NEWSLETTER

ICAR-CENTRAL ISLAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भाकृअनुप भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

Agriesearch with a human touch

IN THIS ISSUE

- Research Highlights
- Scheduled Tribe Component
- Important Events Held
- Awards/ Honours/Recognition
- Trainings/ Meetings/Campaign
- Publications
- IPRs/Commercialization of Technology
- Participation in Seminars/ symposia/ conferences/ Workshop
- Personnel

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

- Okra
- Tomato
- Nanotechnology
- Native Fruits
- Biofloc
- Geospatial Mapping

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK ....

Swachhata: A Shared Commitment towards a Cleaner, Healthier and Sustainable Future



The ICAR–Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR–CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, remains committed to promoting cleanliness, environmental sustainability and collective responsibility as an integral part of its institutional culture. Swachh Bharat represents more than cleanliness; it is a national movement that promotes improved sanitation, hygiene, responsible waste management and a cleaner environment, ultimately contributing to better health and an improved quality of life.

During the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026, the Institute organized a series of awareness programmes, cleanliness drives and community outreach activities with the active participation of staff, students, farmers and other stakeholders. The campaign focused on personal hygiene, sanitation, waste segregation, composting and the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, while also extending the message of Swachhata through digital and social media outreach.

These initiatives contributed towards improving the quality of life within the Institute and its campus by promoting cleaner and healthier surroundings, better waste management practices and greater awareness of personal and environmental hygiene. The cleanliness and sanitation drives across offices, laboratories, roadsides, experimental farms and other public spaces helped create a more pleasant, safe and sustainable working environment. The outreach activities also encouraged farmers and members of the public to adopt responsible sanitation and waste management practices, thereby extending the benefits of the campaign beyond the Institute campus.

The spirit of Swachhata continued through Special Campaign 6.0, which included cleanliness and beautification activities, efficient management of bio-waste, waste-to-wealth initiatives, maintenance of experimental farms and a Blood Donation Camp, reflecting the Institute's commitment towards environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The enthusiastic participation of the Institute fraternity demonstrates that Swachhata is not merely a campaign but a shared and continuous responsibility. Such collective efforts contribute to a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable campus and society. I sincerely appreciate all staff members, students, farmers and stakeholders who contributed to the successful implementation of these initiatives. Let us continue to work together to make cleanliness, environmental stewardship and responsible resource management an integral part of our everyday lives.

Dr. Jai Sunder
Director (A)
ICAR-CIARI

Research Highlights

Mineral-Modified Phosphate Fertilizers: Soil P Availability and Okra (Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench) Growth in a Tropical Acid Soil

Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Puneeth P.V.

Mineral-modified monocalcium phosphate monohydrate (MCPM) fertilizers were developed through aqueous co-processing, thermal curing, and milling. Water-release screening identified bentonite (MCPM-B) and bentonite–zeolite (MCPM-B-Z) composites for further soil-incubation (37 °C; 90 days) and okra (cv. Arka Nikita F1) pot experiments using a tropical acid soil from the Andaman Islands. Both composites maintained higher soil P availability than DAP, reaching around 2.9-fold (MCPM-B) and 1.8-fold (MCPM-B-Z) levels at day 90. MCPM-B-Z improved okra fruit weight and post-harvest soil P availability, warranting further field evaluation.

Breeding Better Okra: Germplasm Evaluation and Strategic Hybridization for Future Cultivars

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

Fifty diverse okra genotypes of more than 200 plants in total belonging to three species were evaluated for important horticultural traits such as growth, earliness, yield attributes, fruit quality and resistance/ tolerance to major biotic stresses for the second season. Promising parental lines were identified on the basis of their performance and combining ability and used in a diallel crossing experiment to develop F1 hybrids.



Plate 1. Evaluation of more than 50 diverse okra genotypes representing three species during Season II under the agro-climatic conditions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Chromosome-Scale Reference Genome-Guided Transcriptome Analysis for Okra Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus (OYVMV) Infection in Okra

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

Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* L. Moench) is severely limited by Okra Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus (OYVMV) and with current availability of a chromosome-scale okra genome assembly has opened new avenues to fully characterise transcriptional responses related with virus infection. Comparative transcriptome analysis showed that a total of 13,614 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were found in the susceptible genotype and 11,188 DEGs in the resistant genotype, including 6,398 generally upregulated and 1,386 typically down regulated genes. Results also contained substantial transcription factor repertoires, Gene Ontology annotations and genome-wide expression patterns related to OYVMV infection.

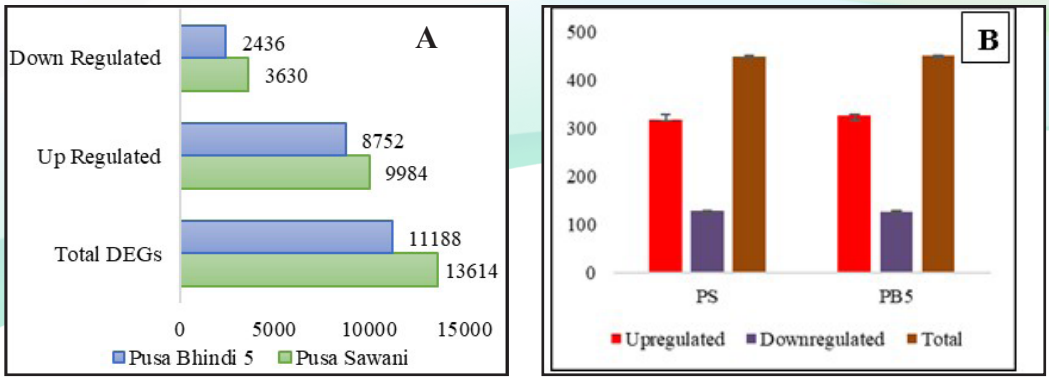

Plate 2. Overview of differentially expressed genes (DEGs)(A) and transcription factors (TFs) (B) identified from reference genome-guided transcriptome analysis of OYVMV-infected okra

Understanding Iron Deficiency Tolerance in Tomato

Dr. Puneeth P.V. and Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay

A hydroponic experiment where tomato plants were exposed to iron deprivation and showed considerably lower development, chlorophyll content and iron accumulation in both the roots and leaves and evident indications of chlorosis developed. Plants responded by boosting iron uptake systems, including root acidification and ferric chelate reductase activity, and by upregulating antioxidant defence systems to counteract oxidative stress. Partial recovery of growth and iron status was shown with iron repletion. Molecular investigation showed significant activation of critical iron uptake and transport genes, such as IRT1, IRT2, FRO1, FRO2, Nramp2, ErpA, and SlRF38 in iron deficit.

