



ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- The 63rd Foundation Day of ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute will be celebrated on 27 July 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Hindi Pakhwada 2026 will be celebrated during 14-28 September 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.



Dr. G. Byju
Director

निदेशक की ओर से

मुझे संस्थान की प्रमुख शोध उपलब्धियों, प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, विस्तार पहलों, क्षमता-निर्माण कार्यक्रमों, संस्थागत आयोजनों और अन्य उपलब्धियों को उजागर करने वाला समाचार पत्रिका (अप्रैल-जून 2026) प्रस्तुत करते हुए अत्यंत प्रसन्नता हो रही है। इस दौरान अनुसंधान और विकास (R & D) के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई, जो उष्णकटिबंधीय कंद फसलों के टिकाऊ उत्पादन के लिए विज्ञान को आगे बढ़ाने की संस्थान की निरंतर प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है। कई उल्लेखनीय शोध परिणामों, प्रौद्योगिकी के व्यावसायीकरण की पहलों, सहयोगी कार्यक्रमों और प्रकाशनों ने खाद्य और पोषण सुरक्षा, आजीविका में सुधार और जलवायु-अनुकूल खेती की दिशा में संस्थान के योगदान को और मजबूत किया है। इस तिमाही का एक प्रधान आकर्षण केरल, तमिलनाडु और ओडिशा में 'मिट्टी की सेहत के प्रबंधन और खाद के संतुलित इस्तेमाल' पर देशव्यापी जागरूकता अभियान और 'खेत बचाओ अभियान' का सफल क्रियान्वयन था। बड़े पैमाने पर चलाए गए इन आउटरीच कार्यक्रमों से 4224 किसानों को फायदा हुआ; इसमें जागरूकता कार्यक्रम, प्रदर्शन, क्षमता-निर्माण की पहल और हितधारकों के साथ बातचीत शामिल थी। भारत सरकार के माननीय राज्य मंत्री श्री सुरेश गोपी की उपस्थिति में पीएम-किसान उत्सव दिवस का आयोजन और साथ ही उष्णकटिबंधीय कंद फसलों पर आधारित कृषि-खाद्य प्रणालियों पर हितधारकों के साथ बातचीत ने, किसानों, नीति-निर्माताओं, उद्यमियों और विकास एजेंसियों के साथ संस्थान के जुड़ाव को और मजबूत किया। संस्थान ने दसवीं अनुसंधान सलाहकार समिति की दूसरी बैठक, 52वीं वार्षिक संस्थान अनुसंधान परिषद और कंद फसलों पर एआईसीआरपी की XXVI वार्षिक समूह बैठक के सफल आयोजन के माध्यम से अनुसंधान योजना और संस्थागत विकास में महत्वपूर्ण मील के पथर भी देखे। सहयोगी अनुसंधान साझेदारी, प्रौद्योगिकी लाइसेंसिंग, नई परियोजना मंजूरी और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास ने संस्थान के अनुसंधान और नवाचार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का और विस्तार किया है। संस्थान उष्णकटिबंधीय कंद फसलों के सतत विकास के लिए अनुसंधान, नवाचार और प्रौद्योगिकी प्रसार में उत्कृष्टता के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता जारी रखता है।

From the Director

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Newsletter (April-June 2026), highlighting the major research achievements, technology development, extension initiatives, capacity-building programmes, institutional events and other accomplishments of the Institute. The period was marked by significant progress in R & D, reflecting the Institute's continued commitment to advancing science for sustainable production of tropical tuber crops. Several noteworthy research outcomes, technology commercialization initiatives, collaborative programmes and publications have further strengthened the Institute's contribution towards food and nutritional security, livelihood enhancement and climate-resilient agriculture. A major highlight of this quarter was the successful implementation of the nationwide Awareness Campaign on Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers and the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan* (Save the Farm Campaign) across Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. These large-scale outreach programmes benefited 4224 farmers through awareness programmes, demonstrations, capacity-building initiatives and stakeholder interactions. The celebration of PM-KISAN Utsav Diwas with Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Govt. of India, along with the Stakeholders' interface on Tropical tuber crops based agrifood systems, further strengthened the Institute's engagement with farmers, policymakers, entrepreneurs and development agencies. The Institute also witnessed important milestones in research planning and institutional development through the successful conduct of the Second meeting of tenth Research Advisory Committee, the 52nd Annual Institute Research Council and the XXVI Annual Group Meeting of the AICRP on Tuber Crops. Collaborative research partnerships, technology licensing, new project sanctions and infrastructure development have further expanded the Institute's research and innovation ecosystem. The Institute continues its commitment towards excellence in research, innovation and technology dissemination for the sustainable development of tropical tuber crops.

G. Byju

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Research Highlights

Ornamental sweet potato for sustainable landscape applications

C. Visalakshi Chandra and Shirly Raichal Anil

Landscaping has become an integral component of modern urban development, eco-tourism, and commercial environments. Sweet potato has emerged as a promising landscape species because the crop exhibits extensive variation in foliage colour, including green, purple and variegated forms, diverse leaf shapes and contrasting growth habits. The accession, S1462 exhibits a vigorous spreading growth habit with excellent ground covering capacity, making it highly suitable for landscape beds, borders, edging, and container plantings. The bright yellow green leaves create an eye catching contrast thereby increasing the aesthetic value of mixed landscape designs. Furthermore, S1462 requires minimal maintenance and adapts well to diverse environmental conditions, making it an ideal choice for sustainable urban landscapes, parks, home gardens, hanging baskets, and decorative containers. The unique combination of attractive foliage, rapid vegetative spread, excellent ground covering capacity and environmental resilience identifies S1462 as a valuable sweet potato accession for ornamental landscaping and urban greening initiatives.



Ornamental sweet potato accession
as border row



Vibrant foliage of
S1462

Identification of homozygous CMD resistant lines from cassava breeding population using SNP makers

C. Mohan, K.M. Senthilkumar and T. Makeshkumar

The CMD resistance is controlled by a single dominant gene. To confirm single gene dominant, both CMD associated SSR marker (SSR28, NS159) and SNP marker (S12_7926132) were used to understand the genetics of CMD resistance in cassava. For this the parent 9S127 (Heterozygous - CMD) self-pollinated to develop mapping population to study nature of CMD resistance using SNP marker, S12_7926132 by Tetra-ARMS PCR technique. The SNP marker S12_7926132 was used to identify true homo, heterozygous resistance and susceptible lines from the 85 self-pollinated clonal populations. This SNP marker clearly differentiates true

homozygous resistant (18-RR), heterozygous resistant (43-Rr) and susceptible (24-rr). Based on these findings, concluded that, SNP (S12-7926132) marker can be used as a tool to identify the true homozygous CMD-resistant genotypes in cassava breeding population and there by facilitating the development of progenies with complete (100%) resistance to cassava mosaic disease and accelerating the breeding of CMD-resistant cassava cultivars.

Farmers' varieties of Chinese potato identified for registration under PPV&FR Act

P. Murugesan

Two farmers' varieties of Chinese potato, namely 'Myllore Koorka Local' and 'Marayur Kattu Koorka' were evaluated and identified for registration under the PPV&FR Act. Myllore Koorka Local was collected from Myllore, Varappetty Village, Ernakulam district, Kerala. Marayur Kattu Koorka was identified from Marayur, Kerala, and is proposed for registration on behalf of the Scheduled Tribal Community of Marayur.



