



ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- The 62nd Foundation Day of ICAR-CTCRI will be celebrated on 11 July 2025



Dr. G. Byju
Director

निदेशक की कलम से

मुझे अप्रैल से जून 2025 तिमाही के लिए आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई न्यूज़लेटर प्रस्तुत करते हुए खुशी हो रही है, जिसमें इस अवधि के दौरान संस्थान के महत्वपूर्ण विकास, उपलब्धियों और आउटरीच प्रयासों पर प्रकाश डाला गया है। आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई की 51^{वीं} संस्थान अनुसंधान परिषद की बैठक 05 से 07 मई 2025 तक सफलतापूर्वक आयोजित की गई, जहां 2024-25 के लिए चल रही अनुसंधान परियोजनाओं की प्रगति की गहन समीक्षा की गई और पाँच नई संस्थान मेगा परियोजनाओं पर चर्चा की गई और उन्हें अंतिम रूप दिया गया, जिससे भविष्य के अनुसंधान की दिशा तय की गई। कंद फसलों पर अखिल भारतीय समन्वित अनुसंधान परियोजना (एआईसीआरपी) की 25^{वीं} वार्षिक समूह बैठक 19-20 मई 2025 के दौरान श्री कोंडा लक्ष्मण तेलंगाना बागवानी विश्वविद्यालय, राजेंद्रनगर के बागवानी महाविद्यालय में आयोजित की गई। भारत सरकार द्वारा शुरू किए गए विकसित कृषि संकल्प अभियान - खरीफ-पूर्व (VKSA-2025) कार्यक्रम के एक भाग के रूप में, ICAR-CTCRI के वैज्ञानिकों ने 29 मई से 12 जून 2025 के बीच केरल और ओडिशा के विभिन्न जिलों में ICAR-ATARI बेंगलुरु, कृषि विज्ञान केंद्रों (KVK) और राज्य संबंधित विभागों के साथ साझेदारी में कई आउटरीच कार्यक्रमों में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया। प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण और उद्यमिता संवर्धन की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए, ICAR-CTCRI ने इस तिमाही के दौरान 14 प्रौद्योगिकियों को लाइसेंस दिया, जिससे ₹18 लाख का राजस्व प्राप्त हुआ। केरल में एफपीओ को समर्थन और मजबूत करने के लिए एक गैर सरकारी संगठन, विज्ञान और सामाजिक कार्य में नवाचार केंद्र (सीआईएसएसए) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। संस्थान ने भारत सरकार के पोषण अभियान के तहत 08 से 23 अप्रैल 2025 तक 7^{वां} पोषण पखवाड़ा भी मनाया, जिसमें पोषण जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देने वाले प्रभावशाली कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए। भारतीय जड़ फसल सोसायटी (आईएसएससी) के सहयोग से, आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई ने 23 जून 2025 को एच.एच. श्री विशाखम तिरुनल एंडोमेंट व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया, जिसमें जड़ और कंद अनुसंधान में योगदान की स्मृति में व्याख्यान दिया गया। आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई अनुसंधान, नवाचार और आउटरीच के माध्यम से कंद फसल क्षेत्र में सुधार के लिए समर्पित भाव से कार्य कर रहा है। हमारे निरंतर प्रयासों का उद्देश्य देश भर के कृषक समुदायों की आजीविका, पोषण और कृषि स्थिरता को बढ़ाना है।

From the Director

I am delighted to present the ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter for the quarter April to June 2025, highlighting the significant developments, achievements, and outreach efforts of the Institute during this period. The 51st Institute Research Council Meeting of ICAR-CTCRI was successfully held from 05 to 07 May 2025, where the progress of ongoing research projects for 2024-25 was thoroughly reviewed and five new institute mega projects were discussed and finalised, setting the course for future research directions. The 25th Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Tuber Crops was convened at the College of Horticulture, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University, Rajendranagar, during 19-20 May 2025. As part of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan – Pre-Kharif (VKSA-2025) programme initiated by the Government of India, ICAR-CTCRI scientists actively participated in a series of outreach programmes across various districts of Kerala and Odisha between 29 May and 12 June 2025, in partnership with ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and State Line Departments. In a significant stride towards technology transfer and entrepreneurship promotion, ICAR-CTCRI licensed 14 technologies during this quarter, generating a revenue of ₹18 lakhs. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA), an NGO, to support and strengthen FPOs in Kerala. The Institute also observed the 7th Poshan Pakhwada under the Poshan Abhiyaan of the Government of India from 08 to 23 April 2025, with impactful programmes promoting nutrition awareness. In collaboration with the Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC), ICAR-CTCRI organized the H.H. Sree Visakhram Thirunal Endowment Lecture on 23 June 2025, commemorating contributions to root and tuber research. ICAR-CTCRI continues to work with dedication to improve the tuber crop sector through research, innovation, and outreach. Our continued efforts aim to enhance livelihoods, nutrition, and agricultural sustainability for farming communities across the country.

G. Byju

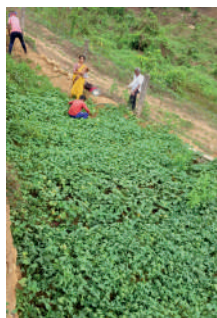
भाकृअनुप - केन्द्रीय कन्द फसल अनुसंधान संस्थान
श्रीकार्यम, तिरुवनन्तपुरम 695 017, केरल, भारत

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute
Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695 017, Kerala, India

Extension

FLDs/OFTs

- Ten on-farm demonstrations on improved varieties of tuber crops viz., cassava var. Sree Reksha and elephant foot yam var. Gajendra and technologies viz., SSNM and organic farming were established in Rangia block in Kamrup district of Assam. It was funded by Coconut Development Board, Kochi.
- The On-Farm Trial (OFT) on biofortified sweet potato at Bharathanoor, Thiruvananthapuram has been successfully harvested.



Field view of FLD on sweet potato



Harvested tubers



- Scientists of ICAR-CTCRI visited the cassava demonstration plots on 08 April 2025 to monitor the stem and root rot infection as part of field demonstration trials at Kilimanoor, Thiruvananthapuram in collaboration with KVK Mithraniketan, Thiruvananthapuram.



Examining the harvested tubers for stem and root rot infection

- A team of scientists from ICAR-CTCRI visited the seed village demonstration plots at Sankillivadi village, Harur taluk, Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu on 21 May 2025 and at Koonavalampatti village, Rasipuram taluk, Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu on 22

May 2025 to monitor the quality planting material production of cassava variety Sree Athulya and Sree Reksha.



FLD on cassava in Namakkal

Training Programmes

On campus programmes

- Two Hands-on trainings on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' were held at Technoincubation centre, ICAR-CTCRI on 16 April 2025 and 22 April 2025.
- A Farmers' training on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was held during 28-30 April 2025 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram for the benefit of 14 farmers.
- An 'Awareness seminar on tuber crops based value added products' and 'Site visit to the cassava value addition unit' were held on 05 June 2025 at Mulakuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kerala, organized by Matsyafed, Thiruvananthapuram.
- A training on 'Soil, plant and water analysis for efficient nutrient management' was organized during 23-27 June 2025 for officials from different departments.
- A training on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was held during 24-26 June 2025 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram for the benefit of 18 farmers.





Participants of farmers' training

- Three TSP youths were trained under the skill training component of the TSP (Institute and AICRPTC) program as per the details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Trainee	Name of Trainer	Training Area
1	Lakshmi Nandana S.	Dr. J. Suresh Kumar	Nutrigardens and soil less production of vegetables and tuber crops
2	Beegum Rizmina B.	Dr. B.G. Sangeetha	Hands-on training on Strategies for pest and disease management in tuber crops
3	M.P. Sreelekshmi	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Hands-on training on mass production of entomopathogenic nematodes for pest management

- A training on 'Value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized by ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, Bhubaneswar during 01-30 June 2025 for twelve 3rd year B. Tech. (Ag. Engg.) students from OUAT.
- Planting materials of cassava variety Sree Reksha were distributed to farmers of Kalvarai village, Barkur hills, Anthiyoor Taluk, Erode district, Tamil Nadu under Tribal Subplan on 20 May 2025.