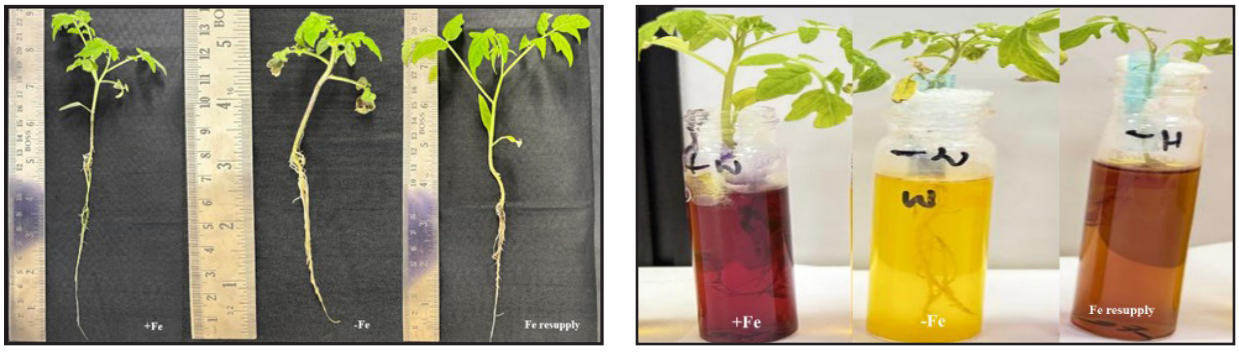

Plate 3. Morphological responses (L) and bromocresol purple (BCP) (R) assay of tomato plants under iron deficiency and iron resupply conditions

Nanotechnology research and disease diagnostics to improve tomato health

Dr. Puneeth P.V. and Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadyay

The bacterial wilt pathogen *Ralstonia solanacearum* was effectively identified from infected plants of tomato hybrid Arka Vishesh having classic wilt symptoms. Molecular characterisation indicated that the pathogen was Phylotype I (282 bp), a significant resource for future studies on pathogen diversity, disease epidemiology and resistance screening.

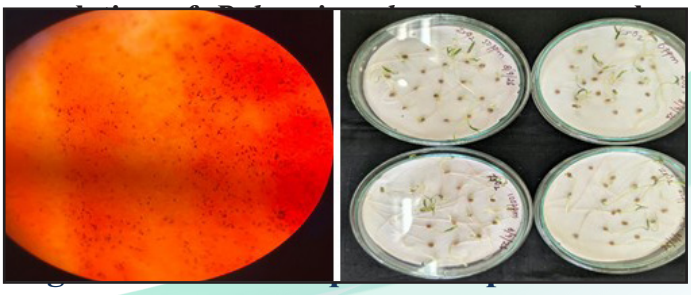

Plate 4. Isolation of Ralstonia solanacearum complex from bacterial wilt-infected tomato plants (L) and nanoparticle seed treatment standardization (R).

Registration of Unique Germplasm of Andaman Kokum

Dr. Pooja Bohra and Dr. Ajit Arun Waman

A unique germplasm of endemic Andaman Kokum (*Garcinia dhanikhariensis*) was identified with consistently large fruit size and high percentage of rind (major economic part) after perennial studies in the species. This germplasm was multiplied through grafting and conserved at the National Active Germplasm Site of the ICAR-CIARI. This germplasm has been registered at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi with the unique identity of INGR26027.

DNA Barcoding and Phylogenetic Analysis

Pooja Bohra, Arun Kumar De and Ajit Arun Waman

Garcinia dhanikhariensis is an endemic genetic resource reported from the Andaman Islands. In order to understand evolutionary relationships of this rare species with other related taxa, DNA barcoding and phylogenetic analysis was carried out for the first time in this species and sequences were deposited in the NCBI. Results also suggested distinctness of the species from other species in the islands as well as other parts of the world.

Studies in Native Fruits

Dr. Pooja Bohra

Korangi banana is a promising local variety for the islands. In order to understand its potential in value addition, raw banana powder was successfully made and proximate analysis was carried out. *Garcinia kurzii* is an endemic wild relative of mangosteen distributed in both Andaman and Nicobar groups of islands. During the period, two collections of *Garcinia kurzii* were characterized for their tree and fruit morphology, and biochemical parameters and promising results were obtained. As a part of another ongoing study, nine interspecific graft combinations of *Garcinia* species were established in the field for their further evaluation.

AICRP on Plantation Crops

Dr. Ajit Arun Waman

In order to meet the ever-increasing demand of the quality planting material of arecanut in the islands, nucleus seed garden of improved variety Dweep Samrudhi was extended by planting 25 sib-mated seedlings at the Garacharma Farm of the institute. Further, Seed nuts of Dweep Haritha and Dweep Sona were shared with Project Coordinator, AICRP-PC, for evaluation of these varieties under multi-location trials.

Standardization of High Stocking Density Carp Seed Rearing in Biofloc System

Shri. Chittranjan Raul and Dr. J. Praveenraj

A 30-day nursery-rearing experiment evaluated the effects of stocking density on the growth and survival of *Catla* spawn in a biofloc-based system. Four densities 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 2,500 spawn per 1,000 L of water were tested. The highest survival (85%) was recorded at 500 spawn per 1,000 L, and fish at this density also showed superior final length and weight. The reported findings indicate that biofloc systems will support higher *Catla* nursery stocking densities, although lower density favoured maximum survival and growth.

Aquatic Animal Disease Surveillance and Fish Health Management

Dr. J. Praveenraj and Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar

Surveillance and research activities were undertaken in South Andaman where three fish ponds were surveyed, and tilapia samples collected for disease surveillance. The pathogen associated with a disease outbreak in *Catla catla* was characterized as *Enterobacter cloacae*. During September, surveillance activities in North Andaman covered *Argulus*, *Lernaea*, tilapia lake virus (TiLV) and *Edwardsiella tarda*, alongside investigation of a mass-mortality event involving *Catlacatla* at Port Mout reservoir.

Geospatial Mapping and Development of the Dweep Geoportal

Shri. D. Karunakaran, and Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar

Inundated brackish-water areas in South Andaman were delineated, spatially digitised and converted into shapefiles for GIS applications and Garacharma Farm features digitised and georeferenced using QGIS and updated in the Dweep Geoportal through PostgreSQL. A PHP-based application developed to facilitate data management, retrieval and updating, while integration with GeoServer supported interactive visualisation and access to spatial information.

