



ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter

ICAR-CENTRAL TUBER CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 52nd Institute Research Council Meeting during 12-15 May 2026 at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- 26th Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Tuber Crops during 21-23 May 2026 at College of Horticulture, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru.



Dr. G. Byju
Director

निदेशक की कलम से

मुझे इस अवधि के दौरान हासिल की गई महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धियों, पहलों और आउटरीच गतिविधियों को प्रस्तुत करते हुए अत्यंत हर्ष हो रहा है। इस अंक की मुख्य बातें स्मार्ट न्यूट्रीगार्डन विकास, संरक्षित खेती की तकनीकें, शकरकंद में मूल्य संवर्धन और कसावा के लिए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक स्टार्च इंडिकेटर जैसे अभिनव उपकरणों के क्षेत्रों में हुई उल्लेखनीय प्रगति को प्रदर्शित करती हैं। ये प्रयास विज्ञान-आधारित समाधानों के माध्यम से उत्पादकता, पोषण सुरक्षा और निरंतरता को बढ़ाने पर हमारे जोर को रेखांकित करते हैं। संस्थान ने विस्तार और क्षमता-निर्माण गतिविधियों में भी उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है, जिसके तहत यह विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के किसानों, छात्रों और हितधारकों तक पहुंचा है। इस अवधि के दौरान आयोजित प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों, फ्रंटलाइन प्रदर्शनों और जागरूकता अभियानों ने अनुसंधान और उसके व्यावहारिक अनुप्रयोगों के बीच के जुड़ाव को मजबूत किया है। 6 जनवरी 2026 को, कर्मचारियों और प्रगतिशील किसानों के साथ संवाद हेतु माननीय केंद्रीय कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर जी का आगमन संस्थान के इतिहास में एक मील का पत्थर साबित हुआ। सभी कर्मचारियों के लिए 'राष्ट्रीय कर्मयोगी जन सेवा कार्यक्रम' पर प्रशिक्षण आयोजित किया गया, जिसका उद्देश्य क्षमता निर्माण, कार्यकुशलता और नागरिक-केंद्रित सेवा वितरण को बढ़ाना था। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस 2026 को 'अधिकार. न्याय. कार्रवाई. सभी महिलाओं और लड़कियों के लिए' - इस मुख्य विषय के साथ बड़े उत्साह और उमंग के साथ मनाया गया। सहयोगी पहलें, प्रौद्योगिकी का व्यावसायीकरण, और राष्ट्रीय तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रमों में भागीदारी ज्ञान के आदान-प्रदान एवं संस्थागत विकास के प्रति हमारे सक्रिय दृष्टिकोण को और अधिक उजागर करती हैं। हमारे कर्मचारियों की उपलब्धियाँ-जिनमें प्रकाशन, पुरस्कार और सम्मान शामिल हैं-हमारे शोध समुदाय के समर्पण और उत्कृष्टता का प्रमाण हैं। दो पेटेंट नामतः 'पोषक तत्व निर्माण और इसकी तैयारी के लिए एक प्रक्रिया' और 'मिट्टी की नमी माप के लिए आईओटी-आधारित उपकरण' का डिजाइन उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियों में से थे। उष्णकटिबंधीय कंद फसलों के अनुसंधान और विकास में निरंतर नवाचारों के साथ, आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई 'विकसित भारत' की परिकल्पना के अनुरूप आगे बढ़ रहा है, और खाद्य एवं पोषण सुरक्षा, किसानों की समृद्धि तथा सतत कृषि विकास को बढ़ाने में योगदान दे रहा है।