The Custodian farmer with
Myllore Koorka Local



Stem of Myllore Koorka Local with
coloured lines in the edge

Extension

FLDs/OFTs

- The Harvest Festival of the Smart Farming Project, funded by the Kerala State Planning Board and implemented in Panavoor Grama Panchayat under Nedumangad Block, Thiruvananthapuram, was organized on 02 June 2026. The harvest was inaugurated by Shri. Byju, President, Panavoor Grama Panchayat. Around 50 participants, including eCBSF project team lead by Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra, farmers, officials from the Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala and other stakeholders attended the programme.



Harvest festival of the Smart Farming project

- Three Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) on the arrowroot variety Sree Aadya were initiated in collaboration with the KVKs of Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram districts of Kerala.
- On-farm trials of cassava breeding lines were conducted at Kadinamkulam in Thiruvananthapuram, Chingavanam in Kottayam, Thiruvambady in Kozhikode, Alakuzhi in Kottarakara and Punnanoodu in Onatukara, Alappuzha.



On-farm trial at Kadinamkulam, Thiruvananthapuram



On-farm trial at Punnanoodu, Onatukara, Alappuzha

- Two OFTs on the management of cassava stem and root rot were initiated at Kadaplamattom in Kottayam district and Aerom in Kollam district, Kerala.



OFT on the management of cassava stem and root rot in Aerom

Training programmes

On campus programmes

An internship training programme was organized by the Division of Crop Improvement for B.Sc. students (FYUGP) of Department of Biotechnology, Government College, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram from 20 April to 04 May 2026. A total of 22 students were trained.



Interns with the Director and resource persons

- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized at the Techno Incubation Centre on 05 May 2026 for 22 beneficiaries from the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized at the Techno Incubation Centre on 29 May 2026 for 12 beneficiaries.
- A three day training programme was conducted by Division of Crop Production on 'Analytical techniques for soil, plant and water analysis' for the officials of Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, Kerala during 02-04 June 2026 for 22 participants.



Training on Analytical techniques for soil, plant and water analysis



Participants with the resource persons

- Hands on training on 'Sweet potato based functional food products' was organized at the Techno Incubation Centre on 16 June 2026 for 8 Kudumbashree officials.
- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized at Techno Incubation Centre on 22 June 2026 for 31 beneficiaries.



Training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops'

Off campus programmes

A farmer training programme was organised under the DMF-Indradhanush Aahaar Yojana - Rainbow Diet Campaign project on 04 April 2026 at Bayakumita, Keonjhar district in Odisha.



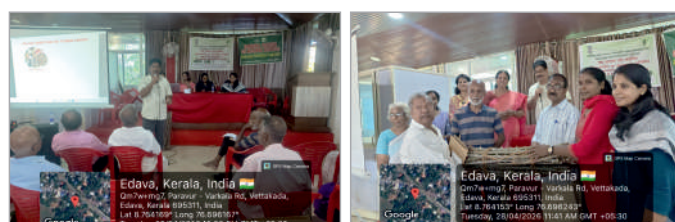
Training programme at Bayakumita

- Training programme on Sustainable horticulture and agrifood systems was organized for 49 Jail inmates of Open Prison and Correctional Home, Nettukaltheri, Kallikadu, Thiruvananthapuram during 20 April 2026-01 May 2026.



Training for Jail Inmates at Nettukaltheri, Thiruvananthapuram

- Training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized on 28 April 2026 for 70 farmers of Edava, Varkala.



Training on Value added products at Edava

- Scientist-farmer interface meeting under Tribal Sub-Plan was organised on 01 May 2026 at Sabarpalli, Gajapati, Odisha for 56 participants.



Scientist-farmer interface meeting at Sabarpalli, Gajapati, Odisha

- Scientist-farmer interface meeting under Tribal Sub was organised on 02 May 2026 at Lambabadi, Kandhamal, Odisha for 22 participants.



Scientist-farmer interface meeting at Lambabadi, Kandhamal, Odisha

- Under the NABARD project, Dhaincha green manure crop seeds were distributed to 160 farmers in Kusumi block, Mayurbhanj district of Odisha on 03 June 2026.



Distribution of Dhaincha seeds to farmers in Digiabedda, Kusumi block, Mayurbhanj district of Odisha

- Under the Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare (Kallakurichi) Project, a location-specific soil health management and balanced fertilizer use module was developed for cassava and sweet potato cultivation in the tribal farming systems of Kalvarayan Hills. To promote its adoption, two awareness programmes were organized for 95 participants in Vellimalai and Serapattu villages during 25-26 May 2026 in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Government of Tamil Nadu, and ICAR-KVK, Kallakurichi.



Awareness programme at Vellimalai



Awareness programme at Serapattu

- A farmer training programme was organised under the DMF-Indradhanush Aahaar Yojana - Rainbow Diet Campaign project on 26 May 2026 at Gonasika, Keonjhar district in Odisha.



Training programme at Gonasika

- A farmer training cum input distribution programme was organized for 40 SC beneficiaries of Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram block on 03 June 2026.

Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings/Field Diagnostic Visits Organized

Workshop on Soil Health Management & Balanced Fertilizer Use for Sustainable Crop Production

The Division of Crop Production hosted a workshop on 'Soil Health Management and Balanced Fertilizer Use for Sustainable Crop Production' on 26 May 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Chairman, Farmers' Welfare Fund Board & Former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI delivered the presidential address. Dr. G. Suja welcomed the gathering, while Dr. V.K. Venugopal, Shri. Saji John and Dr. C.S. Dathan offered felicitations. Technical sessions covered plant nutrition

and food security, soil health management in acid soils in plantation/tuber crops and agro-techniques of tropical tuber crops, followed by an interactive session with farmers from Palakkad. A total of 180 delegates participated in the workshop to discuss sustainable nutrient management and climate resilient farming.



Inaugural address by Dr. P. Rajendran



Director, ICAR-CTCRI delivering the presidential address



Participants of the workshop

Task Force review meeting (Virtual)

The first virtual Task Force review meeting of the PPV&FRA-funded project, Development of DUS Guidelines for Chinese Potato, was held on 26 May 2026. The meeting

was chaired by Dr. Dinesh Kumar Agarwal, Registrar General, PPV&FRA, to review project's progress and provide technical guidance. The meeting was co-ordinated by Dr. P. Murugesan, Principal Investigator of the Project.

Brainstorming on *Fusarium* diseases in tropical tuber crops

ICAR-CTCRI organized a brainstorming meeting (hybrid mode) on '*Fusarium* diseases in tropical tuber crops: Emerging challenges and research priorities' on 23 June 2026. The meeting was attended by 29 participants representing ICAR Institutes, Kerala Agricultural University, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Kerala. The participants actively deliberated on the emerging challenges posed by *Fusarium* diseases in crops and identified key research priorities. Based on the presentations and discussion, a comprehensive plan of action was formulated to mitigate *Fusarium* diseases in tropical tuber crops.