Off campus programmes

- A Farmers' training on 'Coconut-based tuber crops farming system for higher income' was conducted on 27 May 2025 at Bichennala, Rangia, Kamrup, for the benefit of 20 farmers.
- A 'Farmers' training and sensitization meeting' was organized under SCSP at Chenbagaramanputhoor, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu on 20 June 2025. A total of 55 farmers and 5 KVK, State Department officials attended the program.



Farmers' training under SCSP programme



Distribution of planting materials under TSP

- A Farmers' training on improved tuber crop technologies was organized as part of the ICAR-CTCRI-SCSP program on 27 June 2025 at Pananchery, Thrissur, Kerala.
- The following off-campus trainings were conducted by RS, Bhubaneswar:
- A training on 'Improved tuber crops technologies' was organized under SCSP project at Thodupuzha, Idukki on 30 June 2025. A total of 54 farmers participated in the programme.

Sl.No.	Title of programme	Date(s)	Panchayat, District, State	No. of beneficiaries
1	Training on 'Development of cottage industries based on mushroom and tuber crops' under TSP	20 June 2025	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	210
2	Training on 'Crop Diversification with tuber crops' under TSP	27 June 2025	Nagapura Tibal Hamlet, Mysore, Karnataka	100

Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings/Field Diagnostic Visits Organized

National Workshop on Celebrating Tribal Ingenuity

On the occasion of World Intellectual Property Day, the Regional Station of ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar organised a National Workshop on 'Celebrating Tribal Ingenuity: Strategies for Protecting, Valuing, and Marketing Tribal Farmers' Varieties, Innovations and Geographical Assets', in hybrid mode on 01 May 2025. The focus of the workshop was to sensitise the participants on the legal framework for protection and commercialisation of tribal innovations including varieties, local knowledge and GI. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI inaugurated the workshop. Dr. Shreenivas Desai, Professor (GPB), UAS Dharwad and Former Registrar, PPVFR Authority, Government of India, New Delhi; Dr. Kavitha Chalakkal, Assistant Professor, Inter

University Centre for IPR Studies (IUCIPRS), Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi, Kerala; Mr. Ravi S., Patents, Trademarks and GI Attorney, BizRights, Hyderabad and Dr. R.K. Ravikumar, Scientist 'F' and Head, VARD National Innovation Foundation, Gujarat and Dr. P.S. Sivakumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI delivered sessions on legal aspects related to protection of plant varieties and other biological resources. A total of 172 academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, farmers and students took part in the programme.

Farmers' Seminar and Distribution of Farm Tools under AINP-OF

A 'Farmers' Seminar and Distribution of Farm Tools' was organized at Parakkode Block, Pathanamthitta on 13 June 2025 under All India Network Project on Organic Farming (AINP-OF). Parakkode block panchayat president Smt. M.P. Maniyamma inaugurated the farmers' seminar and distributed water tanks and Arbana for transport of inputs and farm produce to 20 selected scheduled caste farmers. Planting materials of Sree Annam and Sree Manna (cassava), Sree Kanaka (sweet potato) and Sree Aadya (arrowroot) were distributed. Director Dr. G. Byju delivered keynote address in the programme. Dr. G. Suja, Dr. S.S. Veena, Shri. B. Satheesan and Shri. D.T. Rejin participated. ICAR-CTCRI has been handholding about 200 SC farmers of Parakkode block during last four years in tuber crops value chain improvement by investing about ₹ 1 crore under institute SCSP and AINP-OF projects.



Participants of the National Seminar on Celebrating Tribal Ingenuity



Inauguration of Farmers' Seminar under AINP-OF



Distribution of farm inputs



Launching workshop of NABARD project



Launching Workshop on Climate Resilient Agri-Food Systems

A Launching Workshop on 'Climate Resilient Agri-Food Systems Integrating Biofortified Sweet Potato for Sustainable Livelihoods in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha' was organized at Kasiabeda village, Kusumi Tehsil, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha on 17 June 2025, which was sponsored by NABARD Regional office, Bhubaneswar. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri. S.K. Talukdar, Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Bhubaneswar; B.B. Mohanty, AGM, NABARD, Bhubaneswar; S. Mohanty, DDM, NABARD, Mayurbhanj; T. Kalo, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Mayurbhanj; Dr. (Mrs.) P. Mohanty, Secretary, SAMBANDH NGO (implementing partner); Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan and Dr. K. Laxminarayana attended. About 220 farmers, who were mostly Santal tribe, also participated in the workshop.

National Policy Dialogue on Scaling up of Biofortified Crops

The ICAR-CTCRI in collaboration with Horticulture Department, Keonjhar, KIIT, Bhubaneswar and NISER, Bhubaneswar has organised a National Policy Dialogue on "Scaling up Biofortified Crops for Addressing Childhood Malnutrition in Tribal Areas" at the SAIL Auditorium, Keonjhar, Odisha on 18 June 2025. The objective of this dialogue was to bring together eminent professionals from across India with extensive experience in planning and implementing nutritional interventions using biofortified crops to combat malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. The National Policy Dialogue was inaugurated by Shri. Sanjay Kumar Talukdar, Chief General Manager, NABARD RO, Bhubaneswar, in the presence of Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram; Shri. Soumendra Narayan Panigrahi Deputy Director of Horticulture watershed,

Keonjhar, Dr Chandan Goswami, Professor NISER, Dr. Joseph John, Professor, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and Dr. E. Venkata Rao, Professor IMS and SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar. Eminent resource persons like Mr. Binu Cherian, Country Manager, India, HarvestPlus; Dr. Sourav Bhattacharjee, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, Odisha; Dr. Rasmi Avula, Research Fellow, IFPRI; and Dr. Srinivasalu Rajendran, Agricultural Economist, CIP, Uganda, Dr. Krishnendu Chattopadhyay, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack and Dr. Gopal Chowdhary, Associate Professor, KIIT shared their experiences in scaling up biofortified crops. Over 420 stakeholders including scientists, academics, government agencies, students, farmers from various parts of Odisha and India took part in this event.



Glimpses of National Policy Dialogue on Scaling up biofortified crops

Farmers' Workshop on Precision Farming

A Farmers' Workshop was organized in collaboration with Panavoor grama panchayat and Anad Farmers' Cooperative Society, at Panavoor grama panchayat office on 09 April 2025 to make the farmers familiar with e-Crop Based Smart Farming, which is being implemented in this panchayat. The workshop was inaugurated by Smt. S. Mini, the president of the Panavoor Grama panchayat. Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI, took class on the topic 'Smart Krishi: Digital Yugathile Karshaka Munnettathinu'. The details of the project were explained and 80 farmers participated in the workshop.



Farmers' workshop on Precision farming at Panavoor

Exhibitions

ICAR-CTCRI participated in the following exhibitions:

- Exhibition in connection with Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram during 26-28 May 2025.
- Technology Show exhibition as a part of the National Policy Dialogue on 'Scaling up Biofortified Crops for Addressing Childhood Malnutrition in Tribal Areas' on 18 June 2025 at the SAIL auditorium, Keonjhar, Odisha.
- Exhibition in connection with Janmabhoomi Golden Jubilee Celebration at Thiruvananthapuram during 07-11 May 2025.



Former Minister of State Shri. Rajeev Chandrasekhar visiting ICAR-CTCRI exhibition stall

Exposure visits to ICAR-CTCRI

One day exposure visit cum training on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' was organized for the benefit of 213 farmers, 43 students and 19 officials during this period at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.

Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav Programme

Under MGMG programme, scientists from ICAR-CTCRI visited and took a class at Krishi Bhavan, Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram on 20 May 2025 and gave advisories to farmers cultivating ICAR-CTCRI varieties. A programme on ‘Establishment of tuber crops seed village: Farmers training and distribution of planting materials’ was conducted under MGMG programme at Venganoor panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram on 18 June 2025. The programme was inaugurated by Shri. M. Vincent, MLA and Dr. G. Suja, Head, Division of Production, ICAR-CTCRI presided over. Technical sessions were handled by scientists on Seed village and DSM (decentralised seed multiplier), and urban farming.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The monthly cleanliness drives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was organized at Techno Incubation Centre, cleanliness target unit, and the storage shed of Division of Crop Improvement at ICAR-CTCRI campus. A total area of 4500 sq. feet was cleaned. All the trash materials such as paper, plastic, metal and glass waste etc. found in and around the premises were disposed.