From the Director

It gives me immense pleasure to present the significant achievements, initiatives, and outreach activities undertaken during the period. The highlights of this issue showcase notable advancements in areas such as smart nutrigarden development, protected cultivation techniques, value addition in sweet potato, and innovative tools like the electronic starch indicator for cassava. These efforts underline our focus on enhancing productivity, nutritional security, and sustainability through science-led solutions. The Institute has also made remarkable strides in extension and capacity-building activities, reaching farmers, students, and stakeholders across diverse regions. Training programmes, frontline demonstrations, and awareness campaigns conducted during the period have strengthened the link between research and its practical applications. The visit of Shri. Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on 06 January 2026 for interaction with staff and progressive farmers, marked a milestone in the Institute's history. Training on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme was organized for all staff aiming to enhance capacity building, efficiency, and citizen-centric service delivery. International Women's Day 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and interest on the focal theme 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls'. Collaborative initiatives, technology commercialization, and participation in national and international events further highlight our proactive approach to knowledge exchange and institutional growth. The achievements of our staff, including publications, awards and recognitions, stand testimony to the dedication and excellence of our research community. Two patents viz., 'Nutrient formulation and a process for its preparation' and the design of an 'IoT-based device for soil moisture measurement' were among the notable achievements. With sustained innovations in research and development of tropical tuber crops, ICAR-CTCRI continues to march forward in alignment with the vision of *Viksit Bharat*, contributing to enhanced food and nutritional security, farmer prosperity, and sustainable agricultural development.

G. Byju

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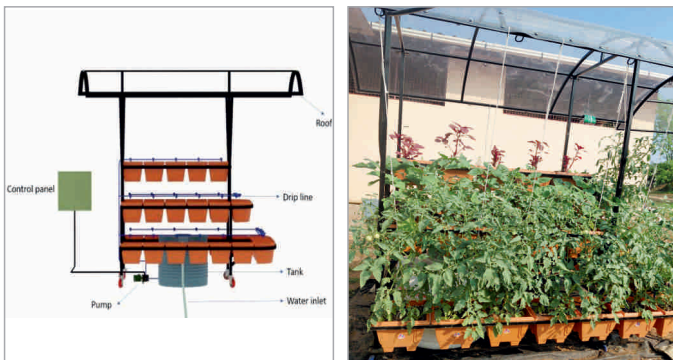
ICAR-CENTRAL TUBER CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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Research Highlights

Development of a smart nutrigarden for food and nutritional security of urban and peri-urban areas

K. Sunilkumar and J. Suresh Kumar

A portable vertical garden was designed and developed to suit the growing needs of urban and peri-urban populations who have little or no space and limited time for farming, yet to wish to grow their own fresh vegetables. The vertical design named 'Smart Nutrigarden' consists of a soilless, substrate-based hydroponic growing system arranged within a vertical frame and protected from rain. An in-built automated fertigation system reduces labour requirements, saves time, and ensures the effortless growing of crops using less water.



Design of portable vertical garden

Plants grown in the system

Evaluation of protected cultivation techniques for sweet potato

K. Sunilkumar and J. Suresh Kumar

A total of 20 varieties evaluated for their suitability to protected cultivation. Significant differences were observed for growth, tuber initiation, yield and quality. Tuber formation started at one month after planting for varieties viz., Sree Kanaka, Sree Nandini, Sourin, Sree Bhadra, Sree Rethna and Bhu Swami indicating the precocity of these varieties. Overall sensory acceptability was higher for Kalinga, Bhu Krishna, Bhu Sona, SP 95/4, Bhu Arunima, Bhu Swami and Bhu Kanti.



Sweet potato plants grown under protected cultivation

Electronic starch indicator for onsite estimation of starch content in cassava tubers

Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Mohan, C. and Pradeepika, C

An electronic starch indicator has been developed using a 10 kg load cell interfaced with an Arduino nano microcontroller, programmed in the Arduino integrated development environment (IDE) using C++ language. The specific gravity was calculated using the standard formula based on underwater weight values obtained from the load cell. A regression equation for starch estimation was developed by correlating specific gravity with mechanical starch yield, and this equation was integrated into an electronic starch indicator. The developed electronic starch indicator showed 98±2 % accuracy compared with the platform starch scale. The electronic starch indicator has been developed with the support of a Kochi-based company, EMCON industries, is an innovation which simplifies starch estimation while improving accuracy and transparency. The device enables farmers and stakeholders to determine starch content quickly through a two-step process-measuring the weight of about 3 to 5 kg of cassava tubers first in air and then in water. The system then directly displays the starch percentage.



