data will guide parent selection in breeding programs aimed at developing improved chilli varieties adapted to island ecosystems.

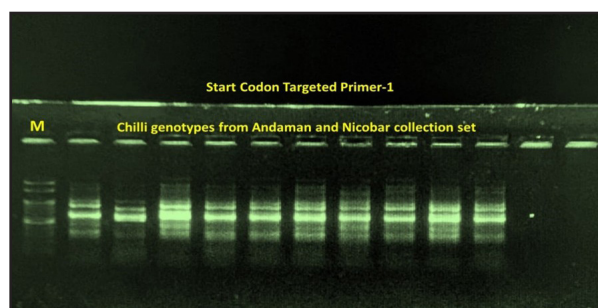


Plate 2. Analysis of Chilli Genotypes Using SCOT Markers

Preliminary study on influence of bio-stimulants on yield of okra & cowpea

Dr. Raj Narayan and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

Foliar applications of biostimulants showed distinct crop-specific responses. In okra (cv. Arka Anamika), spraying Humic Acid + Fulvic Acid at 50 ml L⁻¹ increased yield by 81% to 202.1 q ha⁻¹, proving to be the optimal dosage. Conversely, cowpea (cv. Arka Samrudhi)

showed minimal yield improvement across all treatments compared to the control. Overall, these biostimulants significantly benefited okra production but offered negligible agronomic advantage for cowpea.



Preliminary study on influence of mulching on yield of okra

Dr. Raj Narayan and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

Mulching markedly improved growth and productivity, with individual plant mulching (T1) consistently outperforming whole-line mulching (T2) and the non-mulched control (T3). Individual plant mulching recorded the highest number of fruits (30.62 plant⁻¹), fruit

size, fruit yield (503 g plant⁻¹), and marketable yield (246.47 q ha⁻¹), which represented an 86% increase over the control and demonstrated its potential for maximizing productivity under the prevailing agro-climatic conditions.

Value added products from overripe banana

Dr. Pooja Bohra, Dr. Pooja Kapoor and Dr. Ajit Arun Waman

Despite being the most widely grown banana variety in the islands, Cheena Kela faces market gluts, scattered production, lack of specialized inter-island transport, and high postharvest losses, preventing farmers from getting fair

prices. To address these issues and reduce waste from overripe fruits, researchers developed value-added products and standardized recipes for sugar-free desserts.

Studies on arecanut under AICRP on plantation crops

Dr. Ajit Arun Waman

Study on flowering behaviour in arecanut variety Mangala revealed that days taken from flowering to harvesting decreased from 358.5 days to 324.9 days from first harvest season to third season. Sib mating was done in arecanut variety Dweep

Samrudhi, while Dweep Samrudhi × AAD-1 cross was made and obtained seed nuts were shared with the nodal office for multi-location testing.

Key performance index of GPS assisted fishing for nicobari fishermen

Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar

ICAR-CIARI technologies significantly boosted productivity, income, and livelihood resilience for farmers and fishers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Car Nicobar, GPS-assisted fishing allowed fishermen to travel farther and make more trips, raising annual net income by ₹89,342 per person through better navigation. Livestock management saw marked improvements as well: mini incubator technology cut chick mortality in half and boosted egg

production, tripling net incomes and lifting the benefit-cost ratio from 2.32 to 3.73, while Dweep Tickure provided a cheap herbal alternative to chemical treatments that saved ₹580 per goat and ₹1,450 per cattle annually. Finally, Dweep VertiGrow introduced a space-efficient vertical farming method, enabling families to grow leafy vegetables year-round in a small 5 m² area to improve both household nutrition and income.

Surveillance of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW)

Dr. Saneera E.K.

Surveillance of coconut-based cropping systems revealed severe infestations of Rugose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW), with populations peaking at 40-135 adults per leaflet on coconut palms. The pest multiplied rapidly, causing symptoms such as spiralling egg patterns, waxy secretions, honeydew deposition, and sooty mould, which

severely reduced photosynthetic efficiency and palm vigour. In addition to coconuts, heavy infestations were found on alternate host plants—particularly Ficus species—which acted as crucial reservoirs that facilitated the continuous spread and persistence of the pest across the island ecosystem. However, pest



incidence dropped dramatically with the arrival of the southwest monsoon in June, as frequent rainfall and high humidity created unfavourable

conditions, reducing populations to fewer than 15 colonies per palm.

Demonstration unit for Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing sustainable livelihood of rural tribal community of Minicoy Island

Dr. Saneera E.K.