Swachh Bharat programme

Activities of Agribusiness Incubator

ICAR-CTCRI and CISSA Join Hands to Strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations in Kerala

One of the key stakeholders in promoting FPOs in Kerala is the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) - a non-profit, non-governmental organization

engaged in grassroots development through science, policy advocacy, and citizen participation. To strengthen 36 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) associated with CISSA, ICAR-CTCRI and CISSA have established a new collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 15 May 2025 in the presence of Shri. V. Muraleedharan, Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs and Shri. S.K. Pathak, Joint Secretary, ICAR, Government of India. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI presided over the function. On the occasion, Shri. V. Muraleedharan flagged off the ‘Ananthapuri 5000’ programme and distributed CISSA-facilitated loan cheques to farmers. About 180 scientists, officers, FPO officials, farmers and other staff participated in the meeting.



MoU exchange between ICAR-CTCRI and CISSA

Planning workshop for mentoring FPOs

A planning workshop on ‘Understanding the Specific Needs and Action Plan Development for farmer Producer Companies under CISSA’ was organized on 24 June 2025. A total of 44 representatives from FPOs participated.

Technology Commercialization/Linkages/Collaborations

Technology Commercialization

The following technologies were licensed during this period:

Sl.No.	Technology	Licensed to	Date of licensing	Lead Developer	Amount (₹ Lakhs)
1	Electronic Crop- An IoT Device for Smart Farming	M/s Agripilot Tech Pvt. Ltd., Borkute Layout, Narendra Nagar, Nagpur	09 April 2025	Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra	7.08
2	Fried snack foods and fried chips from cassava	Kudumbashree Mission, Govt. of Kerala	09 May 2025	Dr. G. Padmaja	0.295
3	Functional Pasta from Cassava/ Sweet Potato	-do-	-do-	Dr. G. Padmaja	0.59
4	Functional Noodles from Sweet Potato/ Cassava	-do-	-do-	Dr. G. Padmaja	0.59
5	Ready-to-cook Food Products from Sweet Potato	-do-	-do-	Dr. V. Bansode	0.295
6	Fried Snack Foods from Sweet Potato	-do-	-do-	Dr. V. Bansode	0.295
7	Technology for Sweet Potato Jelly	-do-	-do-	Dr. V. Bansode	0.295
8	Functional Bakery Products from Sweet Potato	-do-	-do-	Dr. Namrata A.Giri	0.885
9	Quick Cooking Dehydrated Tubers of Tuber Crops	-do-	-do-	Dr. M.S. Sajeew	0.295
10	Anthocyanin and β -carotene Rich Sweet Potato Kulfi	-do-	-do-	Dr. C. Pradeepika	0.59
11	Anthocyanin and Beta carotene Rich Sweet Potato Low Calorie Gummies	-do-	-do-	Dr. C. Pradeepika	0.59
12	Sweet Potato-Millet Choco Filled Cookies	-do-	-do-	Dr. C. Pradeepika	0.295
13	B-carotene containing Sweet Potato Muffins	-do-	-do-	Dr. C. Pradeepika	0.295
14	Micronutrient foliar formulations for SSNM of tropical tuber crops	M/s Linga Chemicals, 3, B1 Police Station lane, East Masi street, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	30 April 2025	Dr. G. Byju	5.90

- ICAR-CTCRI signed MoA with Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission for licencing twelve technologies for ₹ 5.31 lakhs. Director, ICAR-CTCRI and Shri. H. Dineshan IAS, Executive Director, Kudumbashree Mission exchanged the MoA on 09 May 2025.
- The Elephant Foot Yam (Chena) Pradhaman Ada, developed by ICAR-CTCRI was commercially launched under Keralagro Brand of Department of Agriculture by Shri. Chittayam Gopakumar, Deputy Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, at a function held in Kollam. Smt. Honey Benjamin, Mayor, Kollam presided. Haritha Lakshmi Krishikkootam, a women SHG in Kollam who took licensing of this CTCRI technology has brought out the product for commercial sale.



Launching of Elephant Foot Yam (Chena) Pradhaman Ada

- ICAR-CTCRI and Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission exchanged MoU in presence of Shri. M.B. Rajesh, Minister of Local Administration, Government of Kerala in a programme ‘Technology Conclave 2025’ at Jain (Deemed to be) University, Infopark, Kochi, Kerala on 02 June 2025.



Exchange of MoU between ICAR-CTCRI and Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission

Inauguration of Digital Farm at MBCET in Collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI and Nadan Agro Farms

In continuation of the MoU signed in 2023 between ICAR-CTCRI and Mar Baselios College of Engineering

and Technology (MBCET), a Digital Farm has been established at the MBCET campus, which is a joint effort involving ICAR-CTCRI, MBCET, and Nadan Agro Farms, Thiruvananthapuram, aimed at fostering research and demonstration of advanced smart farming practices. The farm showcases e-Crop, the patented digital farming technology developed by ICAR-CTCRI, for demonstrating e-Crop Based Smart Farming (eCBSF) on crops like cassava, banana, and pumpkin. An e-Crop Based Smart Fertigation System has also been installed to implement real-time fertigation recommendations generated by e-Crop, enhancing nutrient use efficiency and sustainability.



Inauguration of Digital Farm at MBCET

Capacity building

Trainings attended by staff

Sl.No.	Name of participant	Programme	Period
1.	Dr. R. Muthuraj	21 days online Summer school on 'Innovations in seed production and quality control system: A pathway to sustainable food security', jointly organized by ICAR-Nation Institute of Seed Science and Technology, Regional Station, Bengaluru and National Agriculture Development Cooperative Ltd., (NADCL), Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir	18 March 2025 to 07 April 2025
2.	Dr. M.L. Jeeva	AI led Digital Transformation in Education, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	12 May 2025
3.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	MSME Technical committee meeting organized by SFAC, Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram	12 May 2025
4.	Dr. Asha K.I.	Building Climate Resilience in Agriculture Systems, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	20 May 2025
5.	Dr. Asha K.I.	Overview of Viksit Bharat 2047, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	20 May 2025
6.	Dr. Asha K.I.	AI led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	21 May 2025
7.	Dr. Asha K.I.	Effective Techniques to Manage Stress, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	21 May 2025
8.	Dr. T. Makeshkumar Dr. M.S. Sajeev	Building Climate Resilience in Agricultural System, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	23 May 2025
9.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	Understanding Mission Karmayogi, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	23 May 2025
10.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	AI led digital transformation in agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	23 May 2025
11.	Dr. M.L. Jeeva	Agriculture and Rural Development, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	23 May 2025
12.	Dr. T. Krishnakumar	AI led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	24 May 2025
13.	Dr. T. Krishnakumar	Building Climate Resilience in Agricultural System, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	25 May 2025

14.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	Overview of Vikasit Bharat, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	25 May 2025
15.	Dr. A. N. Jyothi	AI led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	26 May 2025
16.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	Agriculture and Rural Development, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	26 May 2025
17.	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	Understanding Mission Karmayogi, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	27 May 2025
18.	Dr. J. Sreekumar Dr. P. Prakash	Agriculture and Rural Development, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	27 May 2025
19.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev	Meeting of the State Level Vetting Committee for the selection of projects under the scheme 'Promotion of FPOS (Support for innovative projects on horticultural crop by FPOs) through SFAC Kerala 2024-25', organized by SFAC, Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram.	28 May 2025
20.	Dr. T. Makeshkumar	AI led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
21.	Dr. T. Makeshkumar	Effective Techniques to Manage Stress, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
22.	Dr. M.L. Jeeva Dr. J. Sreekumar	GenAI for Everyone, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
23.	Dr. A. N. Jyothi	Effective Techniques to Manage Stress, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
24.	Dr. M.L. Jeeva	GenAI for Everyone, Karmayogi Bharat, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
25.	Dr. A. N. Jyothi	Overview of Viksit Bharat 2047, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
26.	Dr. A. N. Jyothi	Green Revolution to Amrit Kaal, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	28 May 2025
27.	Dr. T. Makeshkumar	Overview of Vikshit Bharat 2047, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	29 May 2025
28.	Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	Three-month Short-Term Training on 'Cassava Genome Editing' under the mentorship of Dr. Leena Tripathi, Director, East African Hub, IITA. Sponsored under the ICAR-Genome Editing Project in Horticultural Crops, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.	20 March 2025 to 17 June 2025
29.	Dr. D. Jaganathan Dr. P. Prakash	Building Climate Resilience in Agriculture Systems, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	02 June 2025
30.	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Green Revolution to Amrit kaal, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	02 June 2025
31.	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Effective techniques to manage stress, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	02 June 2025
32.	Dr. Sheela Immanuel Dr. D. Jaganathan Dr. P. Prakash	Overview of Viksit Bharat 2047, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	03 June 2025
33.	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Managing and Leading Teams, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	03 June 2025
34.	Dr. D. Jaganathan	AI led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Karmayogi, Govt. of India	03 June 2025
35.	Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	GSG & IITA - PBI Management Program Training on Gene editing lab stewardship at IITA, Nairobi, Kenya	16 June 2025