Director, ICAR-CTCRI addressing the brainstorming meeting



Participants of the brainstorming meeting

Field Diagnostic visit

Two diagnostic visits were conducted on 22 May 2026 at Parasuvaikkal in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala, in connection with the incidence of cassava stem and root rot. Management advisories were provided to the farmers for effective disease management.



Field diagnostic visit

Exhibitions

During the period, ICAR-CTCRI participated in the following exhibitions.

- Exhibition in connection with Krishi Vaibhav 2026, FPO Mela and AgriFest held during 15-19 May 2026 at Putharikandam Ground, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



Exhibition at Putharikandam ground, Thiruvananthapuram

- Exhibition in connection with Regional Media Workshop organized by Press Information Bureau in collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI on 12 June 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Exhibition in connection with 'Punarjeevana Madhuram' organized by Kudumbasree Mission, Govt. of Kerala in collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI on 18 June 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Exhibition in connection with PM Kisan Utsav Diwas and Stakeholders interface programme on Tuber crops based agrifood systems held on 20 June 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Exposure visits to ICAR-CTCRI

- An exposure visit was conducted for a group of 12 M.Sc. students of Christian College, Kattakada, Thiruvananthapuram to the labs of Division of Crop Improvement.



Students of Christian College with the coordinator

- Twelve one day exposure visit cum training on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' was organized for the benefit of 487 farmers, 187 students and 40 officials during the period at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Two Swachh Bharat campaigns were organized during the period. The first campaign was conducted on 28 April 2026 in the workshop premises of the Crop Utilisation Section, during which plastic, electrical, and biodegradable waste was segregated and disposed off from an area of approximately 1,500 sq. ft., generating about 200 kg of waste. The second campaign was organized on 30 June 2026 in and around the transgenic glasshouse premises, with active participation of CTCRI staff, students, and contractual personnel.



Glimpses of Swachh Bharat campaigns

Activities of Agribusiness Incubator

World Intellectual Property Day workshop

To commemorate World Intellectual Property Day 2026, a workshop on 'Geographical Indications in Agri-food Systems: Legal Architecture, Case Studies and Commercialisation Pathways' was organized on 30 April 2026. Mr. S. Ravi, IPR Consultant, BizRights, Hyderabad delivered an expert lecture on the legal framework governing geographical indications, notable case studies, and strategies for leveraging GI protection for commercialisation and value creation in the agri-food sector. Presiding over the programme, Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, emphasized the importance of intellectual property protection in enhancing the competitiveness and market potential of agricultural innovations and traditional products. The workshop was attended by 88 scientists, research scholars, students, and other stakeholders involved in agri-food innovation and technology commercialization.



World Intellectual Property Day workshop

Certified Agritech Startup Professional (CAgtSP)

ICAR-CTCRI Agribusiness Incubator, in collaboration with Kerala Agricultural University, organized the Certified Agritech Startup Professional (CAgtSP) Programme on 19 May 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI for 156 final-year B.Sc. (Ag) students of College of Agriculture, Vellayani. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI emphasized that the future of Indian agriculture depends on innovation-driven enterprises capable of addressing critical challenges such as climate resilience, labour shortages, and nutritional security. The programme equipped students with essential skills in agribusiness incubation, digital agriculture, value addition, branding, and government support mechanisms.



Certified Agritech Startup Professional Programme

Technology Commercialization/Linkages/ Collaborations

- Root sMart Mall Business model was licensed to a Chennai based firm, M/s MicroNutrich, Tamil Nadu, on 17 April 2026 for a license fee of ₹1.00 lakh. The Root sMart Mall Model is an innovative retail and market-linkage platform that connects scientifically validated agricultural innovations and authentic farmer products directly with consumers.



Root sMart Mall licensing to M/S Micronutrich Pvt Ltd

Contract Research

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 22 April 2026 between ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) and The Spices Board of India for collaborative research on the Development of a Cardamom Growth Simulation Model.



Contract research MoA with the Spices Board

Collaborations

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) and Community Agrobiodiversity Centre, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Wayanad on 15 May 2026. The MoU aims to foster collaboration in nine thematic areas related to tuber crop research and development. Further, discussions were held to outline collaborative strategies and finalize the future course of action aimed at strengthening tuber crop development and enhancing the livelihoods of marginalized tuber crop farmers across the country.



MoU with MSSRF

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and the Vellalar College for Women (VCW), Tamil Nadu on 17 April 2026. The MoU aims to foster collaborative research and development in the fields of

soil analysers, sensors, and Internet of Things (IoT)-based technologies for smart and precision agriculture, promoting innovation and technology-driven solutions for sustainable crop production.



MoU with Vellalar College of Women

Capacity building

Trainings attended by staff

Sl. No.	Name	Particulars of the training	Period
1	Dr. T. Makeshkumar Mr. Ashish Mrs. Rohini K Nair	Functional file numbering systems in ICAR, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, Kerala.	04 May 2026
2	Dr. T. Krishnakumar	Workshop on 'Applied AI & ML for post-harvest engineering and technology. Agricultural & Food Engineering Department, IIT Kharagpur.	18-22 May 2026
3	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Strengthening agriculture research with gender perspective for sustainable agri-food systems at ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	01-05 June 2026

iGOT Karmayogi Training Programmes

Sl. No.	Name	Particulars of the training	Period
1	Dr. S.S. Veena	Deep Tech and India (Observer Research Foundation)	02 April 2026
2	Dr. A. Asha Devi	Managing and leading teams	02 April 2026
3	Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. A. Asha Devi	Artificial Intelligence for Public Governance (Kyndryl)	03 April 2026 07 April 2026
4	Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. A. Asha Devi	Large Language Models: Concepts and Applications (Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad)	06 April 2026 07 April 2026
5	Dr. K.I. Asha	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	08 April 2026
6	Dr. K.I. Asha	Core areas of Artificial Intelligence	08 April 2026
7	Dr. K.I. Asha	Fundamentals of Generative Artificial Intelligence	08 April 2026
8	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Stress Management (Indian Institute of Public Administration)	08 April 2026
9	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Time Management (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	08 April 2026
10	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Improving Outreach and Communication for Viksit Bharat (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)	10 April 2026
11	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. S.S. Veena	Artificial Intelligence for Karmayogis (Karmayogi Bharat)	10 April 2026
12	Dr. S.S. Veena	Governing artificial intelligence (National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY, Govt of India)	13 April 2026
13	Dr. S.S. Veena	AI applications in Government (National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY, Govt of India)	13 April 2026
14	Dr. A. Asha Devi	Improving outreach and communication for Vikshit Bharat	21 April 2026
15	Dr. A. Asha Devi	APAR Comprehensive Assessment for ICAR employees 2025-26	21 April 2026