The one-acre Coconut-Based Integrated Farming System (IFS) demonstration unit at ICAR-CIARI Regional Station, Minicoy, serves as a sustainable, climate-resilient farming model tailored for island ecosystems. By integrating coconut cultivation with diverse enterprises—including cattle, goats, poultry, ducks, fish, vegetables, spices, fruits, and fodder—the system maximizes productivity and year-round food and nutritional security. Through routine management and resource recycling (such as

turning livestock manure and crop residues into compost), the farm minimizes external inputs and lowers production risks while continuously yielding milk, meat, eggs, fish, fruits, and vegetables. Ultimately, the unit functions as an educational platform for local farmers, extension workers, and students, offering a practical model with high potential for replication across Lakshadweep and other tropical islands to enhance rural tribal livelihoods and farm profitability.

On Farm Trials/Front Line Demonstrations

Sl. No.	Programme	Location/Unit	Important Details / Technology	Key Outcome / Impact
Front Line Demonstrations				
1	Sesame Variety CUMS-17	KVK Nimbudera	Demonstration of improved sesame variety under Integrated Crop Management in 15 farmers' fields	Grain yield 8.32 q/ha, Net return ₹34,861/ha, B:C 1.85
2	Pond-Based Integrated Fish Farming System	KVK Nimbudera	Fish-Duck-Vegetable integrated farming model	Fish yield increased 51.93%, Net return ₹26,396, B:C 1.51
3	Organic Manures in Summer Mungbean	KVK Nimbudera	Vermicompost + Rhizobium evaluated against farmers' practice	Yield increased 30.6% (13.65 q/ha), Net return ₹72,854, B:C 1.93
4	Brinjal Varieties Dweep CIARI-1 & CIARI-2	KVK Nicobar	Promotion of bacterial wilt-resistant varieties	Yield increased up to 48.67%, Net return ₹3.67 lakh/ha, B:C 3.62
5	Integrated Farming System (IFS)	KVK Nicobar	Coconut-based Integrated Farming System	Improved farm income and livelihood resilience
6	Kitchen Garden	KVK Nicobar	Promotion of climate-resilient vegetable cultivation	Improved household nutrition and self-sufficiency
7	Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Production	KVK Nicobar	Scientific VCO production, processing and packaging	Promoted value addition and rural entrepreneurship
8	Integrated Crop Management in Coconut	KVK Nicobar	Organic nutrient management, mulching and Rhinolure traps	Improved coconut productivity and sustainable cultivation
9	Dweep Leaf Separator	KVK Nicobar	Improved coconut leaf processing tool	Labour productivity increased ~32%, processing time reduced 24%

Sl. No.	Programme	Location/Unit	Important Details / Technology	Key Outcome / Impact
10	Jaggery Making from Coconut Sap (Neera)	KVK Nicobar	Hygienic and improved processing technology	Enhanced value addition and income generation
11	Solar-Assisted Hybrid Copra Dryer	KVK Nicobar	Solar-assisted copra drying technology	Improved copra quality and reduced post-harvest losses
12	Scientific Beekeeping	KVK Nicobar	Modern hive management and honey extraction	Additional income and improved crop pollination
13	Cassava Harvesting Machine	KVK Nicobar	Mechanized cassava harvesting	Labour reduced from 12 to 5 man-days/acre, harvesting efficiency doubled
On Farm Trials				
14	Sweet Corn-Green Gram Intercropping	KVK Nicobar	Climate-resilient intercropping system	Improved productivity, soil fertility and farm income
15	Groundnut Varieties	KVK Nicobar	Evaluation of climate-resilient groundnut varieties	Identification of suitable high-yielding varieties
16	Organic Amendments in Bhindi	KVK Nicobar	Organic nutrient management practices	Improved sustainable vegetable production
17	Papaya Varieties	KVK Nicobar	Evaluation of improved papaya varieties	Identification of high-yielding and disease-tolerant varieties
18	Coconut Producer Group Formation	KVK Nicobar	Farmer group approach for coconut production	Improved resource sharing, coordination and livelihood

Schedule Tribe Component

Division	No.	No. of Beneficiaries
Demonstration	26	805
Trainings	09	196
Input distribution	5078	385

Important Events

XI Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting

The XI Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, was held on 16-17 May 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. B.S. Dwivedi, Former Member, ASRB and Former Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ashok Kumar, Former Assistant Director General (Animal Health), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. P.S. Birthal, Former Director, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi; Dr. N.S. Rana, Former Dean, SVBPUAT, Meerut;