Staff participation in scientific events/seminars/symposia/conference/workshop/meetings

Sl.No.	Name of the participant	Particulars of the programme	Date
1.	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	38 th Foundation Day celebrations of ICAR-CIFA	01 April 2025
2.	Dr. Asha K.I.	CVRC meeting for presentation of proposals for notification of varieties Sree Aadya (Arrowroot) and Sree Dhrona (White yam)	04 April 2025
3.	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	3 rd Utkal Krishi Mela held at the Centurion University, Parlakhemundi, Gajapati, Odisha	07-08 April 2025
4.	Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	CGIAR Science Week at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya	07-12 April 2025
5.	Dr. A. Asha Devi Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil	International Seminar on 'New Horizons in Plant Sciences (NHPS 2025)', organized by the Department of Botany, University of Kerala, Kariyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram	08-10 April 2025

6.	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Online Webinar on 'Become a smart researcher: essential tips and step-by-step guide to ONOS and Springer Nature Platforms', Springer India	17 April 2025
7.	Dr. Rahana S.N.	Online Lecture on 'Multiple Genome Editing for vegetable Crop Improvement', Horticulture Division, ICAR, New Delhi	17 April 2025
8.	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar Dr. D. Jaganathan Dr. T. Krishnakumar	National Workshop on celebrating tribal ingenuity: strategies for protecting, valuing, and marketing tribal farmers' varieties, innovations and geographical assets, Regional Station, ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	01 May 2025
9.	All scientists	51 st IRC meeting of ICAR-CTCRI	05-07 May 2025
10.	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Online Webinar on Navigate the world of scientific article writing: from manuscript structure to publication, Springer India	15 May 2025
11.	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	Board of Studies meeting of ICAR-IARI-IIHR Bengaluru, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	15 May 2025
12.	Dr. G. Byju Dr. G. Suja Dr. M.R. Sahoo Dr. J. Sreekumar Dr. A.N. Jyothi Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan Dr. Susan John K. Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil Dr. A. Ashadevi Dr. H. Kesava Kumar Dr. Kalidas Pati	XXV Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-AICRP on Tuber Crops at Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad	19-20 May 2025
13.	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	Directors' & VC Conference, NASC Complex, PUSA campus, New Delhi	20 May 2025
14.	Dr. P.S. Sivakumar	Symposium on 'Root and Tuber Crops Research and Development in India and South Asia' organised by CIP, ICAR and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India at The Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi	20 May 2025
15.	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	Inaugural meeting of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA 2025) (Online)	24 May 2025
16.	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	Inaugural programme of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA 2025) at KVK, Puri, Odisha	29 May 2025
17.	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	Regional Mango Diversity Show at CHES, ICAR-IIHR, Bhubaneswar	29 May 2025
18.	Dr. Sheela Immanuel Dr. S.S. Veena	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
19.	Dr. K.I. Asha	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK Alappuzha, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
20.	Dr. M.S. Sajeev Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Trissur, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
21.	Dr. C. Mohan	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Pathanamthitta, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
22.	Dr. V. Ramesh	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kasaragod, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
23.	Dr. A. Adha Devi	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kollam, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
24.	Dr. P.S. Sivakumar	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Wayanad, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025

25.	Dr. E.R. Harish	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK Idukki, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
26.	Dr. R. Muthuraj	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kannur, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
27.	Dr. Jeena Mathew	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kottayam, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
28.	Dr. S. N. Rahana	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Ernakulam, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
29.	Dr. P. Prakash	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Malappuram, Kerala	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
30.	Dr. Kalidas Pati Dr. Hanume Gowda Dr. R. Arutselvan	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Rayagada, Odisha	29 May 2025 to 02 June 2025
31.	Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan	VKSA 2025, KVK, Rayagada, Odisha	03-07 June 2025
32.	Dr. Susan John K.	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kollam, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
33.	Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kasaragod, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
34.	Dr. Saravanan Raju	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kottayam, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
35.	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Palakkad, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
36.	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK Kozhikode, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
37.	Dr. B.G. Sangeetha	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Ernakulam, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
38.	Dr. T. Krishnakumar	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kannur, Kerala	03-07 June 2025
39.	Dr. M. L. Jeeva	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK Alappuzha, Kerala	08-12 June 2025
40.	Dr. J. Suresh Kumar	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Palakkad, Kerala	08-12 June 2025
41.	Dr. C. Pradeepika	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Kozhikkode, Kerala	08-12 June 2025
42.	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Rayagada, Odisha	09-12 June 2025
43.	Dr. M.L. Jeeva	VKSA Pre Kharif 2025, KVK, Alappuzha, Kerala	09-12 June 2025
44.	All scientists	Closing ceremony of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan Pre Kharif 2025, Surat, Gujarat (Online)	12 June 2025
45.	All scientist	HH Sree Visakhham Thirunal Endowment Lecture 2025, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	23 June 2025
46.	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	VKSA final meeting (Online)	24 June 2025

Participation of ICAR-CTCRI in Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) 2025 programme

In line with the visionary mission of Honourable Prime Minister to build a self-reliant and sustainable India, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, officially launched the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA-2025) on 29 May 2025 at ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. VKSA-2025 is a nationwide campaign aimed at transforming Indian agriculture through scientific outreach, sustainable practices, and farmer empowerment. Led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the initiative aligns with the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. The ambitious

programme targets outreach to over 65,000 villages across 723 districts, aiming to directly engage more than 1.3 crore farmers. By promoting science-backed, climate-resilient, and farmer-centric agriculture, the campaign aspires to make India the 'Food Basket of the World'. The inaugural phase of VKSA-2025 was scheduled from 29 May to 12 June 2025, with plans to conduct the programme biannually, ahead of the Kharif and Rabi sowing seasons, to maximize its impact on the farming community.

As part of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA-2025), scientists from ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) actively participated in various outreach programmes conducted across different districts of Kerala as well as Odisha. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and

state line departments. A total of 25 scientists from ICAR-CTCRI HQ and 5 from Regional Station, Bhubaneswar were deputed to 14 districts of Kerala and one district of Odisha to support the campaign. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, personally attended programmes at KVK Ernakulam and KVK Alappuzha, where he interacted with farmers and highlighted the institute's technological advancements for sustainable tuber crop cultivation.

Dr. G. Byju, Director inaugurated the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) programme of KVK, Alappuzha, Kerala on 31 May 2025. He delivered a keynote address at VKSA programme organized by KVK, Ernakulam at Udayamperoor Panchayat Community Hall, Ernakulam on 01 June 2025. Director inaugurated VKSA programme at Enadimangalam Panchayat, Pathanamthitta district on 09 June 2025 and distributed protrait plantlets of newly released cassava varieties, Sree Annam and Sree Manna. Shri. Sam Vazhodu, President, Enadimangalam Panchayat presided and Dr. C.P. Robert, Head, ICAR-KVK, Pathanamthitta delivered keynote address.