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

Sl. No.	Name of the participant	Programme	Date of the programme
1	Dr. T. Makeshkumar Dr. C. Mohan Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra	Asian cassava breeding and disease network meeting, Tay Ninh, Vietnam	31 March -02 April 2026
2	Dr. P.S. Sivakumar	Meeting with Dr. Dileesh Sasi, IAS, CEO, Zila Parishad, Uttar Kannada district	06 April 2026
3	All Scientists	Second meeting of tenth Research Advisory Committee, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	16-17 April 2026
4	Dr. G. Byju Dr. G. Suja Dr. T. Makeshkumar Dr. M.R. Sahoo Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan Dr. M.S. Sajeev Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra Dr. S. Sunitha Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. J. Sureshkumar Shri S. Bhadra Kumar Smt. Jessymol Antony Shri J. Unni	Institute Management Committee, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	17 April 2026
5	All Staff	Awareness meeting on ICAR Policies: Gender strategy, MELIA, Data policy and Communication strategy, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	28-29 April 2026
6	All Staff	World intellectual property day 2026, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	30 April 2026
7	Dr. Jeena Mathew	Consultation Workshop on Bharat Soil Health Policy held at ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad	07 May 2026
8	All Staff	H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture: 2026, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	19 May 2026
9	Dr. T. Makeshkumar Dr. M. L. Jeeva	National seminar on Biosecurity risks and mitigation strategies in horticultural crops, ICAR- CPCRI Regional Station, Kayamkulam.	22-24 April 2026
10	All Scientists	Workshop on Soil Health Management and Balanced Fertilizer Use for Sustainable Crop Production, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	26 May 2026
11	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	AICRPTC Experiment Management System (online) ICAR, New Delhi	03 June 2026
12	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	World Environment Day celebration at UP school, Cheruvickal, Thiruvananthapuram.	05 June 2026
13	Dr. Jeena Mathew	Meeting of the technical evaluation committee, Department of Soil Survey and Soil Conservation (online)	06 June 2026
14	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Expenditure Review Meeting (online) ICAR, New Delhi	10 June 2026
15	All Staff	Punarjeevana Madhuram, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	18 June 2026
16	Dr. P.S. Sivakumar	Meeting on Promotion of Tapioca in Meghalaya, ICAR-RC NEH, Umiam	19 June 2026
17	All Staff	PM-KISAN Utsav Diwas and Stakeholders interface on tropical tuber crops-based agrifood systems, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	20 June 2026
18	Dr. T. Makeshkumar Dr. M.L. Jeeva Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. Jeena Mathew Dr. E.R. Harish Dr. H. Kesava Kumar Dr. B. G. Sangeetha	Brainstorming on Fusarium diseases in tropical tuber crops: Emerging challenges and research priorities, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	23 June 2026

19	Dr. P.S. Sivakumar	ICAR CSR & Technology Portfolio Roadshow Series 2026, ICAR-NIANP, Bengaluru	23 June 2026
20	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Expenditure Review Meeting (online) ICAR, New Delhi	24 June 2026
21	All Staff	Cybersecurity for women: Staying safe in digital world, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	29 June 2026
22	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Hindi Workshop on IT products of the Department of Official Language and use of Hindi in E-office, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	30 June 2026

Sadhana Saptah Webinars (02-10 April 2026)

Sl. No.	Name	Particulars of the training
1	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. S.S. Veena	Sovereign AI: Powering India's growth and social impact
2	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. S.S. Veena	Traditions, Health and well being
3	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. S.S. Veena	Beyond duty: Art, tradition and soul of Public service
4	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. A. Asha Devi Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Reforms in governance at ICAR
5	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. A. Asha Devi	Securing the Last Mile: Digital Skilling for Personnel
6	Dr. K.I. Asha	India's International Technology Engagement Strategy for Quantum Building Digital Highways: Infrastructure for an Inclusive Bharat How to maintain Immunity during seasonal changes Bharatiya Virasat: The Civilizational Blueprint for Viksit Bharat
7	Dr. A. Asha Devi	Sustainable Agriculture and Water Management in a Changing Climate
8	Dr. S.S. Veena	Role of AI in agricultural development and capacity building Where Tradition meets practice Powering India's tech future
9	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Science Communication AI Driven Governance for Inclusive Development AI and Policy Making Ethical Challenges Self-learning as your personal superpower (Steel Authority of India Limited) Farmer income growth in India

Publications

Research papers

- Harish, E.R., Jayaprakas, C.A., Rajeswari, L.S., Krishnan, J.U., Ajitha, B.S., Ajesh, G. and Sreerag, R.S. 2026. Hydrothermal processing of cassava leaf biowaste for biopesticide extraction and its efficacy against *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Cylas formicarius*. *Journal of the Iranian Chemical Society*, **23**(6): p.168 (NAAS score: 8.3)
- Nedunchezhiyan, M., Jata, S.K., Arutselvan, R. and Pati, K. 2026. Effect of drip irrigation and fertigation on yield, water and fertilizer-use efficiency and economics of greater yam (*Dioscorea alata*) in eastern India. *Current Horticulture*, **14**(2): 79-83. (NAAS score: 4.62).
- Nedunchezhiyan, M., Jata, S.K., Nedunchezhiyan, K.M., Gowda, K.H. and Pati, K. 2026. Production potential of taro and vegetables intercropping systems under rainfed upland agro-ecosystems of Eastern India. *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science*, **54**: e70183. (NAAS score: 7.50).
- Saravanan, R. 2026. Advances in value-addition of horticultural crops: Postharvest shelf-life extension, clean-label preservation, minimally processed products, and byproduct valorization. *Current Horticulture*, **14**(2): 36-48. (NAAS score: 4.62).
- Sarika Nandan and Suja, G. 2026. Effect of organic, integrated and conventional management on growth, yield and soil health in cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) - vegetable intercropping systems. *Current Horticulture*, **14**(2): 100-106. (NAAS score: 4.62).

6. Sharma, L.D., Bhupenchandra, I., Singh, E.J., Dutta, S., Pandey, Y., Chongtham, S.K., Devi, H.L., Bordoloi, A., Dasgupta, M. and Sahoo, M. R. 2026. Multivariate source apportionment and integrated indexical assessment of heavy metal contamination in northeast Indian wetland sediments and soils. *Sci. Rep.* **16**, 20744. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-47913-9> (NAAS score: 9.9)
7. Sreekumar, J., Krishendu Asok and Visalakshi Chandra, C. 2026. Computer vision-based classification of post-harvest physiological deterioration in cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) roots using deep learning models. *J. Stored Prod. Res.* **118** (NAAS score: 8.8)

Book

1. Harish, E.R., Makesh Kumar, T., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Kesava Kumar, H., Sangeetha, B.G. and Arutselvan, R. 2026. *Pocket Book on Diseases and Pests of Tropical Tuber Crops in India*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 75p.

Book chapters

1. Adhikary, N.K., Arutselvan, R. and Ao, N.T. 2026. Recent advances in molecular diagnostics of plant viruses. In: *Diagnosis and Green Perspectives in the Management of Agricultural Pests*. Banik, S. and Halder, J. (Eds.), Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, pp. 199-217.
2. Mageshwaran, V., Osarenkhoe, O.O., Tosin, L.O., Akash, K., Arutselvan, R., Vadivu Nadana, G.R. and Palanisamy, S. 2026. Lignocellulosic resources and potential for its application in biohydrogen and platform chemicals. In: *Lignocellulosic Biomass to Biohydrogen: A Circular Economy and Sustainable Approach to Decarbonization*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc, pp. 381-429.
3. Pati, K., Giri, A.K. and Kishore, A. 2026. *Pachyrhizus spp.* In: *Underutilized tuber crops of the Himalayan Region, Nutraceutical potential, Processing, and Application*. Gupta, A.K. and Negi, S.N. (Eds.) Elsevier, pp. 395-408.
4. Santhosh Mithra, V.S. 2026. E-Crop Based Smart Farming for a Smart Future. In: *Harvesting Intelligence: The AI Revolution in Agriculture, From Fields to Algorithms, Cultivating Future Harvests*. Arora, A. et al. (Eds.), Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-5175-0_3

Technical bulletins

1. Ramesh, V., Saravanan Raju and Prakash, P. 2026. *Climate contingency plan for major cassava growing districts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu*. Technical bulletin No. TB-117/2025. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 34p.
2. Sreekumar, J., Kumar, H.K., Akhila Anil, I. and Anu Reshmy R. Nair. 2026. *All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops- A Profile*, Technical bulletin No. TB-123/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 77p.