Dr. B.S. Tomar, Former Head, Division of Vegetable Science, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Dr. Pratap Chandra Das, Principal Scientist and Head, Aquaculture Production Division, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Dr. Jai Sunder, Acting Director, ICAR-CIARI; farmer representatives Shri Varadharajan and Shri Ankit Kumar Mridha; and scientists of the Institute. During the meeting, Dr. Jai Sunder, Acting Director, highlighted the Institute's major achievements and research progress, while Dr. T. Sujatha, Member Secretary, presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the previous RAC meeting. The Committee



reviewed the progress of ongoing research programmes and visited the Institute's experimental fields and research facilities. Based on its deliberations, the RAC recommended preparing a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable island agriculture, strengthening inter-institutional collaborations, promoting participatory production of quality seeds and planting materials, enhancing technology commercialization and market linkages, and further aligning research programmes with the needs of the island farming community.



Plate 3. Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting

19th Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting
19th Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, held during May 19-20, 202



Plate 4. Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting

राजभाषा कार्य एवं सहायक कार्यालयीन कार्य हेतु उपयोगी ई-टूल्स विषयक प्रशिक्षण

भा.कृ.अनु.प.-केन्द्रीय द्वीपीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान (ICAR-CIARI), श्री विजयपुरम में राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रभावी प्रयोग और डिजिटल कार्यालयीन उपकरणों की जानकारी देने के लिए एक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। राजभाषा विशेषज्ञ श्री अजय सिंह ने राजभाषा अधिनियम, 1963, राजभाषा नियम, 1976 और 'भाषिणी' जैसे विभिन्न ई-टूल्स के उपयोग पर विस्तृत जानकारी दी। संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. जयसुंदर ने अनुसंधान की जानकारी किसानों तक उनकी मातृभाषा में पहुँचाने के लिए तकनीकी साहित्य



Plate 5. राजभाषा कार्य एवं सहायक कार्यालयीन कार्य हेतु उपयोगी ई-टूल्स विषयक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम

को हिंदी व अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं में प्रकाशित करने पर बल दिया। इस कार्यक्रम में संस्थान के 59 अधिकारियों, वैज्ञानिकों और कर्मचारियों ने भाग लिया।

World Environment Day 2026 Observed at ICAR-CIARI with Focus on Climate Action and Sustainable Agriculture

On June 5, 2026, ICAR-CIARI observed World Environment Day under the theme "Climate Action" across Sri Vijaya Puram, its Minicoy Regional Station, and various KVKs, aligning with the Khet Bachao Abhiyan. Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. A.C. Varshney inaugurated the event, emphasizing biodiversity conservation, while Director Dr. Jai Sunder reaffirmed the institute's commitment to climate resilience. As part of the program, scientists, staff, and around 120 farmers participated in planting 50 saplings of lemon and other tree species to promote environmental conservation.



Plate 6. World Environment Day 2026

Climate Change Awareness Programme on Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries

To mark World Environment Day 2026, the Fishery Survey of India (FSI), in collaboration with ICAR-CIARI, NIOT, and other stakeholders, organized a climate change awareness program at FSI, Sri Vijaya Puram. Dr. M. Muruganandam, Head of ICAR-CIARI's Fisheries Science Division, delivered a keynote lecture on how climate change impacts oceans, coral reefs, mangroves, and fisheries. Attended by around 40 participants—including scientists, fishermen, and students—the event focused on sustainable fisheries management, scientific fish stock assessment, and climate-resilient policies to protect coastal livelihoods.

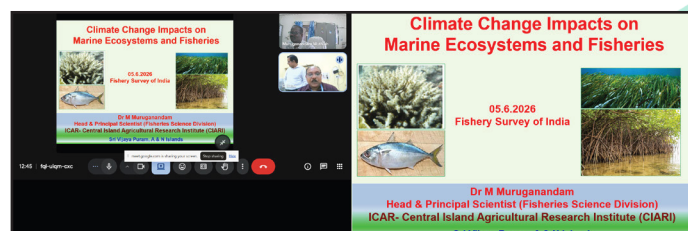


Plate 7. Climate Change Awareness Programme at FSI



ICAR-CIARI Celebrates 12th International Day of Yoga with Enthusiasm

ICAR-CIARI, along with its KVKs and Regional Station, Minicoy, celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." A total of 40 participants attended the programme. The event was organized by Nodal Officer Shri K. Shyam Sundar Rao, while Shri Bikash Chandra Mondal conducted the yoga session. Dr. Jai Sunder Director, ICAR-CIARI encouraged staff to make yoga a part of their daily lives for better health and well-being.