Electronic starch indicator

Functional sweet potato flour and rava

Pradeepika, C., Sajeev, M.S. and Nisha, P.

Functional sweet potato flour and rava enriched with anthocyanins and β -carotene was developed through the application of various processing methods (baking, boiling, steaming and microwave cooking) at different drying times. These methods were selected to optimize the retention of bioactive compounds, thereby enhancing the nutritional and functional properties of the resulting flour and rava. The optimized sweet potato functional flour and rava showed β -carotene contents of 35.53 to 25.51 mg per 100 g⁻¹ dw (dry weight basis). In addition, these optimized

samples compared with control samples such as sun dried, oven dried and commercial sample (Mati Farms) which showed very less amount of β -carotene retention as 2.86, 3.17 and 5.91 mg per 100 g⁻¹ dw respectively. Similarly, anthocyanin content of 3.78 mg per 100 g⁻¹ dw was observed in purple sweet potato flour and rava. Whereas, control samples such as sun dried, oven dried and commercial sample (Mati Farms) showed very low retention of anthocyanins as 0.12, 0.09 and 0.28 mg per 100 g⁻¹ dw respectively.



Functional β -carotene rich sweet potato flour and rava

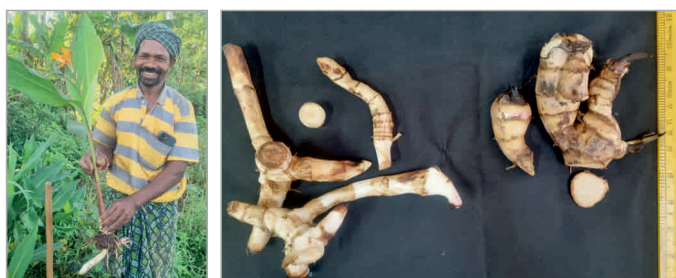


Functional anthocyanin rich sweet potato flour and rava

Germplasm exploration

P. Murugesan

A collaborative germplasm exploration was undertaken by ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and WASSAN, Hyderabad in Araku Valley, covering the villages of Gondivalasa, Demuduvalasa, and Araku in Andhra Pradesh. Two unique Queensland arrowroot accessions were collected, one with orange-coloured inflorescence and white slender rhizome, and the other with red-coloured flowers and a bulged rhizome



Queensland arrowroot with orange flowers and slender rhizome

Extension

FLDs/OFTs

- FLDs were conducted with the newly released arrowroot variety, Sree Aadya at the Tuber Hub, ICAR-KVK Kollam, Vettikkavala, Kottarakara (AEU 12), Kerala.



FLD with arrowroot variety, Sree Aadya at Vettikkavala

- Three OFTs on biofortified sweet potato comprising, nine promising accessions along with Bhu Krishna, Bhu Sona and Sree Arun were conducted in Othalur (Thrithala), Ayarkunnam (Kottayam) and Mavilakkadavu (Thiruvananthapuram), Kerala.



OFT on biofortified sweet potato at Ayarkunnam (Kottayam), Kerala



OFT on biofortified sweet potato at Mavilakkadavu, Thiruvananthapuram

- Initiated 104 FLDs on improved production technologies of sweet potato, greater yam, elephant foot yam, colocasia, yam bean, and cassava across farmers' fields in Rayagada (50 numbers in Kolnara

and Bissamcuttack blocks) and Mayurbhanj (54 numbers in Kuliana and Bangriposi blocks) districts under the MIDH project.