Popular articles

1. Gayathri S.P., Jijo Jose, Sreelakshmi, K.P. and Santhosh Mithra, V.S. 2026. Krithima Budhi: Maarunna Krishi Reethiyude Koottukaran. *Karshakanadam*, June (2026): 45-47.
2. Nandhini, C., Senthilkumar, K.M., Makesh Kumar, T., Koundinya, A.V.V., Haritha, H., Jasbin, C.K., Krishnakumar, T. and Mohan, C. 2026. Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD): Host- Virus- Vector relationship. *Agritech*, **3**(2):19-22.
3. Sharma, S., Arutselvan, R., Pradhan, S., Das, B.B., Routray, S., Lagna, J. and Jena, K. 2026. Innovative soilless techniques for minituber production in greater yam. *Agri Magazine*, **3**(6): 70-74.
4. Susan John, K., Anju P.S., Shanida Beegum, S.U., Sheela M.N., Jeena Mathew and Suja, G. 2026. Nutrient use efficient cassava varieties under coconut gardens of Kerala. *Indian Coconut Journal*, **10**: 6-11
5. Varsha, T., Velmurugan, M., Indu Rani, C., Venkatachalam, S.R. and Krishnakumar, T. 2026. Waxy cassava: The next generation starch with superior functional properties. *Innovative Agriculture*, **2**(8):276-278.
6. Varsha, T., Velmurugan, M., Indu Rani, C., Venkatachalam, S.R., Krishnakumar, T., Thirukumaran, K. and Veeramani, P. 2026. Cassava's Hidden Health Treasure: The Rise of Resistant Starch. *Agritech*, **3**(2): 10-12.

Conference/Souvenir/Seminar proceedings

1. Jeeva, M.L., Makesh Kumar, T., Veena, S.S., Arutselvan, R., Harish, E.R., Kesava Kumar, H., Sangeetha, B.G., Sunilkumar, K., Muthuraj, R. and Krishna Radhika, N. 2026. Biosecurity concerns on

planting materials of tropical tuber crops: Prospects and challenges. In: *Book of Abstracts of National seminar: Biosecurity risks and mitigation strategies in horticultural crops*, 22-24 April 2026, ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha, Kerala, pp. 35.

2. Krishna Radhika N., Athira, S.M. and Sreekumar, J. 2026. A prerequisite for genetic transformation: Optimising *in vitro* friable embryogenic callus generation and regeneration in cassava cultivar 9S127' In: *Book of abstracts: International Seminar on New Horizons in Plant Sciences (NHPS) 2026, Exploring Plant Innovations and Interactions for a Sustainable Future*, 30 March - 01 April 2026, University of Kerala, Karyavattom, Kerala, India, pp.80.

Technical/Extension folders/Leaflets

1. Asha, K. I., Sheela, M.N., Asha Devi A. and Aswin S. Kumar. 2026. *Sree Dhrona-A high yielding semi-dwarf white yam variety* (Malayalam). Technical Folder No. TF-27/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
2. Asha, K. I., Sheela, M. N., Makesh Kumar, T. and Senthilkumar, K.M. 2026. *Sree Kaveri - A high yielding CMD resistant drought tolerant industrial variety of cassava* (Malayalam). Technical Folder No. TF-26/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
3. Sunitha, S., Suja, G. and Sunilkumar, K. 2026. *Chena* (Malayalam). Technical Leaflet No. TF-25/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
4. Sunitha, S., Suja, G. and Sunilkumar, K. 2026. *Madhurakizhangu* (Malayalam). Technical Leaflet No. TF-24/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
5. Sunitha, S., Suja, G. and Sunilkumar, K. 2026. *Maracheeni* (Malayalam). Technical Leaflet No. TF-23/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
6. Suresh Kumar, J., Suresh, V. and Pradeepika, C. 2026. *Agrotechniques of Tropical Tuber Crops* (Telugu). Technical Leaflet No. TF-21/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

Institute Publications

1. ICAR-CTCRI. 2026. *ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter January-March 2026*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, **43**(1): 28p.
2. ICAR-AICRP TC. 2026. *Annual Report 2025*. ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 174p.
3. ICAR-AICRP TC. 2026. *Technical Report 2025-2026*. XXVI Annual Group Meeting, 21-23 May 2026, ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 159p.
4. ICAR-CTCRI. 2026. *52nd Annual Institute Research Council: Action taken report, salient achievements 2025-26 & Project Milestones 2026-27*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 190p.

Major Institute Events

Awareness Campaign on Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers

ICAR-CTCRI organized an intensive Awareness Campaign on Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers from 20 April to 31 May 2026 as part of the national initiative to promote sustainable soil health and scientific nutrient management. During the campaign period, a total of 25 awareness programmes and training activities were organized across the three states, covering major tuber-growing districts including Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad in Kerala, Khordha, Cuttack and Kendujhar in Odisha, and Erode and Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu. The programmes witnessed the participation of 2175 farmers, comprising 1186 men and 989 women. The campaign covered key aspects of soil health management, including soil testing, Soil Health Cards, balanced fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management, organic manures, biofertilizers, micronutrients, crop residue recycling, and green manuring.

Practical demonstrations on green manuring, integrated nutrient management (INM), and biofertilizers enabled farmers to understand the benefits of these technologies under field conditions. Scientists provided field-specific nutrient management recommendations, while farmers highlighted the need for improved access to soil testing facilities, quality biofertilizers, green manure seeds, and

crop-specific nutrient recommendations. The campaign also facilitated the dissemination of improved technologies, quality planting materials, extension literature, and technical guidance on integrated crop and climate-resilient nutrient management practices.

Overall, the Awareness Campaign on Soil Health Management and Balanced Use of Fertilizers enhanced

farmers' knowledge of scientific soil health management across Kerala, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. The campaign strengthened linkages between researchers, extension agencies, and farmers while promoting sustainable nutrient management practices for improved soil fertility, nutrient use efficiency, and climate-resilient agriculture.





Glimpses of awareness campaign conducted by 11 teams of ICAR-CTCRI

Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Save the farm campaign)

The institute successfully implemented the Khet Bachao Abhiyan (KBA) across Kerala, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu states during 01-30 June 2026 to promote Soil Health Management (SHM) and the balanced use of fertilizers. The campaign was carried out by 11 multidisciplinary teams through 21 awareness-cum-capacity building programmes covering 38 villages in six districts namely, Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad (Kerala), Khordha, Kendujhar, and Cuttack (Odisha), and Erode (Tamil Nadu). A total of 2,049 farmers (1,008 men and 1,041 women) participated, reflecting the Institute's commitment to inclusive and gender-responsive agricultural extension.