Plate 8. International Day of Yoga

ICAR - CIARI Marks 49 Years of Service to Island Agriculture, Charts Roadmap for Future Growth

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated its 49th Foundation Day on 23 June 2026. Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services and Fisheries), Andaman & Nicobar Administration, attended as the Chief Guest, while Mr. K. Vijayapandian, General Manager, NABARD, was the Guest of Honour. The Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by Dr. A.K. Nayak, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), ICAR, and the programme was presided over by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI.

The programme highlighted the Institute's achievements in island agriculture, technology development, crop improvement, climate-resilient farming, and technology dissemination. Exhibitions, a farmer-scientist interaction, release of six publications, and felicitation of progressive farmers, scientists, and staff marked the occasion.



Plate 9. 49th Foundation Day

ICAR-CIARI and KVK South Andaman Showcase Agri-Innovations at Island Food Festival and Bag Top Honors at Panchayat Mela

At the Island Food Festival 2026, the joint pavilion of ICAR-CIARI and KVK South Andaman showcased sustainable, climate-resilient technologies, natural farming models, integrated aquaculture, and processed local fruit products, while also distributing high-quality seedlings. They carried this momentum to the 4th Panchayat Sthapna Diwas Mela at Gram Panchayat Namunaghar, winning the First Prize for the Best Departmental Stall for their efforts in advancing agricultural self-reliance across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

HRD

Name of the programme	Venue	Date	Name of the Scientist
Five days training programme on "Strengthening Agriculture Research with Gender Perspective for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems"	ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar	04.05.2026 - 08.05.2026	Dr. Pooja Bohra Nodal officer & Dr. Chaithrashree Co-Nodal officer of Gender Research in Agriculture

Awards/ Honours/Recognitions

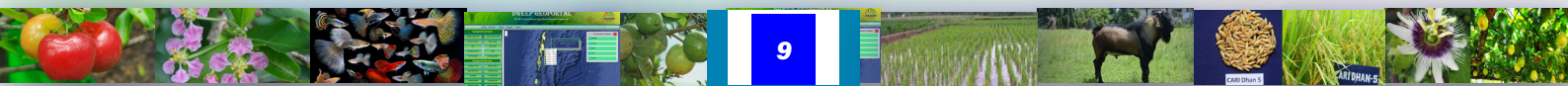
Date	Name	Achievement / Recognition	Event
26.04.2026	ICAR-CIARI & ICAR-KVK South Andaman	Best Departmental Stall	4 th Panchayat Sthapna Diwas Mela (23-26 April 2026), Gram Panchayat Namunaghar
15.05.2026	Dr. M. Muruganandam	Chief Guest and Special Lecture on Marine Biodiversity and Endangered Species Conservation	World Endangered Species Day Seminar, Fishery Survey of India, Sri Vijaya Puram
29.05.2026		Guest Faculty for Special Lectures on Natural Resource Management, IWM, Fisheries & Livestock Development	Regular Training Programme, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun
05.06.2026		Keynote Speaker on Climate Change Impacts on Fisheries Resources	Environment Day Webinar, Fishery Survey of India, Sri Vijaya Puram
11.06.2026 – 12.06.2026	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman	Invited Speaker	International Seminar on Cinnamon, Centre for Aromatic Plants, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
23.06.2026	Dr. Abhilash & Team	Technology Commercialization Award for Dweep Microclimate Monitor	49 th Foundation Day of ICAR-CIARI
	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman & Dr. Pooja Bohra	Best Working Laboratory of the Institute	
	Dr. Saneera.E.K.	Best Initiative/Innovation for deploying Fish Aggregating Device at Minicoy.	
	Shri. A.K. Tripathi & Team	Efficient Cell	
	Shri. M. Arul Selvam	Efficient Technical Staff	
	Shri. Silbester Dung Dung	Efficient Administrative Staff	
	Shri. G. Soreng	Efficient Field Worker Staff	
	Shri. Theophil Kindo	Efficient Field Worker Staff	
03.07.2026 – 04.07.2026	Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar	Best Oral Presentation Award	International Conference on Agri-Tech & Plantation 5.0, Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bengaluru

Programme on Khet Bachao Abhiyan (KBA)

Under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan (KBA) initiative, a total of 67 field demonstrations were successfully organized across various target areas, covering an aggregate area of 26.45 hectares. The program achieved widespread participation, engaging a total of 721 beneficiaries, which comprised 321 male and 397 female participants, highlighting strong community engagement and balanced gender inclusion in promoting agricultural preservation practices.