Nursery with biofortified varieties of sweet potato at Mayurbhanj, Odisha

- Laid out eight validation trials on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) strategies in sweet potato, greater yam, taro, and yam bean at farmers' fields in Mayurbhanj and Rayagada districts of Odisha.
- An OFT on bio-intensive management of cassava stem and root rot was established at Muttakadu, Thiruvananthapuram.



OFT on bio-intensive management of cassava stem and root rot

Training programmes

On campus programmes

- RAWE programme for B.Sc. (Ag) students of College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur was organized for 11 students during 19-23 January 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Students of College of Agriculture with resource persons

- Training on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme was organized for 11 staff members on 20 January 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, Bhubaneswar.



Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at ICAR-CTCRI RS, Bhubaneswar

- Training on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme was organized for 97 staff members during 27-29 January 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at ICAR-CTCRI HQ

- Stakeholders interface with innovative tuber crops farmers on adoption and impact of improved varieties and technologies was organized for 15 farmers during 9-10 February 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Participants of stakeholders' interface with Director and scientists of ICAR-CTCRI

- Hands on training on 'Advanced techniques in soil and water quality assessment' was organised by Division of Crop Production during 9-13 February, 2026. Twenty participants attended the training covering Assistant Directors, Soil Survey Officers, and Research Assistants of Assistant Director of Soil Survey, Central/Regional/HiTech Soil Analytical Laboratories from different districts of Kerala.



Participants of the training programme with the resource persons

- RAWE programme for B.Sc. (Ag) students of College of Agriculture, KAU was organized for 30 students during 09-13 February 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Participants of RAWE programme with resource persons

- Training cum exposure visit for officers from Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), New Delhi for 21 officers on 24 March 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Participants of the programme with the Director & resource persons

List of hands-on trainings conducted on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' at Techno Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI

Sl. No.	Date	Participants	No. of beneficiaries
1	27-28 January 2026	Matsyafed, Govt of Kerala	08
2	20 February 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Pathanamthitta district	25
3	05 March 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Athiyanthoor block, Thiruvananthapuram district	23
4	11 March 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Kollam	30
5	17 March 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Pathanamthitta district	25
6	18 March 2026	Farmers and startup entrepreneurs	26
7	19 March 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Pathanamthitta district	25
8	25 March 2026	Kudumbashree District Mission, Pathanamthitta district	25



Hands on trainings on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' at TIC

Off campus programmes

- Training on 'Value added products for cassava-based enterprises' at Agropark, Piravam on 15 January 2026 for 70 beneficiaries.
- Training on 'Entrepreneurial opportunities in tuber crops' at IMC, Thiruvananthapuram on 02 February 2026 for 50 beneficiaries.
- Distributed planting materials of newly released cassava varieties during NATOURA-26 Fest at GOVF, Nelliampathy, Kerala on 07 February 2026



Distribution of planting materials of newly released cassava varieties

- Under the DMF Indradhaush Aahaar Yojana, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute organised a nutritional awareness programme and launched the 3 Musketeers Sweet Potato (3M-SP)

initiatives on 11 February 2026 at the Government (SSD) Girls High School, Gonasika, Kendujhar district of Odisha, as part of the INE Rainbow Diet Campaign. Doctors from Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences sensitised students on food-based strategies to address underweight, anemia, and micronutrient deficiencies prevalent among tribal children. Over 150 students, scientists, doctors, and school staff participated in the programme, marking a significant step towards strengthening nutrition security among Juanga tribal children through sustainable, agriculture-based interventions.



Nutritional awareness programme at Gonasika, Kendujhar

- A training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops' and critical farm input distribution was organised at Bargur hills, Anthiyoor Taluk, Erode district, Tamil Nadu under TSP on 12 February 2026.