Impact Assessment of ICAR-CIARI Technologies on Farmers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Dr. Santosh Kumar and Shri. Rakesh Dawar

Pimary data were collected from over 200 farmers across South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman districts, covering adopters of Dweep Samrudhi and Dweep Dhan varieties. Dweep Dhan 10 recorded an increase in average production from 14.5 to 17.8 quintals per farm, representing a gain of 3.3 quintals. Similarly, Dweep Samrudhi recorded an increase from 19.2 to 35.9 quintals per farm among surveyed adopters with paired observations. These preliminary findings suggest the potential of improved rice varieties to enhance agricultural productivity and strengthen island farmers' livelihoods.



Plate 5. Impact Assessment of ICAR-CIARI Technologies

Integrated Therapeutic Approach Improves Fertility in Infertile Dairy Cattle

Dr. P. Perumal

A comprehensive therapeutic methodology was developed to improve fertility in cattle affected by post-partum anestrus and repeat breeding syndrome, two major reproductive disorders contributing to reduced reproductive efficiency in dairy herds. The protocol involves systematic interventions to restore the overall health and nutritional status of affected animals, improve metabolic and reproductive functions, and synchronize estrus to facilitate timely artificial insemination. Following implementation of the methodology, 87.50% of previously infertile cows successfully conceived, indicating its potential as an effective, practical, and field-applicable intervention for improving reproductive efficiency and reducing infertility-related losses in dairy cattle.

Novel DNA-Based Method for Early Sex Determination in Newborn Rabbits

Dr. Rafeeque R. Alyethodi

Developed a novel PCR-based method for early sex determination in newborn rabbits using a non-invasive adhesive tape sampling technique to collect superficial epithelial cells. The method combines a simplified DNA liberation procedure with a duplex PCR assay. The newly developed assay demonstrated more than 100-fold higher analytical sensitivity than conventional SRY/PLP1 primers, detecting rabbit genomic DNA down to 0.1 ng under the reported experimental conditions. The technique offers potential applications in rabbit breeding, animal biotechnology and biomedical research.

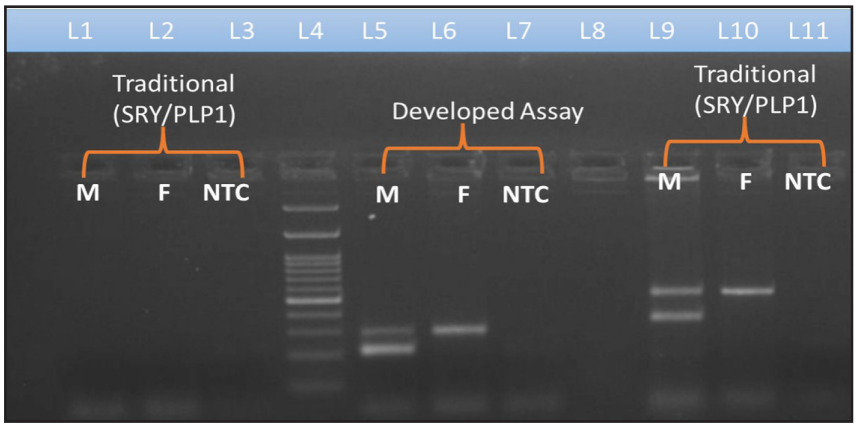

Plate 6. Sex determination with traditional and newly developed primers using tape-lifted samples. PCR using traditional primers on tape-lifted samples (lanes 1–3) and purified genomic DNA (lanes 9–11). PCR using developed assay primers on tape-lifted samples (lanes 5–7). Lane 4: 100 bp DNA ladder. NTC: no-template control.

On Farm Trials (OFTs)- KVK Nicobar

Sl. No.	OFT	Output	Outcome / Impact
1	Sweet Corn–Green Gram Intercropping (2nd year)	Intercropping tested for yield, LER and B:C.	Diversified, climate-resilient cropping.

Front Line Demonstration

Field Level Demonstrations (FLDs) – KVK Nicobar

Sl. No.	FLD	Output	Outcome / Impact
1	Integrated Farming System	Crops, livestock and piggery integrated on farms.	Net returns: Patrick ₹1.27→4.06 lakh; Leslie ₹0.96→2.73 lakh.
2	Dweep Coconut Leaf Separator	Midrib processing increased from 380 to 500/hour.	Productivity improved ~32%; 150 demonstrations conducted.
3	Jaggery from Coconut Sap (Neera)	Improved jaggery preparation from coconut sap demonstrated.	Potential value addition and supplementary farm income.
4	Solar-Assisted Hybrid Copra Dryer	Solar drying with backup energy demonstrated.	Aims at uniform drying during cloudy/ rainy weather.
5	Scientific Beekeeping	Five demonstrations of scientific apiary management.	Aims to enhance honey income and crop pollination.
6	Cassava Harvesting Machine	Harvesting improved from 18 to 40 plants/hour.	Labour 12→5 man-days/acre; cost ₹6,000→₹2,500/acre.
7	CIFA-Brood-Vac Vaccine Check this for KVK Nicobar or NM	Three fields; spawn recovery 35% versus 25%.	Fingerlings +40%; B:C 2.50 versus 1.61.



Plate 7. Glimpses of the OFT and FLD.

Scheduled Tribe Component

Programme	Number	No of Beneficiaries (M+F=T)
Trainings	7	307+211=518
Demonstration	15	228+228=456
Input distribution	4000	159+159=318

Important Events

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

ICAR-CIARI observed Van Mahotsav 2026 through a plantation drive promoting tree cover, biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness. Scientists, staff and participants joined the activity, highlighting the role of plantation and community engagement in strengthening climate resilience and sustainable island ecosystems.A total of 174 participants, including 42 officials from the Forest Division and 132 ICAR-CIARI personnel, actively participated in the programme. The drive reaffirmed ICAR-CIARI's commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable land management and biodiversity protection in the island ecosystem.



Plate 8. Celebration of Van Mahotsav 2026

Celebration of ICAR Day 2026 at KVK, Nicobar

On 16th July 2026, ICAR Day was celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nicobar, with active participation from KVK staff and local farmers. The programme commemorated the establishment of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and highlighted its contributions to agricultural research, education, technology development, and extension activities. The farmers and KVK staff also participated in the online ICAR Day programme organized by ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi. The event provided an opportunity for farmers to learn about the latest agricultural technologies, innovations, and initiatives of ICAR and its network of institutions. The programme also emphasized the important role of KVKs in disseminating improved agricultural practices and technologies to farming communities and strengthening the connection between agricultural research and farmers, particularly in the island region.