Programmes on “Balanced use of fertilizers” from 22 April to 27 May 2026

A series of awareness programmes on “Balanced use of fertilizers” were conducted from 22 April to 27 May 2026 across various blocks, including South Andaman, Ferrargunj, Rangat, Mayabunder, and Minicoy. Through a diverse range of activities—comprising 14 awareness programs, one mela, a field visit, and a household visit—the initiative reached a total of 1,525 beneficiaries, consisting of 832 male and 688 female participants.



Trainings/ Meetings/Campaigns

Training

Name of the Training	Venue	Date	Participants			Coordinators
			M	F	T	
Entrepreneurship in Ornamental Fisheries & Aquaculture (JNRM Sensitization)	JNRM College	09.04.2026	14	16	30	Dr. M. Muruganandam Dr. J. Praveenraj Shri Chittaranjan Raul
Entrepreneurship in Natural Resource Management (JNRM Sensitization)	JNRM College	09.04.2026	-	-	30	Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay Dr. Gurunath Reddy
Animal Health Camp (World Veterinary Day)	Namunagar	25.04.2026	-	-	50+	Dr. T. Sujatha Dr. R.R. Alyethodi Dr. P. Perumal Dr. P.A. Bala
Field-Day on Paddy Fallow Sesame Cultivation	Chouldhari Farmers' Field	29.04.2026	25	21	46	Dr. P.K. Singh Dr. Abhilash Dr. Gurunath Reddy Dr. Prabhu P. Shri. Mohit
Field Day on Oyster Mushroom Cultivation	KVK, Nimbudera	07.05.2026	12	8	20	Er. Manoj Kumar Shri. Yatharth Sharma Shri. Rakesh Dawar
Training on Oyster Mushroom Cultivation	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman	07.05.2026 - 11.05.2026	8	13	21	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Pooja Kapoor Dr. Zachariah George Shri. Mohit
Natural Input Preparation	Nayasahar	12.05.2026 - 13.05.2026	7	14	21	
Summer Internship Programme (Hands-on Research Exposure)	ICAR-CIARI	14.05.2026 - 22.06.2026	-	-	13	Dr. T. Sujatha Dr. Pooja Bohra Dr. Ajit Arun Waman Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Pooja Kapoor
Awareness-cum-Training Programme on Rice Cultivation in Lowland Conditions	Rangat	25.05.2026	-	-	53	Dr. P.K. Singh Er. Manoj Kumar Shri. Yatharth Sharma Shri. Rakesh Dawar
	Diglipur	26.05.2026	-	-	53	
Harnessing the Complementarity of Watersheds, Fisheries & Livestock Development	ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun	29.05.2026	-	-	20	Dr. M. Muruganandam
Kisan Goshthi	KVK, Nimbudera	11.06.2026 - 23.06.2026	64	38	102	Er. Manoj Kumar Shri. Yatharth Sharma Shri. Rakesh Dawar
Training on Machinery and Technologies for Coconut-Based Value Addition	Hall, Kamal Bhagat Basti, Campbell Bay	11.06.2026	4	16	20	Shri. Deepoo Meena
Training on Value Addition in Coconut for Income Generation	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman	18.06.2026 - 19.06.2026	0	37	37	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Pooja Kapoor Dr. Zachariah George Shri. Mohit
Two-Day Training on Value Addition in Coconut & Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Production	KVK South Andaman	18.06.2026 - 19.06.2026	-	-	37	

Name of the Training	Venue	Date	Participants			Coordinators
			M	F	T	
Field Day on Breeding & Seed Production of Indian Major Carps	Freshwater Fish Hatchery Complex, ICAR-CIARI	25.06.2026	-	-	20	Dr. M. Muruganandam Shri. Chittaranjan Raul Dr. Jess Maria Willson
Total			134	163	573	

M-Male, F-Female, T- Total

Publications

Research Article

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Booklet

Sharath S.Y. and Pooja Kapoor (2026). Farmer Institutions in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Pathway to Collective Prosperity. ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, Pp 6.

Book Chapter

Zachariah George, I. Jaisankar and Y. Ramakrishna (2026). Indigenous Farming and Food Practices of Nicobarese in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. In Tribal Farming and Food System in India (2026) Edited by Anup Das, Anirban Mukherjee, Subhash Babu and Jayanta Layek. *Today & Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers* (India): ISBN: 9789348596680: 469-504.