Training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops' at Bargur hills

- A training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops' and critical farm input distribution was organised at Pachamalai hills, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu under TSP on 13 February 2026.
- A training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops' was conducted at Kappala village, Gudalur, Nilgiri district, Tamil Nadu, on 20 February 2026, along with the distribution of critical farm inputs to 50 selected beneficiaries



Training programme at Kappala village



- A training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops and distribution of critical farm inputs' at Vemb, Kurupuzha village, Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram district on 26 February 2026. Various farm inputs were distributed to 20 selected beneficiaries.



Training programme at Vemb, Kurupuzha village

- A training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tropical tuber crops and distribution of critical farm inputs' at Keelamylar, Kanikudiyeruppu, Tirunelveli district on 28 February 2026.



Training programme at Keelamylar, Tirunelveli district

- Training programme on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' and distribution of critical inputs at Attapaddi, Palakkad district on 04 March 2026 for 40 beneficiaries (under TSP).



Distribution of critical inputs at Attapaddi, Palakkad district

- Training on 'Arrowroot processing' at Mamalakanadam, Ernakulam, in association with MSSRF, Wayand during 05-06 March 2026 for 20 beneficiaries
- A training-cum-demonstration programme on 'Improved production and value addition technologies in tropical tuber crops' was organized under ICAR-CTCRI NEH Programme 2026 in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Longding on 10 March 2026 at Kanubari, Longding district, Arunachal Pradesh. During the technical session, improved production technologies in tropical tuber crops, value addition and entrepreneurship opportunities, including processing tuber crops into products and the application of AI and IoT in tuber crop management were covered.



Training-cum-demonstration programme at Kanubari, Arunachal Pradesh

- Training cum demonstration of value-added products from tuber crops under NEH programme was organized at Wokha, Nagaland on 12 March 2026 for 135 beneficiaries.
- Training and demonstrations of Applications of AI and IoT in Agriculture was held on 17 March 2026 as part of farmers training on AI and IoT in Agriculture during 16 -17 March 2026 organized by SAMETI, Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Harvest festival cum field day on coconut and tuber crops based agrifood systems for resilience and sustainable income was organized for 60 farmers on 20 March 2026 at Bichennala, Rangia, Assam.



Harvest festival cum field day on coconut and tuber crops at Rangia, Assam

- An awareness-cum-training programme on 'Protection of plant varieties and farmers' rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001, along with field visits, was jointly organized by the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and WASSAN, Hyderabad during 27-28 March 2026 at Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh. A total of fifty participants, including tribal farmers, WASSAN officials, students, and officials from the Department of Horticulture from Araku Valley of Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh, participated in the programme.



Glimpses of awareness-cum-training programme on PPV&FR Act 2001

- Under the Rainbow Diet Campaign project, the second phase Health Camp to assess malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies was successfully organised at four locations: Government (SSD) Girls' High School, Gonasika; PVTG Boys' Ashram School, Gonasika; Primary Health Centre (PHC), Gonasika; and Community Health Centre (CHC), Jantari on 30 March 2026. A total of 162 Juanga tribal children (aged 6–9 years and 10–19 years) participated in the camp. The children were clinically examined and screened

for malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies by a team of doctors from KIMS, Bhubaneswar; SCB

Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack; and Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital, Keonjhar.



Health Camp under the Rainbow Diet Campaign project

Off campus trainings organised by SCSP team, ICAR-CTCRI

Sl. No.	Title of programme	Venue	Date
1	Cassava value addition and entrepreneurship development	Kadappakada, Kollam district	14.01.2026
2	Quality planting material production and establishment of seed villages of tuber crops	Karunapuram, Nedumkandam, Idukki district	22.01.2026
3	Coleus harvesting and value addition	Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu	06.02.2026
4	Establishment of DSM and seed villages in tropical tuber crops	Thrithala, Palakkad	25.02.2026
5	Awareness programme on improved tuber crops technologies for food, nutrition and livelihood security	Karimpuzha-II, Sreekrishnapuram, Palakkad	26.02.2026
6	Training on processing and value added products of tuber crops	Pramadam, Konni, Pathanamthitta	02.03.2026
7	Quality planting material production in tuber crops and establishment of seed villages	Pallakkal Pothukudi, Pappakudi, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli	04.03.2026
8	Quality planting material production in tuber crops	Karimpuzha-II, Sreekrishnapuram, Palakkad	12.03.2026
9	BAP of elephant foot yam cultivation and distribution of seed corms	Thrithala, Palakkad	13.03.2026