As part of the campaign, field demonstrations showcased sustainable soil health management practices, and interface meetings involving researchers, extension agencies, input suppliers, and farmer organizations strengthened technology dissemination. The campaign received extensive publicity through newspapers, television, radio, and social media, with the latter reaching approximately 1,496 people, thereby extending its outreach beyond the programme locations. The Khet Bachao Abhiyan conducted by ICAR-CTCRI strengthened farmer's knowledge of scientific nutrient management and soil health conservation while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.





Glimpses of Khet Bachao Abhiyan at ICAR-CTCRI

PM-Kisan Utsav Diwas and Stakeholders' Interface on Tropical Tuber Crop-Based Agrifood Systems

The Institute organized PM-KISAN Utsav Diwas in connection with the release of the 23rd instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Scheme by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The programme also featured a Stakeholders' Interface on Tropical Tuber Crop-Based Agrifood Systems & Khet Bachao Abhiyan, bringing together 416 participants, including farmers, scientists, students, entrepreneurs, extension personnel, and media representatives. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, highlighted the significance of PM-KISAN in strengthening farmers' livelihoods and the role of tropical tuber crops in ensuring food, nutrition, and livelihood security.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Tourism, Government of India, who delivered the inaugural address and distributed quality planting materials of tropical tuber crops to farmers. A major highlight of the programme was the live telecast of the release of the 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister from Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal, which participants viewed as part of the nationwide event.



Inaugural address by Shri Suresh Gopi,
Hon'ble Minister of State for
Petroleum and Natural Gas & Tourism, Government of India



Live web telecast of the release of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi
by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister

Second meeting of X-RAC meeting

The second meeting of the 10th Research Advisory Committee meeting was held at the Institute during 16-17 April 2026. The 11 member committee chaired by Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Former Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala and represented by eminent scientists in various agricultural disciplines made a thorough review of the ongoing research projects and the significant achievements made by the institute during the last one year. Dr. G. Byju, Director ICAR-CTCRI, welcomed the gathering. He presented the salient achievements of the Institute during 2025-26. Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General, ICAR, New Delhi delivered his remarks and emphasized the importance of including novel research programmes in line with the objectives outlined. The two day deliberations enabled to evolve a road map for streamlining future research programmes of the institute so as to achieve sustainability in the production of tropical tuber crops in our country.



Chairman, Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy making inaugural remarks



RAC members with Scientists of ICAR-CTCRI

XXVI Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-AICRP on Tuber Crops

The XXVI Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-AICRP on Tuber Crops was held at the College of Horticulture, UHS Campus, GKVK, Bengaluru, during 21-23 May 2026. The AGM was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), ICAR, in the presence of Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General (FVS & MP), ICAR; Dr. G. Byju, Director and Project Coordinator, ICAR-CTCRI; Dr. M. Prabhakar, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru; Dr. T.K. Behera, Director, ICAR-IIHR; and other dignitaries. Dr. Vishnuvardhana, Vice-Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, presided over the inaugural session.

Dr. G. Byju presented the achievements of AICRP on Tuber Crops during 2025-26, highlighting progress in crop improvement, production, protection, post-harvest management, and extension. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh emphasized the importance of tuber crops in food and nutritional security, while Dr. Sudhakar Pandey stressed the need for climate-resilient varieties, area expansion, and the adoption of advanced technologies. Technical sessions reviewed the Action Taken Report, research progress across disciplines, stakeholder interactions, and finalized the technical programme and budget for 2026-27 to strengthen coordinated research and technology dissemination in tropical tuber crops.



Dignitaries at the inaugural session



Participants of the XXVI AGM

A State Level Capacity Building Training Programme on 'Tuber Crop Production and Value Addition for Farm University SCSP Students' was organized on 23 May 2026 at the College of Horticulture, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. The programme was jointly organized by the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot and AICRP on Tuber Crops, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, as part of activities aimed at strengthening awareness and skill development among SCSP students.



Inaugural session of the capacity building programme



Inaugural session of Endowment lecture



Prof. J.N. Moorthy delivering the endowment lecture

H.H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute in association with the Indian Society for Root Crops organized the prestigious H. H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture on 19 May 2026. Prof. J.N. Moorthy, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER Thiruvananthapuram) was the Chief Guest and delivered the endowment lecture on the topic 'Molecular innovation to global impact: Nobel prize-winning discoveries in Chemistry.' In his lecture, he traced the evolution of chemistry and highlighted recent breakthrough advancements shaping the world today. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, presided over the function and in his address, emphasized the institute's significant research contributions and the growing relevance of molecular innovation in advancing agricultural science. The programme was attended by around 200 participants, including scientists, students, and staff members. Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Secretary and Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Joint Secretary of the Society also addressed the gathering.

52nd Annual Institute Research Council

The 52nd IRC meeting was held during 15-17 & 19 June 2026. Critical decisions were taken regarding the research works to be undertaken during the next four-year period (2026-27 to 2029-30). The Institute has made remarkable advancements in research, extension and capacity building during the period from April 2025 to March 2026. Major achievements were the release of the sweet potato variety *Bhu Arunima* and yam bean variety *Shakarkanda-1*. Several innovative value-added products and technologies were developed, including mucoadhesive oral patches with sustained drug release, functional sweet potato flour and rava, ready-to-use weaning food enriched with anthocyanin and beta-carotene-rich sweet potato, and an electronic starch indicator for rapid estimation in cassava tubers. Other notable achievements include the certification of technologies by ICAR, such as a portable cassava sett cutter and organic production technologies for taro. The Institute also secured a patent for a soilless nutrient formulation and commercialized several technologies, including an IoT-based moisture sensor device, elite germplasm such as purple taro, and processed products.



Inaugural session of IRC



Inaugural session of the programme



Director and scientists of ICAR-CTCRI



Shri. K.M. Shaji, Hon'ble Minister addressing the gathering

Kudumbashree Launched ICAR-CTCRI's Sweet Potato Products for International Markets

The State Kudumbashree Mission, in collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI, launched eight sweet potato-based value-added products developed under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programme in Attappady during the Punarjeevana Madhuram programme held on 18 June 2026. The products were launched by Shri. K.M. Shaji, Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government, Government of Kerala. Shri. H. Dinesan, Commissioner, Land Revenue Department and former Executive Director of Kudumbashree, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the role of sweet potato-based enterprises in transforming poverty into prosperity and strengthening women's empowerment through Kudumbashree. Smt. V. Vigneswari, Executive Director, Kudumbashree; Dr. S. Shanavas, Programme Officer (Farm Livelihood), Kudumbashree and Dr. M. S. Sajeev, Principal Scientist and Head, Section of Crop Utilization, ICAR-CTCRI also addressed the gathering. More than 100 women farmers from Attappady participated in the programme.