Plate 9. Celebration of ICAR Day 2026

ICAR-CIARI Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Patriotic Fervor

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour at its headquarters, Regional Centre, Minicoy, and KVKs across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Plate 10. Independence Day Celebration

The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, followed by the National Anthem. Dr. Jai Sunder paid tribute to freedom fighters and highlighted ICAR-CIARI's commitment to research, technology dissemination and farmer welfare. The address emphasized sustainable island agriculture, inclusive development and collective efforts by institute staff to improve livelihoods in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.Dr. Jai Sunder appreciated the contributions of scientists and staff and called upon them to continue their efforts towards sustainable island agriculture and improved livelihoods of farming and fishing communities. The celebration concluded with a colourful cultural programme and prize distribution, fostering patriotism, unity and team spirit among staff, students and their families.

Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026 at ICAR-CIARI

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) conducted the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026 from September 17 to October 2, focusing on cleanliness and community participation under the theme "*Swachhata Mein Sahbhag – Bharat, Viksit Bharat.*" Activities included awareness programmes, cleanliness drives, and workshops promoting principles like Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs), composting, vermicomposting and waste-to-wealth practices. Additional efforts included social media campaigns, workplace organization drives, the formation of a symbolic human chain, and voluntary Shramdan to emphasize collective responsibility. Initiatives targeted local farmers and communities, with social media outreach and voluntary efforts such as staff members planting 55 West Indian Cherry saplings on October 2. The campaign witnessed active participation by scientists, officers, staff members, students, farmers and community stakeholders, reaffirming ICAR-CIARI's commitment to a clean, healthy and sustainable island environment.



Plate 11. Swachhata Hi Seva campaign 2026

Dr. S.P.S. Ahlawat Science and Community Outreach Hub Inaugurated at ICAR-CIARI on Independence Day

On the eve of Independence Day, beloved Director Dr. Jai Sunder inaugurated Dr. S.P.S. Ahlawat Science and Community Outreach Hub (Former ATIC building) in presence of Shri Kanishk Bhukar Administrative Officer, Shri Santosh Kumar Satpathy, Finance and Accounts Officer and Heads of various sections on 15th August 2026 with Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar, Scientist being designated as Overall In-charge. The facility supports science research and communication, community engagement and the dissemination of institutional technologies for island stakeholders.



Plate 12. Inaugration of Dr. S.P.S. Alhawat Science and Community Outreach Hub

Health Awareness and Community Screening Programme

The District Hospital, Garacharma, in coordination with ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute's Employees Welfare Association (CIARIEWA) organized a health awareness cum community screening programme at CIARI's Garacharma Research Complex on 14/07/2026. The programme focused on screening for ailments such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis, Tuberculosis and mental health during which Smti. Mini Kumari, Health Counselor (ICTC) delivered a talk. Eighty-two staff including contractual and sanitation workers were benefitted in the programme, while 71 underwent screening. The programme was coordinated by Mr. K. Shyam Sunder Rao and Mr. Shyam Prakash Narayan, while Dr. Pooja Bohra welcomed the gathering on behalf of CIARIEWA under the chairmanship of Dr. Jai Sunder, Director (A), ICAR-CIARI.

केंद्रीय द्वीपीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान में हिंदी पखवाड़ा–2026 का आयोजन

भा.कृ.अनु.प.–केंद्रीय द्वीपीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, श्री विजयपुरम में 14–28 सितंबर 2026 को हिंदी पखवाड़ा आयोजित हुआ। उद्घाटन कार्यशाला में डॉ. पूजा ने राजभाषा प्रावधानों और कार्यालयीन हिंदी पर प्रकाश डाला। मुख्य अतिथि श्री संजीव कुमार दास ने हिंदी के संचार महत्त्व तथा निदेशक डॉ. जय सुंदर ने वैज्ञानिक जानकारी के प्रसार में हिंदी के उपयोग पर बल दिया।पखवाड़े के दौरान निबंध लेखन, पत्र लेखन, हिंदी टंकण,अंताक्षरी, प्रश्नोत्तरी एवं तात्कालिक भाषण सहित विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया। 28 सितंबर को आयोजित समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. दिलीप कुमार झा, वैज्ञानिक-एफ एवं प्रभारी अधिकारी, राष्ट्रीय महासागर प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (NIOT), श्री विजयपुरम ने विजेताओं को पुरस्कार एवं प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किए। उन्होंने वैज्ञानिक एवं कृषि संबंधी जानकारी को सरल हिंदी में प्रस्तुत.



Plate 13. हिंदी पखवाड़ा–2026

Deputation abroad/ PG studies/ HRD

Name of the proramme	Venue	Date	Name of the scientist
Training on Crop Register, Tree Register and other Farm Records	Conducted under institute HRD activitity	05/08/2026 to 07/08/2026	Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar Dr. Prabhu
Training programme on Strengthening Agriculture research with gender perspective for sustainable Agri-food System	Organized by ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar	10/08/2026 to 12/08/2026	Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
One day training on value addition in coconut	One day training on value addition in coconut at CPCRI, Kasargod	01/09/2026	Dr. Pooja Kapoor

Awards/ Honours/Recognitions

Date	Name	Achievement / recognition	Event
21/06/2026	Dr. Pooja Bohra	Editor (Crop Improvement Section)	Current Horticulture, SHRD, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
03/07/2026 to 04/07/2026	Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar	Best Oral Presentation	International Conference on Agri Tech& Plantation 5.0 IIPM, Bengaluru.
06/07/2026 to 11/07/2026	Dr. Abhilash	Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Resource Person	One-week FDP on Climate-Resilient Agri-Eco Systems, GD Goenka University, Gurugram
08/07/2026 to 12/07/2026	Dr. I. Jaisankar Dr. Abhilash	Appreciation received from Tribal Council, Car Nicobar	Capacity-building work related to integrated farming and natural farming activities.