Training programme cum distribution of agricultural inputs to SC farmers

Off-campus training programmes organised by Regional Station, Bhubaneswar

Sl. No.	Title of programme	Date	Panchayat, District, State	No. of beneficiaries
1	Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY-Yam bean project	03.01.26	Birikote GP, Mohana block, Gajapati district, Odisha	50
2	Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY-Yam bean project	04.01.26	Petta, Lamtaput, Koraput, Odisha	50
3	Production technologies in biofortified sweet potato based integrated farming systems for livelihood and nutritional security, under NABARD project	09.03.26	Dalki village, Jorda GP, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	75
4	Production technologies in biofortified sweet potato based integrated farming systems for livelihood and nutritional security, under NABARD project	10.03.26	Dhangidimuta village, Kusumi Block, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	75
5	Crop Diversification with tuber crops under TSP	11.03.26	Belpaharivillage, Binpur II block, Jhargram district, West Bengal	139



Training programme at Mohana block, Gajapati district



Training programme at Petta, Lamtaput, Koraput



Training programme at Belpahari village, Jhargram district



Training on production technologies in bio-fortified sweet potato at Dalki village



Training on production technologies in bio-fortified sweet potato at Dhangidimuta village

- Various farm implements, chicks and goats were distributed to eligible beneficiaries of Jhampi village in Khajuripada block, Kandhamal district, Odisha under Tribal Sub Plan on 18 March 2026



Distribution of farm implements and animals to TSP beneficiaries of Jhampi village

Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings/Field Diagnostic Visits Organized

Brainstorming on 'Current Status and Future Breeding Strategies for Development of Improved Elephant Foot Yam Varieties

A brainstorming session on 'Current status and future

strategies for development of improved elephant foot yam varieties' was organized on 23 February 2026 in collaboration with ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, AICRP on Tuber Crops and AICRP-TC Kovvur Centre under Dr. YSR Horticultural University. The meeting was conducted in hybrid mode at ICAR-NIRCA, Rajahmundry. Dr. Dhanumjaya Rao, Hon'ble Vice chancellor, Dr. YSR Horticultural University was the chief guest of the inaugural programme. Other dignitaries included Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, ADG (FVS & MP), ICAR; Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI; Dr. Sheshu Madhav, Director, ICAR-NIRCA; Dr. Ramanandam, Director of Research, Dr. YSRHU; Dr. D.V. Swami, ADR, Dr. YSRHU; and Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, Principal Scientist, ICAR. During the technical session, three presentations covering key aspects of elephant foot yam breeding, major challenges, and future strategies were delivered by Dr. A. Asha Devi and Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, Principal Scientists, ICAR-CTCRI, and Dr. K. Mamatha, Principal Scientist, Dr. YSRHU. This was followed by a panel discussion involving experts including Dr. B. Augustine Jerard (Project Coordinator, AICRP on Palms), Dr. V. Sivakumar (Scientist, HRS, Kovvur), Dr. Santhosh Kumar (Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIARI), Dr. P.M. Radhamony (Retired Professor, Department of Botany, University of Kerala) along with scientists from AICRP-TC. Key recommendations that emerged from the discussion included initiation of systematic studies on cultivars, particularly 'Karunaikizhangu'; adoption of mutation breeding to enhance variability; development of pollen preservation techniques to address non-synchronization in flowering; and detailed studies on self-incompatibility, pollen viability, and stigma receptivity in elephant foot yam.