Director inaugurating VKSA programme of KVK, Pathanamthitta

The coordinated efforts of scientists, KVK personnel, and state department officials successfully reached out to 1,163 villages, directly engaging 2,56,517 farmers, of whom 37% were women. The campaign served as a platform for farmers to learn about science-based practices and sustainable technologies. The events also witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Tourism; Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi; Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru; Directors of ICAR-CIFT and ICAR-CMFRI, Ernakulam and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, KAU, along with officials from the Department of Agriculture and elected representatives such as Block Panchayat Presidents, Ward Councillors, and local leaders. ICAR-CTCRI scientists delivered technical talks on diverse agricultural topics, provided on-the-spot solutions to field-level problems, and offered expert recommendations to local farming conditions. In Odisha, ICAR-CTCRI scientists from the Regional Station, Bhubaneswar participated in the VKSA programme in different villages of Rayagada district. Daily feedback from farmers was collected and submitted to the respective authorities for follow-up and impact assessment.

Key activities conducted at village level

As part of VKSA-2025, a diverse range of farmer-centric activities were conducted across villages by ICAR-CTCRI scientists in collaboration with KVKs and line departments. These activities aimed to promote sustainable, climate-resilient, and integrated agricultural practices through direct farmer engagement and knowledge dissemination. Highlights of the activities



Director inaugurating the VKSA programme of KVK, Alappuzha



Director delivering the keynote address at VKSA programme organized by KVK, Ernakulam

included awareness classes on tuber crops, rice cultivation, and integrated pest and disease management; farmer-scientist interaction sessions on crop production, bio-inputs, and sustainable cultivation techniques; training on climate-resilient technologies and intercropping of tuber crops in coconut gardens; sessions on monsoon care in livestock, soil testing, and nutrient management; technical guidance on cardamom, banana, and fish farming, as well as rain-fed crop management; dissemination of best practices for pest and nutrient management in vegetables and tuber crops; promotion of integrated crop management in vegetables, banana, and plantation crops; demonstrations on integrated farming systems and complete technology packages for crops such as coconut, arecanut, spices, and ornamental fish; and sessions on value addition, sustainable pest control, and processing technologies related to tropical tuber crops, spices, and inland fisheries.

In addition, planting materials of improved tuber crop varieties were distributed to farmers. Live demonstrations were organized in farmers' fields, and exhibitions were held to showcase technologies, value-added products, and tools developed by ICAR-CTCRI and partner institutions.

Major problems identified during field interactions

During the village-level campaigns, scientists from ICAR-CTCRI and partner institutions closely interacted with farmers and conducted field assessments, which led to the identification of several crop- and region-specific challenges affecting agricultural productivity and sustainability. Key issues observed include:

Crop-specific pests and diseases:

- Coconut: Rhinoceros beetle, red palm weevil, bud rot, button shedding, and mite infestation.

- Banana: Pseudostem borer, Sigatoka disease, and boron deficiency.
- Cardamom: Incidence of wilt disease.
- Vegetables (especially solanaceous crops): Viral diseases, wilts, and soil-borne infections.
- Cucurbits: Fruit fly infestation.
- Cassava: Mealy bug, scale insects, stem and root rot, and boron deficiency.
- Elephant Foot Yam: Collar rot.
- Cashew and Arecanut: Low productivity due to pest and disease pressure.
- Sweet Potato and Cassava: Non-tuberization, especially in riverbed cultivation areas.
- Soil and nutrient-related issues:
- Soil acidity affecting crop health and nutrient uptake.
- Boron deficiency observed in banana, cassava, and coconut.
- Delayed soil test results limiting timely nutrient management.
- Non-availability of fertilizers during critical crop growth stages.
- Other key challenges:
- Fruit drop in exotic fruit crops.
- Damage by wild animals, particularly to tuber crops.
- Marketing issues related to farm produce, impacting farmer incomes.

Feedback and Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITKs) shared by farmers were also documented for further analysis and incorporation into location-specific strategies and research.





Glimpses of participation of ICAR-CTCRI scientists in VKSA Pre Kharif 2025

Publications

Research papers

1. Ajesh, Jayaprakas, C. A., Sangeetha, B.G. and Krishnan, J.U. (2025). Assessment of cassava leaf bio-fumigant efficacy against *Tribolium castaneum* and *Rhyzopertha dominica* and their symbiotic bacteria compared to the classical fumigant phosphine.: Sustainable stored grain pest management using cassava leaf bio-fumigant. *Journal of Biological Control*, **39**(1): 88-105. (NAAS rating 5.46).
2. Gowda, K.H., Chauhan, V.B.S., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Pradeepika, C., Senthilkumar, K.M., Chandra, V., Byju, G., Sahoo, M.R., Pati, K., Arutselvan, R., 2025. Genotype × environment interaction analysis and simultaneous selection using AMMI, BLUP, GGE biplot, and MTSI under drought condition in sweet potato. *Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-025-02367-2>. (NAAS score: 9.90)
3. Kumar, J.S., Sunitha, S., Saravanan, R., Thangamani, C., Suresh, V., Mamatha, K., Singh, R.S., Immam, S.J., Padmakshi, T., Sengupta, S., Singh, V. and Kour, M. 2025. Sustainable approaches for weed management in taro cultivation: Analysis using mixed-effect model in diverse agroclimatic conditions. *Weed Research*, **65**(3), e70026. (NAAS 8.2)
4. Ravi, V., Raju, S., and Murugesan, P. 2025. Mexican yam bean (*Pachyrhizus erosus* L. Urban): A neglected leguminous root crop with emerging potential for food security and industrial applications. *Crop Science*, **65**, e70057. (NAAS score: 9.5)
5. Suja, G., Saravanan, R. and Sreekumar, J. 2025. Evaluation of intercropping elephant foot yam with pulses on yield, economics, corm quality and soil health. *Current Horticulture*, **13**(2): 48-54 (NAAS 4.62).

Book chapters

1. Arutselvan, R. Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S. Sumit Kumar, Kalidas Pati, Chauhan, V.B.S. and Hanume Gowda. 2025. Taro *Phytophthora* leaf blight: Leveraging diversity, epidemiology and management practices. U.B. Singh et al (eds.) In: *Detection, Diagnosis and Management of Air Borne Diseases in Agricultural Crops*, Springer Nature Singapore Pte, pp. 195-208.

2. Greeshma, K., Arutselvan, R., Teja, T.R., Baishnabi, D., Chaudhary, S. (2025). Endophytes and Microbiome: Modern Techniques in Sustainable Crop Production. In: Meena, M., Zehra, A., Swapnil, P. (eds) *Multi-omics Approach to Investigate Endophyte Diversity*. Microorganisms for Sustainability, vol 53. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-4100-0_5.
3. Sumit Kumar, Anjali, Arutselvan, R., Rajshree Verma, Sudepta Pattanayak, Ali Chenari Bouket, Yasser Nehela, Deepti Malviya & Udai B. Singh (2025). Biocontrol Agents-Mediated Management of Air-Borne Plant Diseases. In: Singh, U.B., Kumar, R., Singh, G.P., Singh, H.B. (eds) *Detection, Diagnosis and Management of Air-Borne Diseases in Agricultural Crops*. Springer, Singapore.

Policy Brief

1. A.N. Jyothi, J. Sreekumar and G. Byju. 2025. Modified Cassava Starch in India: Challenges and Way Forward, *Policy Brief*. PB-02/2025, April 2025, pp.16.
2. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D., Prakash, P. and Byju, G. 2025. Women empowerment in tropical tuber crops: challenges and strategies, *Policy Brief*. PB-03/2025, April 2025, pp.8.

Popular articles

1. Asha, K.I., Aswin S. Kumar, Asha Devi, A., Sheela, M.N. and Shirly Raichal Anil. 2025. Tropical tuber crops landraces in Kerala: Diversity and traditional uses. 2025. *Kerala Karshakan English Journal*, **12**(12): 26-31.
2. Asha, K.I., Kumar, A.S., Asha Devi, A., and Anil, S.R. 2025. Tropical tuber crops landraces in Kerala: Diversity and traditional uses. *Kerala Karshakan E-Journal*, **12**(12), 26–31
3. Beegam Nazrin, Veena, S.S, Pavithra, S.A., Divya, S., Krishnaveni, K., Nileena, P., Shilpa, S. U. and Tom Cyriac. 2025. Post-harvest rot in elephant foot yam. *Agritech*, **2**(1): 10-11.
4. Divya, S., Jeeva, M. L., Bag, T.K., Makesh Kumar, T. Veena, S.S., Prakash, P., Pavithra, S.A., Krishnaveni, K., Karthikeyan, S. 2025. Importance of cassava production and the impact of stem and root rot disease on yields. *Kerala Karshakan*, **12**(12): 16-19.