Success Stories

Sujatha, T. and Yeligar, S.S. (2026). *From Subsistence Farming to Sustainable Enterprise: Mrs. Rajeshwari's Revolution in Rural Poultry Farming, Andaman Islands*. Success Story published on ICAR-CIARI website, 29 May 2026. ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Popular Article

स्नेहा यतौर एवं राज नारायण. 2026. गुणों से भरपूर माइक्रोबीन्य का उत्पादन. फल-फूल, मई-जून 26-24, 2026

TOT including radio talks/ TV programme broadcast

Kisan choupal broadcast at ICAR KVK, Nicobar



IPRs/Commercialisation of Technology

Design patent for Tri-chamber slide for quantification of parasite biomass in faeces

Application No.: 440868-001

Date of Application: 17.12.2024

Date of Grant: 03.04.2026

The Tri-Chamber Slide for Quantification of Parasite Biomass in Faeces is an innovative diagnostic slide designed to improve the accuracy and efficiency of parasitological examinations. The slide enables simultaneous observation of three faecal samples on a single slide, reducing sample loading time and minimizing statistical errors during the counting of parasite eggs and protozoan cysts. By accommodating three samples on one slide, it decreases slide usage by approximately 30%, making the diagnostic process more cost-effective, accurate, and efficient for veterinary and research laboratories.

Scientific team: Dr. T. Sujatha, Dr. D. Bhattacharya, Dr. Jai Sunder, Dr. Arun Kumar De, Dr. E. B. Chakurkar & Dr. P. Perumal.

Artificial Vagina In Rabbit Model

Application No.: 440865-001

Date of Application: 17.12.2024

Date of Grant: 20.02.2026

The Artificial Vagina in Rabbit Model is an indigenously developed device designed for efficient and hygienic semen collection in rabbits. It closely replicates the natural vaginal environment by maintaining optimal temperature and pressure, thereby improving semen collection quality and consistency. Fabricated using locally available plastic materials and silicone tubing, the device is lightweight, cost-effective, durable, and reusable after proper cleaning. This innovation supports standardized breeding practices, enhances reproductive efficiency, and promotes self-reliance by reducing dependence on imported equipment.

Scientific team: Dr. R.R. Alyethodi, Dr. Jai Sunder, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar & Dr. P. Perumal.

Dweep Nicobari Aloo Peeler

Application No.: 451312-001

Date of Application: 12.03.2025

Date of Grant: 06.04.2026

The Dweep Nicobari Aloo Peeler is a specially designed tool developed for peeling Nicobari Aloo (*Dioscorea alata*), a tuber crop predominantly cultivated by tribal communities and local settlers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The innovative peeler enables easy and efficient removal of the tough outer skin without damaging the edible flesh of the tuber. By reducing manual effort and minimizing wastage, the tool improves processing efficiency and supports value addition of this important indigenous crop.

Scientific team: Dr. I. Jai Sankar, Dr. T. Subramani & Dr. E.B. Chakurkar

Integrated Monitoring and Contamination Controlled Fly Rearing Unit

Application No.: 462103-001

Date of Application: 13.06.2025

Date of Grant: 24.06.2026

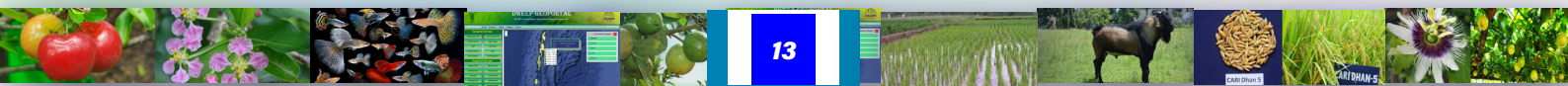
The Integrated Monitoring and Contamination Controlled Fly Rearing Unit is an indigenously developed rearing system designed for maintaining pure colonies of house flies and flesh flies for research on fly biology and control strategies. Constructed with a wooden frame enclosed by chicken wire mesh, the unit features separate feeding and observation doors that enable routine management without disturbing the colony. The design effectively prevents contamination by other fly species, facilitates continuous monitoring of growth and experimental progress, and minimizes the risk of fly escape during feeding and watering, ensuring efficient and contamination-free fly rearing.

Scientific team: Dr. T. Sujatha, Dr. D. Bhattacharya, Dr. A.K. De, Dr. Jai Sunder, Dr. B.W. Narladkar, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar.