Date	Name	Achievement / recognition	Event
03/07/2026	Dr. Pooja Bohra	Reviewer	Cientia E Agrotecnologia
22/07/2026	Dr. Ajit A. Waman	Reviewer	Indian Horticulture (ICAR)
12/08/2026	Dr. Pooja Bohra	Reviewer	National Academy Science Letters (Springer Nature),
24/08/2026 to 25/08/2026	Dr. Ajit A. Waman	Lead Talk, Member of National Advisory Committee & Chairperson, Technical Session-I	National Conference on Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development of Tree Spices in India- 2026 at Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra
28/08/2026		Best Oral presentation Award	International Conference on Environment, Agriculture, Horticulture and Life Sciences organized by TNAU, Coimbatore and UTM, Malaysia during August 27-28, 2026
18/09/2026	Dr. Rakesh Dawar	Member of the interview panel	Member of the interview panel for recruitment to the post of BTM (UTATMA)
02/09/2026	Dr. Ajit A. Waman	Reviewer	BMC Biotechnology (Springer Nature)
06/09/2026		Reviewer	Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
22/09/2026		Invited Speaker	21 Days National Refresher Course-cum-Capacity Building Training Programme on "Next-Generation Agriculture: Science, Technology and Innovation for Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Farming" (18/09/2026 to 08/10/2026) organized by Agriculture University, Kota, Rajasthan

Trainings/ Awareness /campaign / Workshop/ Exposure visit/ Others

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
Crop residue management in IFS for improving productivity	Tamalooo	11/06/2026	42/38/80	KVK Coordinated by Dr. I. Jaisankar and Dr. Abhilash

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
Van Mahotsav 2026 plantation drive	Garacharma Farm; ICAR-CIARI with South Andaman Forest Division, Department of Environment & Forest, A&N Administration	01/07/2026	90/84/174	Dr. I. Jaisankar Dr. Abhilash
Natural Farming	Mayabunder	03/07/2026 to 04/07/2026	55/35/90	Department of Agriculture, Mayabunder, in collaboration with KVK, Nimbudera
Crop Diversification through sesame cultivation in rice fallow land (AICRP-IFS)	KVK Car Nicobar	08/07/2026 to 09/07/2026	57/45/102	Dr. I. Jaisankar
Crop Residue Management in Integrated Farming Systems for Improving Productivity (AICRP-TC)	KVK Car Nicobar	10/07/2026 to 11/07/2026	47/53/100	Dr. I. Jaisankar
Integrated Nutrient Management in Tuber Crops for Enhancing Productivity.	Small Lapathy, ICAR-CIARI	11/07/2026	32/20/50	Dr. I. Jaisankar
Capacity-building support for integrated farming and natural farming activities at Car Nicobar	Tribal Council and KVK Car Nicobar	08/07/2026 to 12/07/2026	112/92/204	ICAR-CIARI/KVK/ Tribal Council
Integrated Nutrient Management in Tuber Crops for Enhancing Productivity.	Big Lapathy, ICAR-CIARI	12/07/2026	33/15/52	Dr. I. Jaisankar
98th Foundation Day of ICAR	ICAR-KVK, N&M Andaman	16/07/2026	17/03/20	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
Orientation training program for FPO members	Tugapur	20/07/2026	00/14/14	Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar
Natural farming product preparation demonstration	ICAR-CIARI and NMNF	27/07/2026	29/06/35	Dr. I. Jaisankar
One-day method demonstration on preparation of natural farming inputs	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram; under NMNF and Institute Project on organic/ natural farming inputs	27/07/2026	16/08/24	Dr. Abhilash Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay Dr. Y. Ramakrishna
Maintenance of Crop Register, Tree Register, and Other Farm Records	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	05/08/2026 to 07/08/2026	18/05/23	Dr. Abhilash Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. Chaithrashree J.

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
Workshop on biosecurity and quarantine protocols to curb aquatic animal diseases	ICAR-CIARI	10/08/2026	10/04/14	Dr. J. Praveenraj Dr. Jess Maria Wilson
Plantation Drive on Hariyali Amawashya	ICAR-KVK, N&M Andaman	12/08/2026	07/03/10	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
80th Independence Day, 2026	ICAR-KVK, N&M Andaman	15/08/2026	81/31/112	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
Ashir wad Ka Dia	ICAR-KVK, N&M Andaman&Harinagar	17/08/2026	34/08/42	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
Modern Agricultural Techniques for Growing Paddy	Kalighat and Diglipur	17/08/2026 to 19/08/2026	27/08/35	Dr. Rakesh Dawar Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Mr. Subam Debroy
Field Day on Feed & Fodder	Livestock Farm, Dollygunj, ASD, AICRP Pig & Dept. AH&VS	19/08/2026	13/12/25	AICRP on Pig and ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Training programme on "Scientific Cultivation and Postharvest Management of Major Spice Crops of the Bay Islands"	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	17/08/2026 to 19/08/2026	11/10/21	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman Dr. Pooja Bohra
Information and awareness on scientific pig rearing practices	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman	18/08/2026 to 20/08/2026	13/12/25	Dr. P. Perumal
Field Day on Feed & Fodder	Pig Shed, ASD, AICRP Pig & Dept. AH&VS	20/08/2026	13/12/25	AICRP on Pig and ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Exposure Visit	ASD, AICRP Pig & Dept. AH&VS	20/08/2026	13/12/25	AICRP on Pig and ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Importance of Water Quality Management in Aquaculture	Diglipur	24/08/2026 to 26/08/2026	14/11/25	Mr. Subam Debroy Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar
Kisan Gosthi on Piggery	ICAR-KVK, N&M	27/08/2026	26/02/28	KVK, Nimbudera, in collaboration with ICAR-CIARI
Natural Farming under IFS for Improving Production and Livelihood Security	ICAR-CIARI Regional Station, Minicoy Island	28/08/2026 to 30/08/2026	138/38/176	Dr. I. Jaisankar