Inaugural session



Guests with resource persons

- A webinar on 'Integrated nutrient management in tropical tuber crops: New developments and technologies' by Dr. K. Suan John was organized by Division of Crop Production in Malayalam, primarily for the benefit of farmers in Kerala state. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI delivered the presidential address, followed by an introduction of the topic by Dr. G. Suja, Head, Division of Crop Production. The webinar highlighted recent advances in INM, focusing on its three major components. Nearly 100 participants, including farmers, KVK SMSs, scientists, and students, attended the programme.

Exhibitions

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

- Exhibition in connection with visit of Shri. Ram Nath Thakur, Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India on 06 January 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Exhibition in connection with 38th Kerala Science Congress & National Science Expo during 30 January to 02 February 2026 at St. Albert's Higher Secondary School, Ernakulam, Kerala.
- Exhibition in connection with 7th International Workshop and Value Addition for Income Generation in Agriculture (VAIGA) 2026 during 11-16 February 2026 at Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Shri. P. Prasad, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala at ICAR-CTCRI stall during VAIGA 2026

- Exhibition in connection with TRADEX 2026-an International Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) organised by the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Kerala in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) during 17-18 February 2026 at Hotel Le Meridien, Kochi, Kerala.



TRADEX 2026

- Exhibition in connection with Southern Regional Agriculture Fair during 18-22 February 2026 at Vellanikkara, Thrissur, Kerala.
- Exhibition in connection with 'AgriNext Summit startup expo 2026' organised by the Kerala Startup Mission under the AgriNext Programme of KERA in association with the Department of Agriculture & World Bank on 20 February 2026 at Digital Hub, Kerala Startup Mission, Ernakulam, Kerala



Agri Next Summit startup expo 2026

- Exhibition in connection with Research and Technology Conclave 2026 (RTC-2026) during 19-20 March 2026 at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, BMT Wing, Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



Research and Technology Conclave 2026

- An exhibition was organized at the Open Prison and Correctional Home, Nettukaltheri on 31 March 2026 during the launch of horticulture therapy programme aimed at inmate rehabilitation and skill development.



Exhibition at Open Prison and Correctional Home

- ICAR-CTCRI, RS, Bhubaneswar participated in the exhibition at OUAT, Bhubaneswar on 20 March 2026.



Exhibition at OUAT, Bhubaneswar

Exposure visits to ICAR-CTCRI

- One day exposure visit cum training on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' was organized for the benefit of 451 farmers, 595 students and 101 officials during the period at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.

- One day exposure visit cum training on 'Agro-techniques, nutrient management, value addition in tuber crops' and 'Tuber crops in coconut gardens for sustainable production' was organized for the benefit of 348 farmers and 9 officials during this period at ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

- Two Swachh Bharat campaigns were organized during the period. First campaign was on 23 January 2026 in the farm section of ICAR-CTCRI with the active participation of the Swachh Bharat committee and staff and students of the Institute. The importance of Swachh Bharat activities was explained to the participants, and the programme was formally inaugurated by the Director, ICAR-CTCRI. A total of 50 members participated in the campaign activities. The Second Swachh Bharat campaign was conducted in the old tissue culture laboratory premises of the Division of Crop Improvement on 27 February 2026. About 60 participants participated in the campaign and cleaned the allotted area.



Glimpses of first Swachh Bharat Abhiyan programme at the Farm section



Glimpses of second Swachh Bharat Abhiyan programme at old tissue culture premises



Licensing of ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni to Spudnik Farms

Linkages/Collaborations

- Design of 'IoT based device for soil moisture measurement' (Design No: 477412-001) developed by Silpa, D.S., Naveen Leno, Santhosh Mithra, V. S., Byju, G. and Rani, B. is registered with Patent office, Government of India on 17 October 2025.