5. Divya, S., Jeeva, M.L., Bag, T.K., Makeshkumar, T. Veena, S.S., Beegam Nazrin, Shilpa, S.U., Tom Cyriac, Lohitha, B., Karthikeyan, S. 2025. Spot the disease in cassava and save the yield. *Kerala Karshakan*, **13**(1): 11-16.
 6. Krishnaveni, K., Makeshkumar, T., Jeeva, M. L., Veena, S.S. Lohitha, B., Pavithra, S.A. and Beegam Nazrin. 2025. The hidden symphony beneath our feet; Unlocking the power of the rhizosphere microbiome for sustainable agriculture. *Kerala Karshakan*, **12**(12): 32-35.
 7. Mohan, C., Nandini, C., Aakash, A., Senthilkumar, K.M., Sreekumar, J., Mithra, V.S.S., Saravanan, R., Byju, G., Koundinya, A.V.V. and Krishnakumar, T. 2025. High throughput phenotyping to accelerate crop breeding in cassava. *Agritech*, **2**(1): 7-9.
 8. Nandini, C., Aakash, A., Senthilkumar, K.M., Makeshkumar, T., Byju, G., Koundinya, A.V.V., Krishnakumar, T. and Mohan, C. 2025. CMD resistance breeding in cassava and management strategy. *Agritech*, **2**(1): 1-3.
 9. Prakash, P., Jaganathan, D., Sheela Immanuel and Muthuraj, R. 2025. Chinese potato production in India: Challenges and strategies, *Kerala Karshakan*, May 2025, 47-49.
 10. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D. and Prakash, P. 2025. Women in agriculture: Challenges and strategies, *Agro India*, April 2025, 18-21.
 11. Subhashree Arukh, Arutselvan, R. and Sulekha Pradhan. 2025. Loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay: A novel disease diagnostics tool in plant virology. *AgriTech Today*, **3**(2): 28-30.
- Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. p.33.
2. Sahoo, M.R. 2025. Insights into DNA Barcoding and RNA Secondary Structure Predictions: Probing Genetic Discrimination Among Wild and Cultivated Species of Various Horticultural Crops. In: International Conference on Agriculture and Plantation Management at Wayamba University, Sri Lanka, held during 16-18 May 2025.
 3. Vismaya, M., Asha Devi, A., Shirly Raichal Anil, and Sunilkumar, K. 2025. First report of flowering in *Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* cv. *Karunaikizhangu* using gibberellic acid (GA₃). In: *Book of Abstracts*, International Seminar on New Horizons in Plant Sciences (NHPS 2025), held during from 08-10 April 2025 at Department of Botany, University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Technical/Extension folders/Leaflets

1. Asha K.I., Asha Devi, A. and Aswin S. Kumar. 2025. Arrowroot varieties Sree Aadya, Sree Nakshathra, Sree Karti. *Technical Folder No. TF-13/2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
2. Harish, E.R., Kumar, H.K., Jeeva, M.L., Makeshkumar, T. and Sangeetha, B.G. and 2025. Integrated management of mites in cassava (Tamil). *Technical Leaflet No. TL-13/2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
3. Kumar, H.K., Anes, K.M., Jeeva, M.L., Harish, E.R. and Makeshkumar, T. 2025. Managing nematodes in elephant foot yam: A farmer's guide. *Technical Leaflet No. TL-12/2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
4. Susan John, K., Sheela, M.N., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Sreekumar, J., More, S.J., Jyothi, A.N. and Satheesan, B. 2025. Sree Annam: An NPK use efficient cassava variety, *Technical Leaflet No. TL- 10/2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute.
5. Susan John, K., Sheela, M.N., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Sreekumar, J., More, S.J., Jyothi, A.N. and Satheesan, B. 2025. Sree Manna: An NPK use efficient cassava variety, *Technical Leaflet No. TL- 11/2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute.

Conference/Souvenir/Seminar proceedings

1. Lekshmi, S. Lal, Senthilkumar, K.M., Krishna Radhika, N., and Makeshkumar, T. 2025. An optimized method for isolating total RNA from different tissue parts of cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) using a modified CTAB–LiCl method. In: *Book of Abstracts*, International Seminar on New Horizons in Plant Sciences (NHPS 2025), 08-10 April 2025, organized by Kerala University Business Innovation and Incubation Centre (KUBIIC) and Kerala University Botany Alumni Association (KUBAA), Department of Botany, University of

TV Programme

1. A brief TV segment on crop improvement technologies was telecast on 23 May 2025, ahead of the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan - Pre-Kharif 2025' campaign conducted from 29 May to 12 June 2025.

Radio talk

1. Dr. K. Susan John delivered a radio talk on 'Importance of phosphorus in plant nutrition' for Vayalum Veedum programme of All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 02 April 2025.
2. Dr. G. Suja delivered a radio talk on 'Taro: Varieties & Cultivation' in Vayalum Veedum programme of All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 11 April 2025.
3. Dr. Veena, S.S. delivered a radio talk on 'Diseases of cassava and their management' in All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 06 May 2025.

Institute Publications

1. ICAR-CTCRI 2025. Annual Report 2024. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695017, Kerala, India, 174p.
2. ICAR-CTCRI 2025. ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter Volume 42(1), January-March 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695017, Kerala, India, 23p.
3. ICAR-CTCRI. 2025. 51st Annual IRC Meeting: Salient Achievements (2024-2025) & New Project Proposals (2025-2030), ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 350p.
4. ICAR-AICRP TC 2025. Technical Report XXV Annual Group Meeting, 19-20 May 2025. All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695017, Kerala, India, 168p.
5. ICAR-CTCRI. 2025. Output Summary of Institute Funded Projects 2020-21 to 2024-25, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 350p.
6. ICAR-CTCRI 2025. Quarterly Review Meeting January to March 2025. Suresh Kumar, J., Ramesh, V., Krishnakumar, T., Prakash, P., Sangeetha, B.G. and Visalakshi Chandra, C. (Eds.), ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 168p.

7. ICAR-CTCRI 2025. Quarterly Review Meeting April to June 2025. Suresh Kumar, J., Ramesh, V., Krishnakumar, T., Prakash, P., Sangeetha, B.G. and Visalakshi Chandra, C. (Eds.). 2025. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 162p.

Major Institute Events

Institute Research Council Meeting

The 51st Annual Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting of ICAR-CTCRI was held during 05-09 May 2025. The meeting was inaugurated on 05 May 2025 by Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman, IRC. The Director made a presentation on Salient research achievements and targets of ICAR-CTCRI. Under the Chairmanship of the Director, all the 42 projects under 8 Institute mega projects and 3 developmental projects viz., SCSP, TSP and NEH were presented by the project leaders in five sessions viz., Crop Improvement, Crop Production, Crop Protection, Crop Utilization and Extension & Social Sciences during 05-09 May 2025. Significant achievements and outputs of all the projects were thoroughly discussed. The 39 research projects under 5 new institute megaprojects were discussed and approved for next five years (2025-2030).

The meeting was chaired by Dr. G. Byju, Director and cochaired by Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Head, Crop Protection; Dr. G. Suja, Head, Crop Production; Dr. J. Sreekumar, SIC, Extension & Social Sciences; Dr. Manas R. Sahoo, Head, Crop Improvement, Dr. A.N. Jyothi, SIC, Crop Utilization and Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan, SIC, RS, Bhubaneswar. Dr. T. Makeshkumar, SIC, PME Cell convened the meeting. Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Senior Scientist and Member Secretary organized the 51st IRC meeting.



Institute Research Council

7th Poshan Pakhwada

The 7th Poshan Pakhwada, a nationwide initiative under the Government of India's Poshan Abhiyaan, was observed at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram during 08 to 23 April 2025. The institute organized a range of activities to emphasize the vital role of nutrition in health and well-being, with particular focus on the contribution of tuber crops to nutritional security. Key events included awareness visits to Anganwadi centres, a Healthy Food Exhibition held in collaboration with 33 Anganwadis, interactive nutrition classes, demonstration-cum-training sessions, and creative Rangoli displays using tubers, vegetables, pulses, and cereals to highlight traditional and healthy food choices. As part of the programme, Dr. P.S. Indu, Professor of Community Medicine at Government Medical College, Kollam, delivered a keynote address on 'Anaemia Mukh Bharat: Role of Individuals and Communities.'