Women empowerment activities/trainings

Smti. Reva Rani Mandal, a dynamic member of the Savera Self-Help Group (SHG) from Chouldari, is honored for her outstanding contribution to rural entrepreneurship and grassroots economic empowerment. Demonstrating that determination and vision

far supersede formal education, Smti. Reva Rani, a Xth - pass homemaker, embarked on a transformative journey by completing specialized training in value addition and food processing at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Andaman in the year 2025. Armed with new



technical expertise, she immediately translated her knowledge into action at the local Sunday Haat. Her wholesome, nutritious ragi laddus and diverse varieties of high-quality pickles quickly gained popularity among consumers, generating a commendable and steady monthly income of ₹18,000 while establishing her brand's market viability. Driven by an unwavering commitment to quality, she successfully scaled her venture from a weekly market stall into a permanent commercial enterprise, opening her own food outlet and shop in Chouldari. Her remarkable evolution from a small-scale grassroots vendor to a settled shop owner serves as a stellar blueprint for sustainable livelihood development, proving

how targeted skill development can unlock economic independence and drive true women's empowerment in the region.



Plate 10. Receiving Best Women Entrepreneur Award on 49th Foundation Day of ICAR-CIARI

Participation in seminars/ symposia/ conferences/ workshop

Name	Programme	Details
Dr. Raj Narayan	Meeting on "Preparation of Action Plan and Possible Deliverables for Smooth Implementation of Budget Announcement 2026-27 related to Cashew and Cocoa"	Participated in the meeting on "Preparation of Action Plan and Possible Deliverables for Smooth Implementation of Budget Announcement 2026-27 related to Cashew and Cocoa" organized by DAC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 02.04.2026.
	Online stakeholders' meeting on "Developing Strategies for Enhancement of Cocoa Production"	Attended the online stakeholders' meeting on "Developing Strategies for Enhancement of Cocoa Production" held on 16.04.2026
Dr. Ajit Arun Waman	Quinquennial review team meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops	Organized at ICAR-NIRCA, Rajahmundry during 08.05.2026- 09.05.2026
	Annual group meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops	Attended in virtual mode during 17.06.2026-19.06.2026

Distinguished visitors

Meeting at KVK Nicobar during the visit of the Chief Secretary – 16 April 2026

On April 16, 2026, the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration visited ICAR-KVK Nicobar to review its research, extension, and capacity-building work for tribal farmers. KVK scientists presented key initiatives on organic and natural farming, coconut-based farming, soil health management, and livelihood programs. The Chief Secretary praised the team's dedication to remote island communities

and encouraged them to continue promoting sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture in the district.

Farmer field visit along with Shri. Padma kumar IPS (Retd.), special rapporteur, National Human Rights Commission – 23 April 2026

On April 23, 2026, Shri. Padma kumar IPS (Retd.), Special Rapporteur for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), conducted a field visit with ICAR-KVK Nicobar to review





Plate 11. Farmer Field Visit with Shri Padmakumar, IPS (Retd.)

agricultural development initiatives. The visit showcased field demonstrations on organic farming, integrated nutrient management, and coconut-based farming systems. During interactions with local farmers, the Special Rapporteur observed the positive impacts of these interventions on rural livelihoods, productivity, and nutritional security. He

praised KVK Nicobar's efforts in empowering remote tribal communities through capacity building and sustainable, inclusive agricultural technologies.

Trainee IAS Officer visited ICAR-KVK Nicobar and selected farmer fields

On May 25, 2026, a Trainee IAS Officer visited ICAR-KVK Nicobar and selected farmer fields to study local agricultural development initiatives. The officer was briefed on KVK's projects, including organic and natural farming, coconut-based farming systems, soil health management, and integrated farming systems. After interacting with local farmers and observing the field-level results, the officer commended the KVK team for their dedication to transferring technology, improving productivity, and enhancing livelihoods within the remote tribal farming communities of the Nicobar Islands.

New projects/ initiatives & Infrastructure development

NABARD Project (Boosting Livelihoods and Ensuring Nutritional Security through Horticulture Development in Nicobar) (On going)

Under the NABARD-supported project "Boosting Livelihoods and Ensuring Nutritional Security through Horticulture Development in Nicobar," ICAR-KVK Nicobar is constructing polyhouses and *Jalkhunds* (water harvesting structures) in selected beneficiary fields. The polyhouses will enable year-round, weather-protected cultivation of high-value vegetable crops, while the *Jalkhunds* will harvest rainwater to secure irrigation during dry spells. Together, these interventions aim to boost crop

productivity, enhance local livelihoods, and promote climate-resilient horticulture across the Nicobar Islands.