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
Field Day on Backyard Poultry Farming, Hatchrey, Fish Breeding, Ornamental Fish Rearing	At KVK in association with CPREEC	31/08/2026	07/07/14	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman association with CPREEC
National Mission On Natural Farming	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman	01/09/2026 to 03/09/2026	00/48/48	Dept. Of Agriculture A&N Administration and ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Field Day on Backyard Poultry Farming, Hatchrey, Fish Breeding, Ornamental Fish Rearing	At KVK in association with UT –ATMA & NMNF	01/09/2026	09/35/44	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman in association with UT –ATMA & NMNF
Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, 2026	N&M Andaman	17/08/2026 to 02/09/2026	135/85/220	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy
World Coconut Day	HRF, Sippighat	02/09/2026	19/29/48	Dr. Ajit Arun Waman
Farmers and women of North Andaman to vegetable nursery	Vegetable nursery	03/09/2026	26/14/40	Dr. Puneeth P. V.
Dairy farming for boosting organic farming	Community Hall, Bachra Pahad	08/09/2026 to 10/09/2026	16/15/31	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Training cum spice plant distribution	Tapoiming	16/09/2026	26/24/50	KVK Car Nicobar
Field Day on Demonstration of Improved Varieties, Seed Multiplication and Crop Improvement Research - Kharif 2026	Bloomsdale Research Farm, Chouldari, ICAR-CIARI	18/09/2026	17/01/18	Dr. Abhilash Dr. P.K. Singh Dr. Prabhu P. Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. Chaithrashree J.
Scientist Farmer Interaction	Tapoiming, KVK Car Nicobar	21/09/2026	32/18/50	Dr. Santosh Kumar
Cost estimate, record keeping, business planning and income generation opportunity for honeybee farmer	ICAR-CIARI	22/09/2026	06/18/24	Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar
Natural Farming in Integrated Farming System	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	22/09/2026	13/12/25	Dr. Abhilash Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. I. Jaisankar Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay Dr. Chaithrashree J. Dr. Prabhu P. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
21st Parthenium Awareness Day	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	22/09/2026	13/12/25	Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. I. Jaisankar Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay Dr. Chaithrashree J. Dr. Abhilash Dr. Prabhu P.
Natural Farming Mission a field day & Awareness for input preparation	NFM Field with NRM Division ICAR-CIARI, SVP	22/09/2026	19/28/47	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman in association with NRM Division
Natural Farming for Improving Production and Livelihood Security	Calicut Village, South Andaman	23/09/2026	15/06/21	Dr. I. Jaisankar
Zero-waste event promoting waste reduction, segregation, reuse, recycling and sustainable practices	IFS Demonstration Block, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	24/09/2026	12/08/20	Dr. I. Jaisankar
Student visit from Kamaraj English Medium School, Sri Vijaya Puram	ICAR-CIARI	24/09/2026	20/50/70	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram
Fish and shellfish disease Diagnostic and management	ICAR CIARI	20/09/2026 to 25/09/2026	35/05/40	Dr. Praveennraj, Shri. Chittaranja Raul Dr. Jess Maria Wilson
Honey bee Trainees to KVK Farm	KVK	25/09/2026	05/13/18	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman association with CPREEC
Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026 activities	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	24/09/2026 to 27/09/2026	14/14/28	Dr. Abhilash Dr. Gurunath Raddy Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay
Green Skill Development Programme Apiculturist	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman	20/08/2026 to 28/09/2026	08/17/25	Dr. Y. Ramakrishna along with CPREEC
Native Poultry Farming for Regular Income	Nayasahar	28/09/2026 to 30/09/2026	06/24/30	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman
Quality seed production: Principles and practices for island conditions	Dr. N. T. Singh Hall, ICAR-CIARI	28/09/2026 to 30/09/2026	10/8/18	ICAR-CIARI
Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Cleanliness and Waste to Wealth	Nayasahar	28/09/2026	02/19/21	Dr. Zachariah George
Fodder Seed distribution	At Nayasahar	28/09/2026	00/05/05	ICAR-KVK, South Andaman

Name of the training/ meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Course Coordination
In-Service training program on Fundamentals of Pond Management in Aquaculture	Diglipur	28/09/2026 to 30/09/2026	12/03/15	Mr. Subam Debroy Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar
Quality Seed Production: Principles and Practices for Island Conditions	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	28/09/2026 to 30/09/2026	15/05/20	Dr. Gurunath Raddy, Dr. Chaithrashree J.
Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Awareness on Cleanliness for promoting Tourism	Nayasahar	30/09/2026	06/24/30	Dr. Zachariah George
Infertility camps (19)	New Bimlitan, Brichgunj, Calicut, Indira Nagar, Mahavir Nagar, Garacharma, Guptapara, Rangachang, Manglutan	01/08/2026 to 30/09/2026	131/50/181	Dr. P. Perumal, along with Senior Veterinary Officers, Department of Animal Husbandry and Veternary Sciences

Exposure visits by farmers and women of North Andaman to ICAR-CIARI, vegetable nursery



Plate 14. Exposure visit

Campaign held: Scientist Farmer Interaction

A Scientist–Farmer Interaction Programme was organized at Tapoiming Village on 21 September 2026 to discuss location-specific farming challenges and suitable scientific interventions. Scientists interacted with farmers on production practices, technology adoption and livelihood opportunities, reinforcing extension support and knowledge exchange within the local community.



Plate 15. Scientist farmer interaction

Educational visit

Integrated Farming System Farm and Agro meteorological Observatory were demonstrated to 66 students and 3 teachers of Kamaraj English Medium School, Aberdeen Bazar, Sri Vijaya Puram, during September 2026.

Publications (Research article/Abstract/Book/Book chapters Technical bulletin etc):

Research Paper

Ajina, S. M., Gladston, Y., Kiruba Sankar, R., Jaiswar, A. K., Pavan-Kumar, A., and Dam Roy, S. (2026). Reproductive strategies and population parameters of the checkered snapper (Lutjanus decussatus) in the reef ecosystems of the Andaman archipelago, India. Environmental Biology of Fishes, 109, 133. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10641-026-01905-w

Ajit Arun Waman, Jishin Prakash T.S., Riyah Raj, G.N. Khadke, S.K. Debnath, Akashlal M., S. Nagayya and N. Govindrajan (2026)

Seed germination studies in *Baccharoides anthelmintica* (L.) Moench: Implications for commercial cultivation. *BMC Plant Biology*, https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-026-09124-2 (NAAS Rating: 10.8)

Ajit Arun Waman, Pooja Bohra, R. Karthika Devi, Sneha Horo (2026) Germplasm evaluation in *Cinnamomum tamala*: A potential climate-resilient crop. *Indian Journal of Natural Products and Resources*, 17(3): 459-470. (NAAS Rating: 6.6)

Pooja Bohra and Ajit Arun Waman (2026) Fatty Acid Composition of Seeds of Three Native *Garcinia* Species from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources*, 39(2): 53-57. (NAAS Rating: 5.1)

Pradheep, K., K. J. John, I. Jaisankar and P. K. Singh (2026). Notes on the occurrence of southeastern Asian taxon Scopellaria marginata (Blume) W. J. de Wilde & Duyfjes (Cucurbitaceae) in the Nicobar Islands: a new distribution record in the Indian part of Sundaland. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 18(7): 29370-29374. https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.10253.18.7.29370-29374

Rongmei, S. D., K. Ray, R. R. Alyethodi, P. Perumal, Jai Sunder, D. Chakraborthy, S. Akram, and E. B. Chaurkar (2026). Sex-associated differences in circulating protein concentrations in Andamani goats. International Journal of Advanced Biochemistry Research, 10(9), 783–789. NAAS Rating: 5.29.