Glimpses of Poshan Pakhwada celebration

XXV Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Tuber Crops

The 25th Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Tuber Crops was convened at the College of Horticulture, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University (SKLTGHU), Rajendranagar, during 19-20 May 2025. The meeting was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. Danda Raji Reddy in the presence of eminent dignitaries including

Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, ADG (FVS&MP, Hort.), ICAR; Dr. G. Byju, Director & Project Coordinator, ICAR-CTCRI; Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad; and other invitees. Dr. G. Byju presented the progress and achievements of AICRP on Tuber Crops across its centres operating in 20 states under 13 SAUs, 3 CAUs, and 3 ICAR institutes, spanning 11 agroclimatic zones. The Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG, ICAR (online), emphasized the critical role of tuber crops as climate-resilient, livelihood-enhancing crops, and advocated the development of nutrient-rich, biofortified varieties while reducing chemical inputs through the use of local organics and botanicals. Dr. Sudhakar Pandey urged for a comprehensive action plan to expand tuber crop cultivation and encouraged leveraging technologies like IoT, genome-assisted breeding, and genome editing to address key research challenges. Dr. Shaik N. Meera emphasized forming smart farmer clusters through KVKs, promoting functional foods, and health branding via women SHGs. In his presidential address, Dr. Danda Raji Reddy highlighted the nutritional and cropping system



Dignitaries at the inaugural function of AGM



Participants of AGM

adaptability of tuber crops and called for the development of half-acre integrated farming system (IFS) models suitable for various regions. The best centre (2024-25) award was presented to Dr. BSKKV, Dapoli, while revenue generation awards were given to UHS, Dharwad; Dr. BSKKV, Dapoli; and NAU, Navsari. A total of 13 publications from different centres were released. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Dr. D. Laxminarayana, Director of Research, SKLTGHU, and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. D. Anitha Kumari, Principal Scientist & Head, VRS, Rajendranagar.

H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture

The Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC), in association with ICAR-CTCRI, organized the H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture on 23 June 2025, spotlighting recent advancements in agricultural biotechnology. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, in his presidential address, emphasized the crucial role of tuber crops in ensuring food and nutritional security-from the era of the Travancore kingdom to modern-day India. He highlighted the Institute's continued dedication to research and development in tuber crops. Dr. V. Arunachalam, Director, KSCSTE-Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) was the Guest of Honour. He spoke about the significant potential of tuber crops in fighting malnutrition and stressed the use of genome editing to improve crop yield and quality. Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi delivered this year's endowment lecture. He led the development of the world's first genome-edited rice seed, Pusa DST Rice 1. His lecture, titled 'Genome Editing: India's Trailblazing Path to the First Edited Rice Variety' highlighted how this innovation aligns with India's sustainable development goals. He stated that this genome-edited rice is expected to reach farmers within a year, pending completion of intellectual property procedures. He also projected that within the next 5-6 years, several genome-edited agricultural crops will be ready for large-scale cultivation. He also mentioned that genome editing helps overcome limitations in seeds and allows for the addition of specific desirable traits. Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Secretary, ISRC, delivered the welcome address. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Joint Secretary, ISRC.

The program was conducted in hybrid mode. More than 300 participants attended the program including the scientists and staff of ICAR-CTCRI, students from Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala University and Loyola School.



Dignitaries offering floral tributes to H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal



Inaugural session of the H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture

Other Important Events

Hindi corner

Meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of ICAR-CTCRI was held on 10 June 2025 under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairperson (OLIC) to review the progress of OL activities at the Institute. In the meeting it was decided to add a separate folder called 'Hindi Corner' in the Institute's website. Here, news and photographs of all official language related programs organized by the Institute are to be uploaded and also decided to release the second edition of Hindi e-magazine 'Indradhanush' on the occasion of World Hindi Day-2026. Eight employees were selected from ICAR-CTCRI for Hindi training to be conducted during the financial year 2025-2026 for Central Government employees, out of which 4 employees will be sent for the classes in July-September period.

Hindi Workshop

Hindi workshop was organized by the OLIC, ICAR-CTCRI on 30 June 2025 on the topic 'Kantasth 2.0'. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. G. Suja, Director (i/c). Shri. Shojo Lobo, Senior Official Language Manager, Canara Bank Circle Office, Thiruvananthapuram conducted the class where 32 participants comprising 16 officers and 16 staff attended.



Hindi Workshop on Kantasth 2.0

Director's Visits

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, along with Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan, Scientist i/c, Regional Station, ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar visited and interacted with sweet potato farmers in Attappadi, Palakkad, Kerala on 10 May 2025 under the 'Punarjeevanam' project, being implemented jointly by ICAR-CTCRI and Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission.
- Dr. G. Byju, Director inaugurated the 'Technology Showcase and Consultative Workshop', organized at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram on 23 May 2025, as part of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

- Dr. G. Byju, Director met Shri. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala on 03 June 2025 at Raj Bhavan to discuss about R&D activities of ICAR-CTCRI.



Director visiting Honourable Governor of Kerala at Raj Bhavan

- Dr. G. Byju, Director delivered a talk on 'Kerala Agriculture: Status, Challenges and Way Forward for 2047' at Brainstorming on 'Kerala@2047', organized by Vigyan Bharati and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) at Akkulam campus, RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram on 06 June 2025. Shri. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Kerala was the Chief Guest. Director, CSIR-NIIST; Director, VSSC; Director, NCESS and Director, ICAR-CMFRI also attended the programme.



Director delivering a talk at Brainstorming on 'Kerala@2047'

- Dr. G. Byju, Director visited Regional Station, Bhubaneswar on 16 June 2025 and monitored the ongoing programmes at the centre.



Visit of Director to RS, Bhubaneswar

- Dr. G. Byju, Director visited and interacted with tribal farmers of Jharkhand and West Bengal along Bundwan region on 19 June 2025.



Director visiting tribal farmers of Jharkhand and West Bengal

Infrastructure/Facilities

- 'Farmapp', the online indent management system for ICAR-CTCRI farm was developed and launched. This enables the scientists to give indent for different farm works as part of both institute and externally aided projects. It is available at www.ctcritools.in/farmapp.

New Project Sanctioned

- A new project titled 'Technological intervention for enhancing the nutrient rich underutilized crop Yam bean to improve food quality and health and nutritional security of Odisha' was sanctioned by RKVY, Govt. of Odisha with a total budget of ₹ 164.45 lakhs (PI: Dr. Kalidas Pati, Senior Scientist, Regional Centre, ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha)

Distinguished Visitors

Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

1. Shri. V. Muraleedharan, Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India.

2. Shri. S.K. Pathak, Joint Secretary, ICAR, Government of India.
3. Shri. Babu Jacob IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala.
4. Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.
5. Dr. V. Arunachalam, Director, KSCSTE-Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
6. Shri. H. Dineshan IAS, Executive Director, Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission.
7. Dr. P.S. Indu, Professor of Community Medicine at Government Medical College, Kollam.
8. Shri. Shojo Lobo, Senior Official Language Manager, Canara Bank Circle Office, Thiruvananthapuram.

Honours, Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. G. Suja acted as external examiner and conducted qualifying viva voce of 4 Ph.D. students at the Dept. of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.
- Dr. G. Suja evaluated a Ph.D. Thesis at Dept. of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Vellayani.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar attended the Board of Studies meeting of ICAR-IARI-IIHR Bengaluru hub on 15 May 2025.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar acted as resource person and gave a talk on 'Pest and Diseases in Cassava in Regional Agricultural Mela and Seminar', organized by Department of Agriculture & Farmers welfare, Govt. of Tamil Nadu & TNAU at Erode on 12 June 2025.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar acted as external examiner for one Ph.D. student at Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu on 11 June 2025.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar acted as external member for the conduct of Qualifying viva voce of one M.Sc. (Plant pathology) student, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Chennai on 23 May 2025.
- Dr. K. Susan John acted as Chairman, Technical session on 'Circular food systems and sustainable value chain' in the International Seminar on 'Innovative policies and community led solutions for sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture' held at

College of Agriculture, Vellayani and evaluated oral and poster presentations in the session during 21-22 May 2025.