Plate 12. Ongoing NABARD Project Promoting Sustainable Horticulture for Livelihood and Nutritional Security in Nicobar

Other Information

Student guided for internship project

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Degree	Guide	Organization	Project Duration
1	Ms. Sneha Rathore	Ph.D. (Hort.) Vegetable Science	Dr. Raj Narayan (Chairperson)	Agriculture University, Jodhpur	2023-2026 (Thesis seminar held on 10.04.2026)
2	Ms. Velangani	B. Tech. Biotechnology	Dr. Raj Narayan Dr. Puneeth P.V.	AVIT, Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation, Chennai	June 2026 onward

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Degree	Guide	Organization	Project Duration
3	Ms. Sneha K.	B. Tech. (Biotechnology)	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	13.05.2026 - 04.06.2026
4	Vanshika Yadav	B. Tech Bio Technology	Dr. T. Sujatha	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	18.05.2026 - 05.05.2026
5	11 BSc. Students+ 02 M.Sc. Students Summer Internship	BSc. & M.Sc. Botany	Dr. Sujatha, Dr. Pooja Bohra Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Pooja Kapoor	Department of Botany, JNRM, Sri Vijaya Puram	14.05.2026 - 22.06.2026
6	R. Aksheetha	B.Sc. Microbiology	Dr. J. Praveenraj	VELS Institute of Technology Chennai	01.06.2026 - 30.06.2026
7	Shristy Kumari Gupta	B.Sc. Microbiology			

Success Stories

Success story of Ms. Champa Das: A progressive dairy entrepreneur from South Andaman

P.A. Bala and P. Perumal

Ms. Champa Das, a diploma holder from Wandoor Village in South Andaman, has transitioned from a homemaker to a leading local dairy entrepreneur through scientific farming. Partnering with ICAR-CIARI in 2021 for technical guidance, she grew her initial herd of five crossbred cattle to more than 30 animals by late 2025, upgrading 70% of her stock to climate-resilient Gir cattle. She also expanded her Super Napier fodder cultivation from 1,500 m² to 5,000 m² and built a modern cattle shed.

Her farm currently produces 48–50 liters of milk daily, yielding an annual gross income of ₹18.25 lakh and a net profit of ₹6.57 lakh (1.56 benefit-cost ratio). By practicing integrated farming, she recycles cattle waste into organic manure and employs a local worker. Despite challenges like heavy rains and labour shortages, her success—

supported by ICAR-CIARI—serves as a model of sustainable, profitable livestock farming for island youth and farmers.

A model of sustainable intensification: sweet corn and green gram intercropping transforms a farmer's fortune in car nicobar

To address the lack of scientific technology and dietary diversity in Car Nicobar's traditional farming landscape, KVK Nicobar (under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata) introduced a sustainable sweet corn and green gram intercropping model. Mr. Jan Mahmood, a progressive farmer from Big Lapathy village, implemented this system using *Pusa Sweet Corn* and *Pusa Vishal* green gram in 1:1 and 1:2 ratios under strict scientific guidance. The approach optimized land use, reduced dependency on external inputs, and improved soil fertility via biological nitrogen fixation.

Key Results & Economic Impact:

- **Yields:** Sweet corn yielded approximately 8.0 tonnes per hectare, and green gram yielded about 0.6 tonnes per hectare.
- **1:1 Intercropping Ratio:** Cost ₹1,68,675 to cultivate, generated ₹5,57,400 in gross returns, and achieved a superior benefit-cost (B:C) ratio of 3.30.
- **1:2 Intercropping Ratio:** Cost ₹1,79,625 to cultivate, generated ₹5,34,200 in gross returns, and achieved a B:C ratio of 2.97.



Plate 13. Ms. Champa Das A progressive dairy entrepreneur

Mr. Mahmood's success demonstrates that integrating smart crop diversification with scientific support provides a viable pathway for boosting farm incomes, enhancing soil health, and ensuring food security in the Nicobar Islands.



Plate 13. Ongoing NABARD Project Promoting Sustainable Horticulture for Livelihood and Nutritional Security in Nicobar



Published by : **Dr. Jai Sunder, Director(A), ICAR-CIARI**
Compiled & Edited by : **Dr. T. Sujatha, Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar and Mr. D. Karunakaran**
Typesetting & Designing : **Mrs. Asma Bibi and Mr. Alex Praveen Barla**
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**