Sharath S. Yeligar and Ajit Arun Waman (2026) Assessing economic viability of woody pepper (*Piper pendulispicum* C.DC) nursery production using serpentine layering in remote areas of Andaman Islands, India. *Current Agriculture Research Journal*, 14(2): https://bit.ly/4eVmn6r (NAAS Rating: 4.9)

Abstract

Yeligar, S. S., Waman, A. A., Bohra, P., & Ajmal, S. (2026). Economic impact analysis of coconut climbing devices on aboriginal Nicobarese farmers of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. In S. Pal (Ed.), Book of abstracts: International Conference on Agritech and Plantation 5.0 (p. 50). Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru.

Popular article

Mukhopadhyay, A., Jaisankar, I., Abhilash, & Raddy, G. (2026). Agricultural waste valorization and resource recovery: Advancing agroecological sustainability. Agriculture & Food: e-Newsletter, 8, 184–186.

Kiruba-Sankar, R., Sonia, and Vinay Raj, K. (2026). Notes on community-based temporary care of sea turtles at Car Nicobar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter, Issue 43.

Leaflet

Gurunath Raddy, Arkadeb Mukhyopadhyay, Chaithrashree, J, Abhilash, Prabhu, P, Y. Ramakrishna, I. Jaisankar (2026). Awareness on Integrated Management of *Parthenium hysterophorus*. Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.

Training Bulletin/Manual

Ankegowda S.J., Waman A.A., Nisar V.M. and P. Bohra (2026). Black pepper. Technical Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands, pp.: 1-14. (English and Hindi).

Ankegowda S.J., Waman A.A., Nisar V.M. and P. Bohra (2026). Clove. Technical Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands, pp.: 1-6. (English and Hindi).

Ankegowda S.J., Waman A.A., Nisar V.M. and P. Bohra (2026). Nutmeg and mace. Technical Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands, pp.: 1-12. (English and Hindi).

Ankegowda S.J., Waman A.A., Nisar V.M. and P. Bohra (2026). Tejpatta. Technical Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands, pp.: 1-6. (English and Hindi).

Ankegowda S.J., Waman A.A., Nisar V.M. and P. Bohra (2026). True cinnamon. Technical Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands, pp.: 1-12. (English and Hindi).

Prabhu, P, Chaithrashree, J, Abhilash, Puneeth, P. V., Gurunath Raddy, Kiruba Sankar, R. and Gopalkrishna, A. S. (2026). Maintenance of Crop Register, Tree Register and other Farm Records. Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.

TOT including radio talks/ TV programme broadcast

- Dr. M. Muruganandam, Head and Principal Scientist presented a lecture on overview on diseases and healthcare problems in aquaculture to 38 farmer participants of fish diseases and surveillance training organized at ICAR-CIARI, in 2 batches on 22 and 25 Sep. 2026.
- Under GKMS, district-level Agromet Advisory Bulletins were prepared and disseminated on 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 and 28 July; 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28 August; and 01, 04, 08, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29 September 2026.
- Weather-based contingency advisories/messages were circulated during active monsoon, wet-spell and heavy-rainfall situations for farm-level decision support; three IBF/special agro-advisory messages were issued during September 2026.
- All India Radio programme on Integrated Farming System and Natural Farming for improving productivity was broadcast in Tamil on 20 August 2026 through AIR, Sri Vijaya Puram.

Kisan Choupal





IPRs/Commercialisation of Technology

- P. Perumal and R.R. Alyethodi. 2026. Dweep-Apparatus for semen collection in goat. Design Patent Number: 491069-001 dated 23/09/2026.

Technology Spread

- Technology deployment/operationalization: Dweep Microclimate Monitor was operationalized at KVK, Car Nicobar for real-time microclimate monitoring and remote data transmission.
- One unit of Dweep Microclimate Monitor was handed over in functional condition to KVK, Nimbudera, North and Middle Andaman District on 28 September 2026 for continuous microclimate monitoring, remote data transmission and long-term research database development.
- Technology demonstration: Preparation of natural farming inputs was demonstrated under NMNF for farmers of Minicoy Islands and Calicut village, and for field/technical staff of ICAR-CIARI.

Women Empowerment Activities/Trainings

Women farmers received hands-on experience with the Dweep Leaf Separator on 22 September. The demonstration introduced mechanized coconut leaflet processing to reduce manual effort, improve operational efficiency and support income-generating activities through coconut-based enterprises.

Participation in Trainings / Meetings / Seminars/ Symposia/ Conferences/

Name	Programme	Details
Dr. Abhilash	FDP on Climate-Resilient Agri-Eco Systems	Served as Resource Person at GD Goenka University, Gurugram from 6th -11th July 2026.
Dr. Chaithrashree J.	Training	Attended training on Python to Generative AI Training for solving real-time research problems from 9th July to 1st August, 2026
Dr. Chaithrashree J.	Webinar	Attended webinar on Bharathiya Social Science webinar series & CMRD, Dharwad on 30th July, 2026
Dr. Manoj Kumar Mr. Subam Debroy	Wipro Earthian Sustainability Education Workshops for Teachers	Served as a resource person and delivered lectures on the "Sustainability and Biodiversity Activities Framework" at Rangat on 01st August ,2026 and Diglipur on 07th August, 2026. The programmes were organized by CPREEC in collaboration with the Wipro Foundation under the Wipro Earthian Sustainability Education Programme 2026–27.
Mr. Subam Debroy	Demonstration Program on Nursery Pond Management & Fish seed Preparation	Participated as a Resource Person in a demonstration programme on Nursery Pond Management and Fish Seed Preparation, organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with UTATMA, at Basantipur on 28th August 2026.
Mr. Subam Debroy	Induced Breeding and Management of Fish Seed in Freshwater	Served as a resource person and delivered a lecture on "Induced Breeding Techniques of Indian Major Carps (IMCs), organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with UTATMA, at Rangat and Harinagar on 29th August, 2026 and 01st September, 2026
Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay	Inspection Committee of Knapsack sprayers	Attended Inspection Committee meeting of supplied Knapsack sprayers on 29th August 2026 at Central Store, Goalghar of the Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram.
Dr Pooja Kapoor	World Coconut Day & stakeholders meet	Attended a stakeholders' meeting at CPCRI, Kasargod on the occasion of World Coconut Day on 2nd and 3rd Sept., 2026.
Dr. Manoj Kumar Dr. Rakesh Dawar Mr. Subam Debroy	Kisan Sarathi 2.0: Sanitization and Awareness Workshop for KVK Scientist & FPO members of Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Organized by: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata on 11th September,2026.
Dr. M. Muruganandam Dr. Jess Maria Wilson	Meeting on PMMSY Phase-II project proposals	Secretary, Fisheries Department, Secretariat, A&N Islands on 14th September 2026
Dr. Arkadeb Mukhopadhyay	Development of Minor Irrigation Scheme	Attended the Technical Committee meeting for selection of eligible beneficiaries on 16th September 2026 at Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram.
Dr. M. Muruganandam	UTLAMC meetings on PMMSY implementation	Secretary, Fisheries Department, Secretariat, A&N Islands on 23rd and 30th September, 2026