- Dr. Asha K.I. acted as external examiner of M.Sc. (Ag.) thesis for Agriculture, KAU, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. S.S. Veena served as external member for the conduct of Qualifying viva voce of twelve M.Sc. students, Dept. of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. S.S. Veena acted as external examiner for fourteen M.Sc. students at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala and one Ph.D. student at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi was resource person for the five-day National Workshop on 'Plant Genome Analysis' and took a class on Molecular markers and analysis with special reference to tuber crops on 02 April 2025.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi was external examiner for one Ph.D. student at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar served as external expert in the Assessment promotion committee of JNTBGRI, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram for the assessment promotion of 24 technical officers on 25 April 2025.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar acted as external examiner and conducted qualifying viva voce of one Ph.D. and 4 M.Sc. students of Vegetable Science Dept., College of agriculture, KAU, Vellanikkara on 28 April 2025 and one M.Sc. (Hort.) student, CoA, Vellayani as advisory committee member on 20 June 2025.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar adjudicated two Ph.D. theses, one at Dept. of PHM, College of Agriculture, Vellayani and one at Dept. of PHM, College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellanikkara.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar conducted the qualifying viva voce of 8 students (three Ph.D. and 5 M.Sc.) of Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture, YSRHU, Anantharajupeta, Andhra Pradesh on 21 May 2025.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar co-chaired a Technical Session in the International Seminar on 'Innovative policies and community-led solutions for sustainable urban and

peri-urban agriculture’ at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, on 22 May 2025.

- Dr. P.S. Sivakumar delivered an invited lecture at the National Young Professionals Development on ‘New Competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension’ held during 09-13 June 2025 at MANAGE, Hyderabad.
- Dr. P.S. Sivakumar acted as External Examiner for the Ph.D. Viva-voce of one student at College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellayani on 26 May 2025.
- Dr. P.S. Sivakumar acted as Panelist at the Panel 1 - Innovating Together: Advancing Root and Tuber Crops Genetic Resources and Breeding through Partnerships at the CIP symposium on ‘Root and Tuber Crops Research and Development in India and South Asia’ held on 20 May 2025 at New Delhi.
- Dr. P.S. Sivakumar acted as Panelist at the Panel 3 - IP Monetization & Technology Transfer at the Golden Jubilee Conclave on ‘IP Monetization and Technology Transfer’, organized by CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram on 14 May 2025.
- Dr. P.S. Sivakumar acted as External Research Adviser at the Divisional Research Committee (DRC) meeting 2025 of Extension, Information, and Statistics (EIS) Division, ICAR-CIFT, Cochin on 15 May 2025.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan as External Examiner for adjudication of one M.Sc. (Ag.) thesis at College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur in June 2025.
- Dr. P. Prakash acted as evaluator for one Ph.D. work review at Division of Agricultural Economics, ICAR-IARI for change of UGC-NET fellowship to SRF on 04 April 2025.
- Dr. P. Prakash acted as evaluator at the international seminar on ‘Innovative policies and community led

solutions for sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture’ held at KAU, College of Agriculture, Vellayani on 22 May 2025.

- Dr. P. Prakash selected as member of the advisory committee of one M.Sc. student at the Department of Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, Vellayani.
- Dr. Sheela Immanuel acted as member, Recruitment of programme officer and Computer assistant at KVK, Mitraniketan on 20 June 2025.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra delivered a keynote lecture in the Agriculture Science/ Smart Farming session, held on 30 April 2025, as part of the Annual Science Workshop organized by Swadeshi Science Movement at NIIST, Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. J. Suresh Kumar evaluated a Ph.D. thesis at Department of Vegetable Science, Horticultural College and Research Institute for Women, TNAU on 17 May 2025.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar acted as an external examiner for evaluation of one M.Sc. (Ag.) Nematology thesis, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, KAU during June 2025.
- Dr. Jeena Mathew evaluated one thesis of M.Sc. Ag Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, Vellayani.
- Dr. C. Pradeepika co-chaired a session on ‘Circular economy for sustainable Agriculture’ in the International Seminar on ‘Innovative policies and community-led solutions for sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture’ organized on 22 June 2025 at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.

Media Coverage

Sl.No.	Date	News Title	Name of News paper/e-paper
1	01.04.2025	New sweet potato variety may bolster up tribal food security	The Hindu
2	13.04.2025	Kizhangu vargangalude pradanyam thirichariyanam: Bhakshya suraksha urappaakkaan ee poshaka nidikal	Kerala Kaumudi
3	11.05.2025	Kauthukangalude kalavara nirachu puthan kizhangulpanangal	Janmabhumi
4	11.05.2025	Kizhangu varga krishiyile saankethika vidya kaimaaraal: Kudumba sreeyum kendra kizhangu vila gaveshana kendravum daaranayaayi	Desabhimani
6	11.05.2025	Daaranaa pathrathil oppuvachu	Kerala Kaumudi
7	11.05.2025	Kumbasreekkku kaarshika Saankethika vidya nalkaan ICAR-CTCR	Janayugam
8	17.05.2025	IDEal to back farmer-led ventures inked	Indian Express
10	18.05.2025	CTCRI,NGO sign pact to bolster 36 farmer producer companies	The Hindu
11	20.05.2025	Horticulturists urged to grow tuber crops	City Bureau, Hyderabad
14	11.06.2025	Vikasitha Krishi Sankalppu Abhiyaan Padthathi: Kyaanpein sangadippichu	Epaper.manoramaonline.com
15	11.06.2025	Vikasitha Krishi Sankalppu Abhiyaan Kyaanpein	Mathrubhumi, Adoor
16	14.06.2025	Kizhanguvila jaiva krishi seminar	https://epaper.manoramaonline.com
17	18.06.2025	Sweet potato cultivation method of training to farmers	The Sambada
18	19.06.2025	Program Indradanu to eradicate malnutrition in SCST tribal kids	Anupam Bharat, Bhubaneswar
22	19.06.2025	Program Indradanu to eradicate malnutrition in Keunjhar	Nitidina
24	19.06.2025	Dattu Gramam Vithu Gramam	Kerala Kaumudi
25	19.06.2025	Dattu Gramam, Vithu Gramam: Karshaka Pariseelanavum nadeel vasthukkalude vitharanavum	Metro Vartha
26	20.06.2025	Sweet potato cultivation will be made by the help of NABARD in the kusumi block in Mayur Bhanj district of Odisha	Pratidin daily
27	20.06.2025	Sweet potato cultivation will be made by the help of NABARD in the kusumi block in Mayur Bhanj district of Odisha	The Sakala, Mayurbanj
28	23.06.2025	Kizhangu varga Gaveshana Kendrathil sree vishakham thirunaal endowment prabhashanam	Desabhimani
29	24.06.2025	Genome – edited rice seed to reach farmers in a year	The Hindu
30	24.06.2025	Genom edittu cheytha aadya nel vithinam karshakarkku vitharanam cheyyum	Desabhimani
31	25.06.2025	Nadeel vasthu vitharanam	Malayala Manorama
32	26.06.2025	Smart clusters' for tuber crops in southern districts	The Hindu

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Personalia Promotion

Sl.No	Name	Position held	Date of Retirement
1.	Shri. Sasankan V. R.	ACTO	30.04.2025
2.	Shri. Radhakrishnan Nair S	SSS	31.05.2025

Transfers (Deputation)

Sl.No	Name	From	To
1.	Shri. Rajesh P., Assistant	National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	ICAR-CTCRI
2.	Smt. Shimla D., Assistant	National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	ICAR-CTCRI
3.	Shri. Shinaj P. H., Assistant	National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	ICAR-CTCRI
4.	Smt. Sajitha Kumari V., Assistant	National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	ICAR-CTCRI
5.	Smt. Seeja Vijayan, Assistant	National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram	ICAR-CTCRI



Tuber Crops for Food, Health, Wealth and Prosperity

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