Other Important Events

Hindi corner

The meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of ICAR-CTCRI for the Quarter I (April to June 2026) was held on 24 June 2026 under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman (OLIC). The Director welcomed all the new members and reviewed the progress of the activities during the quarter and expressed his satisfaction over the Hindi activities/works being performed/ undertaken at the Institute. The meeting was conducted by Dr. A. Asha Devi, Principal Scientist and Liaison Officer (OL) and all the members of OLIC attended the meeting.

Hindi Workshop

An In-house Hindi workshop on the topic 'IT products of the Department of Official Language and use of Hindi in E-Office' was organized on 30 June 2026. Dr. A. Asha Devi, Principal Scientist and Liaison Officer (Official Language), delivered the welcome address. Dr. Manas R. Sahoo, Director (i/c) delivered the inaugural address. A total of 15 officers and 10 employees attended the workshop.



Hindi workshop conducted on 30 June 2026

POSH & Women's Welfare

A training programme on 'Relevance of Cybersecurity in the Context of POSH' for members of the Internal Committee was conducted on 29 June 2026. Shri. A. Nabeel Koya, Scientist F, Cyber Forensics Section, C-DAC, Technopark Campus, Thiruvananthapuram served as the resource person. He delivered a comprehensive session on the role of cybersecurity in preventing and addressing online sexual harassment at the workplace. The Presiding officer and members of the internal committee participated in the training programme.



Training programme for members of the Internal Committee on 29 June 2026

Cybersecurity for Women: Staying Safe in the Digital World

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute organized an awareness talk on 'Cybersecurity for Women: Staying Safe in the Digital World' on 29 June 2026. The session was delivered by Shri. A. Nabeel Koya, Scientist F, Cyber Forensics Section, C-DAC, Technopark Campus, Thiruvananthapuram. The programme was attended by all staff members, including permanent and contractual employees, research fellows, apprentices, and students. Shri. Koya highlighted the importance of cybersecurity for women and discussed common cyber threats such as phishing, cyberstalking, identity theft, online harassment, fake social media profiles and financial fraud. Dr. G. Suja, Director (i/c) and Head, Division of Crop Production, presided over the programme.



Inaugural session of the awareness programme on Cybersecurity

National Reading Day

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) observed National Reading Day on 19 June 2026 with enthusiastic participation from the staff members and students. As part of the celebration, participants engaged in a 15 minute reading session using books selected from the library collection, highlighting the importance of cultivating reading habits and promoting the use of library resources. Following the reading session, a small interactive event was conducted to assess and encourage attentive reading. The event witnessed active participation and appreciation from all attendees. In addition to the staff and students of the Institute, students from the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru also participated in the programme.



Director's Visits

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI inaugurated the four-day “Face to Face with Frontiers in Science & Technology” programme organised by Swadeshi Science Movement at NCESS, Akkulam on 27 April 2026.



Dr. G. Byju inaugurating the programme at NCESS, Akkulam

- Director, Dr. G. Byju launched programme on 'MISSION SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)', a joint initiative of ICAR and ICMR at NASC, New Delhi on 11 May 2026.
- Dr. G. Byju visited the Regional Station, Bhubaneswar during 29-30 June 2026 to review research programmes, staff performance, and ongoing scientific activities. He also assessed new research facilities and interacted with scientists and staff to strengthen innovation, collaboration, and research excellence.



Director reviewing research programmes at ICAR-CTCRI RS, Bhubaneswar

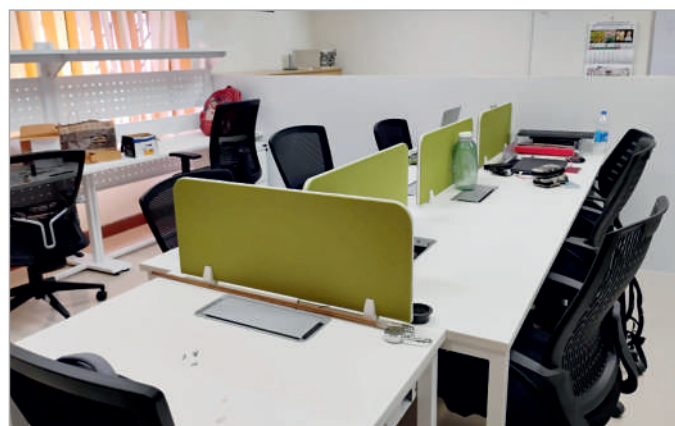
Infrastructure/Facilities

A new shade house facility was established under the PPV & FRA project on 'Development of DUS guidelines for Chinese potato' in block 1 of the institute for conservation and maintenance farmer's varieties and reference varieties of Chinese Potato.



Exterior and interior view of newly built shade house

- Agrobotics laboratory is established at Section of Extension and Social Sciences to strengthen R & D in tropical tuber crops in the areas of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.



Agrobotics laboratory

New Project Sanctioned

- Development of DUS test guidelines for Chinese potato (*Solenostemon rotundifolius* Poir J.K. Morton.) (PI: Dr. P. Murugesan; PPV&FRA, New Delhi, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; ₹ 17.30 lakhs)
- Collaborative research project titled 'Development of Cardamom Growth Simulation Model for e-Crop Based Smart Farming (eCBSF)' (PI: Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra; Collaboration between ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram and Spices Board, Government of India; ₹ 9.26 lakhs)

Distinguished Visitors

Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Dr. Rana Jai, Country representative, Alliance bioversity-CIAT visited ICAR- CTCRI on 28 April 2026 to discuss the achievements and future action plan under the collaborative programme on cassava and yam.



- Dr. A.B. Rema Shree, Director (Research), Spices Board visited ICAR-CTCRI and signed A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between ICAR-CTCRI and the Spices Board, Government of India, to foster research collaboration and technology adaptation.
- Dr. R. Rangalakshmi, Executive Director, MSSRF, Chennai, Dr. Niraj U. Joshi, Director, Centre for Agrobiodiversity Conservation (CABc) and Dr. C. Thamban, Senior Fellow, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation visited the Institute and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAR-CTCRI.
- Prof. J.N. Moorthy, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Thiruvananthapuram visited the Institute on 19 May 2026 on the occasion of H.H. Sree Visakhham Thirunal Endowment Lecture: 2026 and delivered lecture on 'From Molecular Innovation to Global Impact: Nobel Winning Contributions of Chemical Sciences'.
- Dr. P. Rajendran, former Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University visited the institute on the occasion of the workshop on 'Soil Health Management and Balanced Fertilizer Use for Sustainable Crop Production' on 26 May 2026.
- Shri V.V. Rajesh, Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, visited ICAR-CTCRI and interacted with the scientists to understand the institute's research and development activities on 02 June 2026.



Director, ICAR-CTCRI, receiving the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram

- Shri V. Palanichamy, IIS, Additional Director General (Region), PIB, Thiruvananthapuram visited the Institute on the occasion of; "VARTA", a media workshop organised jointly by ICAR-CTCRI and PIB Thiruvananthapuram on 12 June 2026.



- Shri. K.M. Shaji, Hon'ble Minister for Local Self Governments in Kerala visited the Institute and launched eight sweet potato value-added products of ICAR-CTCRI internationally through Kudumbashree's premium agri-food brand K-INAM on 18 June 2026 in the presence of Smt. V. Vigneswari IAS, Executive Director, Kudumbashree and Shri. Dinesh, IAS.



- Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of India, visited ICAR-CTCRI to inaugurate and featured the live telecast of the release of the 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 20 June 2026.



Regional Station, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- Padma Shri Dr. Vijai Pal Singh, a distinguished Indian agricultural scientist and rice breeder, widely recognized as the 'Father of Basmati rice in India' visited the RS, ICAR-CTCRI on 20 April 2026.



Honours, Awards and Recognitions

Awards

- Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. M.S. Sajeev and Dr. C. Pradeepika received copyright registration certificate for the work titled 'Data driven algorithm for grading of sweet potato tubers using machine vision system'.
- Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. M.S. Sajeev and Dr. C. Pradeepika received design patent registration certificate for portable self-propelled cassava sett cutter.



Copyright registration certificate and Design patent registration certificate received by the team

- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra and eCBSF project team, honoured by Panavoor Grama Panchayat, Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram for their dedicated efforts in successfully implementing the Smart Farming Project and promoting climate-smart, technology-enabled agriculture in the region.



Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra receiving honour from Panavoor Gramapanchayat

- ICAR-CTCRI bagged Best Exhibition stall award (Second prize) in the Exhibition in connection with Krishi Vaibhav 2026, FPO Mela and Agri Fest held during 15-19 May 2026 at Putharikandam Ground, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.



Receiving Best Exhibition stall award at Krishi Vaibhav 2026

Recognitions

- Dr. P. Murugesan delivered a guest lecture on 'Gene bank conservation of tropical tuber crops' and acted as the Chairman for the viva voce examination of a Ph.D student of TNAU, Coimbatore.
- Dr. P. Murugesan is nominated as Adjunct Faculty to deliver special technical lectures in Seed Science and Technology to faculty, postgraduate students, and research scholars of TNAU, Coimbatore.
- Dr. P. Murugesan, member, Revised Task Force Committee of PPV& FRA project on Development of DUS guidelines for Chinese potato for finalisation of DUS guidelines.
- Dr. K.I. Asha served as the external evaluator for a Ph.D. thesis of Kerala Agricultural University.

- Dr. K. Sunilkumar delivered an invited lecture on Production technology of tropical tuber crops at IFSRS, KAU, Karamana.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar delivered a lead lecture in National seminar on Biosecurity risks and mitigation strategies in horticultural crops, 22-24 April 2026 at ICAR- CPCRI Regional Station, Kayamkulam.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Evaluator for a Ph.D thesis of TNAU, Coimbatore.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar, External expert for JRF to SRF progress evaluation of a Ph.D. student under the DST INSPIRE Fellowship, TNAU, Coimbatore.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Subject expert for career advancement of scientist of Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar, DG Nominee for CAS assessment of scientist of ICAR- Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, Evaluator for a Ph.D thesis of ICAR- IARI, New Delhi.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, Reviewer for the journals, Indian Journal of agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology letters and Sugar Tech.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Reviewer for the journals, Archives of Phytopathology, Plant Protection and Entomon.
- Dr. M.S. Sajeev delivered an invited talk on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' in National seminar on 'KRISHI VAIBHAV', 18 April 2026 at CISSA, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar delivered two invited talks at the 'National Young Professionals Development Programme on New Competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension', MANAGE, Hyderabad during 1-5 June 2026.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar participated as 'Business expert' at the interaction meeting on the performance appraisal of the Atal Incubation Centre, SRS, ICAR- NDRI Foundation, Bengaluru on 23 June 2026.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, External examiner for two students of the Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellayani.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, External Examiner for four Ph.D. students of Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan delivered a talk on 'Crop Science for

Society : Improving Lives and Livelihoods' in the Media Interface meeting on 12 June 2026 organized by Press Information Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.

- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Reviewer for the Journal of Plantation Crops.

Recreation Club

Srishti, the Recreation Club of the Institute organized a farewell function to honour its members who superannuated in May 2026. As a token of appreciation for their valuable services, the club accorded a befitting farewell to Dr. K. Susan John, Principal Scientist, Smt. N. Sujatha Kumari, Chief Technical Officer and Mr. N. Jayachandran, UDC on 29 May 2026. The function was presided over by Dr. G. Byju, Director ICAR-CTCRI and President of the Recreation Club. The Director and other club members felicitated the retirees and appreciated their dedicated service and significant contributions to the development of the Institute. Dr. C. Mohan, Vice President and Mr. B.T. Hareesh, Secretary of the club also addressed the gathering.



Glimpses of farewell function organized by Srishti

A function was organized at the ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, Bhubaneswar to honour Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan, Principal Scientist and Scientist-in-Charge, RS on the occasion of his superannuation on 30 June 2026. Dr. G. Byju, Director and other staff members lauded Dr. Nedunchezhiyan's unparalleled contributions to the popularization of tuber crops and commendable service to the Institute and society



Farewell function at ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, Bhubaneswar

Media Coverage

Sl. No.	Date	News title	Name of the News paper
1	28.4.2026	Agricultural Training and Planting Material Distribution	Kerala Kaumudi
2	28.4.2026	Organized a farmers' training programme	Malayala Manorama
3	01.5.2026	Training in Agriculture	Mathrubhumi
4	03.5.2026	Natural Farming Training Programme	Kerala Kaumudi
5	09.5.2026	Awareness Camp	Desabhimani
6	15.5.2026	Sweet Potato in my Kulfi	The Hindu Metro
7	16.5.2026	Signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	Desabhimani
8	20.5.2026	Signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	Janayugam
9	20.5.2026	Endowment Lecture	Desabhimani
10	07.6.2026	Kerala Agriculture Should Be Technology-Driven	Kerala Kaumudi
11	13.6.2026	The media should give greater importance to agricultural achievements	Kerala Kaumudi
12	13.6.2026	India Achieves a Major Leap in Agricultural Exports: ₹4.3 lakh crore worth of agricultural exports recorded in the last financial year.	
13	14.6.2026	Roadmap lists 6 missions for agricultural transformation	The Hindu
14	19.6.2026	Kudumbashree Launches the 'Punarjeevana Madhuram' Scheme	Desabhimani
15	19.6.2026	Soup to Gummies: Value-Added Products from Sweet Potato	Mathrubhumi
16	19.6.2026	Attappady's Sweetness Reaches the Global Market	Malayala Manorama
17	19.6.2026	Attappadi women create 6 items from sweet potato	The New Indian Express
18	19.6.2026	Kudumbashree Launches the 'Punarjeevana Madhuram' Programme	
19	19.6.2026	Minister Says Kudumbashree Is a Strong Symbol of Women's Empowerment on the Global Stage	
20	19.6.2026	"AI Chechi" to Teach Artificial Intelligence to Kudumbashree Women	
21	21.6.2026	Kudumbasree initiative puts Attappady-grown sweet potato on global food map	The Hindu
22	21.6.2026	Excessive Fertilizer Use Harms the Health of Both Humans and Soil: Suresh Gopi	Janmabhumi
23	26.6.2026	Soil health awareness for sweet potato farmers	Pragatibadi
24	27.6.2026	Awareness about sweet potato cultivation	Premaya
25	27.6.2026	Soil health awareness	Samaj

Glimpses of media coverage

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Tuber Crops for Food, Health, Wealth and Prosperity

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