Name	Programme	Details
Dr. Ajit Arun Waman	Annual review meeting of CSS-MIDH Project on Spices	Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Kozhikode, Kerala during July 10-11, 2026
Dr. Abhilash	IGIC meeting	Attended on 13th July, 2026 as member; true cinnamon germplasm IC653495 was recommended for NBPGR registration.
Dr. Gurunath Raddy	PM-RKVY Technical Committee Meetings	Attended 2nd Technical Committee Meeting on 17th July 2026 at Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram.
Mr. Subam Debroy Dr. Manoj Kumar	DLC meeting on PMMSY	DC office (online)23rd July, 2026
Dr. R Kiruba Sankar	Workshop on the National Surveillance Programme on Aquatic Animal Disease (NSPAAD)	ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair, 10th August 2026.
Dr. Y. Ramakrishna Dr. Rakesh Dawar Dr. Manoj Kumar	Meeting On Pulse Mission – Zonal Level	Online mode 19th August, 2026
Dr. R Kiruba Sankar	AINP Mariculture Project progress review chaired by DDG (Fisheries), ICAR	ICAR-CMFRI, 20th August 2026
Dr. Pooja Bohra Dr. Ajit Arun Waman	International Conference on Environment, Agriculture, Horticulture and Life Sciences	Organized by TNAU, Coimbatore and UTM, Malaysia during August 27-28, 2026
Dr. M. Muruganandam	Pre-Ph.D. seminars	ICMR, Sri Vijaya Puram on 16th September, 2026
Dr. Abhilash	PM-RKVY Technical Committee Meetings	Attended 4th Technical Committee Meeting on 25th September 2026 at Directorate of Agriculture, Sri Vijaya Puram.

New projects/ initiatives & Infrastructure development

New Projects Sanctioned

Project Name: "Eco-Systems, Agribusiness and Institutions" (Agricultural Markets Intelligence and Commodity Outlook)**, (PI:** Dr. Sharath S. Yeligar)
Budget: ₹5.19 lakh
Year: 2026–27

New infrastructure

Setting up of dedicated vegetable science laboratory at ICAR-CIARI

A Vegetable Science Laboratory was established under the Division of Horticulture to strengthen crop research, experimental analysis and laboratory support. The facility is intended to assist varietal evaluation, crop improvement and scientific investigations addressing vegetable production challenges in island agro-ecosystems.



Plate 16. Vegetable science laboratory

- **Dweep Geoportal**: Garacharma Farm features were digitised and georeferenced using QGIS, updated through PostgreSQL and integrated with a PHP-based application and GeoServer for management, retrieval and visualisation.
- **Brackish-water mapping**: Inundated brackish-water areas in South Andaman were delineated, digitised and converted to shapefiles for further GIS analysis.

Acharya Varāhamihira Agrometeorological Observatory inaugurated at ICAR-CIARI

The Acharya Varāhamihira Agrometeorological Observatory was developed and operationalized at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, with an approximate infrastructure investment of ₹11.26 lakh. The facility developed by Dr. Abhilash, Scientist (Agricultural Meteorology) and Project In-charge, GKMS was inaugurated by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR-CIARI, on 02 October 2026. The upgraded observatory integrates an IMD-AGRO Automatic Weather Station (AWS) with conventional instruments, including a Stevenson Screen, Sunshine Recorder, Wind Vane, Cup Anemometer, Grass Minimum Thermometer, Soil Thermometers, Open Pan Evaporimeter and Rain Gauge. The AWS enables continuous monitoring of atmospheric and soil parameters at 15-minute intervals. The facility strengthens long-term meteorological observations, agrometeorological research, crop-weather studies and weather-based agricultural advisory services under the IMD-sponsored Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) Project.



Plate 17. Acharya Varāhamihira Agrometeorological Observatory inaugurated at ICAR-CIARI

Other Information

Support to the UT Department of Agriculture

In response to the request received from the UT Department of Agriculture, 10,000 plants of cinnamon and 180 plants of tejpat were provided for subsequent distribution to the island farmers under SPICE PRAVAH mission. Further, in response to the official request received from the Department, Dr. Ajit Arun Waman visited Plant Tissue Culture Facility of Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Sippighat for suggesting measures to improve the functionality and increase the production efficiency (29/09/2026).

Successful Management of Outbreak in Indigenous Andamani Goats

During an AICRP on Goat Improvement field visit, ICAR–CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, identified and managed a contagious ecthyma (Orf) outbreak affecting almost the entire indigenous Andamani goat flock of Shri. Sanicharwa Gowala, TV Kullam village, Nimbudera Cluster. Treatment included twice-daily lesion cleaning with warm potassium permanganate ($KMnO_4$), followed by Topicure analgesic and Himax ointments for 15 days, alongside supportive feeding, hygiene and biosecurity measures. All affected goats achieved complete clinical recovery, with normal appetite restored. The intervention highlights the importance of early detection and timely veterinary care in safeguarding livestock health and farmers' livelihoods.



Plate 18. Management of outbreak in Indigenous Andamani goats

Professional Engagements

Sl No.	Topic	Date	Agency/Category	Name of scientists
1	Integrated Watershed Management for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods	29 Aug. 2026	Invited Lead lecture in 13th National Conference on India's Pathways to Water Security, Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture organized (Hybrid Mode) by River Water User Association, India	Dr. M. Muruganandam
2	PhD thesis review	Sep. 2026	Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi,	Dr. Kiruba Sankar R.

Personnel

Personnel

- Shri Javeed, SSS, superannuated from service on 31st July, 2026.
- Smt. S. Pancha, SSS, superannuated from service on 31st August, 2026.



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