- Executed MoU for collaboration with Swadeshi science movement (Kerala Chapter of Vignana Bharathi) on 18 March 2026 for implementation of Science, technology and innovation hub project of DST.

Technology Commercialization/Linkages/Collaborations

Technology Commercialization

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 28 January 2026 with M/S Spudnik Farms, Bengaluru for licensing the elite line 'ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni - An elite line of purple taro' for a license fee of Rs. 5.90 lakhs.

Capacity building

Trainings attended by staff

Sl. No.	Name	Particulars of the training	Period
1	All Scientists	NABL accreditation for testing and calibration of laboratories and its benefits	09 January 2026
2	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar Dr. N. Krishna Radhika Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	Genome edited and genetically engineered (GE) crops: Biosafety considerations, policies, challenges and detection strategies" (online), ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.	19-24 January 2026
3	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	Application of CRISPR-Cas based genome editing for vaccines and diagnostics, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai.	9-13 February 2026

4	Dr. M.R. Sahoo Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. A. Asha Devi Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	Training on Breeding data management, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram	16-20 February 2026
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iGOT Karmayogi Training Programmes (January-March 2026)

Sl. No.	Particulars of the training	Name
1	Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Program, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram	All Staff
2	APAR Comprehensive Assessment for ICAR employees 2025-26 (The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-HQ)	All Scientists
3	Conduct Rules (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Dr. M.L. Jeeva, Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. B.G. Sangeetha
4	Time Management (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. M.L. Jeeva, Dr. S.S. Veena
5	Stress Management (Indian Institute of Public Administration)	Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Dr. M.L. Jeeva, Dr. S.S. Veena
6	Gender Sensitization-1 (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. D. Jaganathan
7	Improving outreach and communication for Viksit Bharat (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)	Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. D. Jaganathan
8	Green Revolution to Amrit Kaal, Karmayogi Bharat	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Dr. K. Sunilkumar
9	Gen AI for everyone (Fractal)	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar
10	Building Climate Resilience in Agricultural Systems (The Rockefeller Foundation)	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar
11	Effective Techniques to Manage Stress (The Art of Living)	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar
12	Prevention of sexual harassment of Women at workplace (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar
13	Agriculture and Rural development (Indian Institute of Public Administration)	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Dr. D. Jaganathan
14	Basics of climate change: Science behind stories (Indian Institute of Public Administration)	Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. D. Jaganathan
15	Annual performance appraisal report (APAR)-updated (ISTM)	Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. D. Jaganathan
16	Public policy writing (Indian School of Public Policy)	Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. D. Jaganathan
17	Parliamentary Procedures (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management), Core Areas of Artificial Intelligence (Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras), Soft Skills (Indian Railway Institute of Transport Management), Cyber Security Guide for Government Officials (Defence Headquarters Training Institute (DHTI))	Dr. S.S. Veena
18	Cyber security (Intermediate level) (Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras), AI in government transforming public service delivery (Indian Institute of Science), Purpose driven leadership (ISB), Pay fixation-Updated (ISTM), Travelling allowance (ISTM)	Dr. P. Prakash
19	Artificial intelligence for public governance (Kyndryl), Communication for citizen centricity (DoPT), Cybersecurity (Central Industrial Security Force), Understanding mission karmayogi (Karmayogi Bharat), Public-private partnership (ISB)	Dr. D. Jaganathan

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

Sl. No.	Name of the participant	Programme	Date of the programme
1	Dr. P. Murugesan	PLACROSYM 26–Future proofing plantation sector for wellbeing and welfare, ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, Kerala.	05-07 January 2026
2	All Staff	Interaction meeting with Shri. Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, staff of ICAR-CTCRI and farmers at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.	06 January 2026
3	Dr. B.G. Sangeetha	Swadeshi Science Congress (SSC 2025), Central University of Kerala, Tejaswini Hills, Periyar, Kasaragod, Kerala.	07-09 January 2026
4	Dr. S. Sunitha	State credit seminar 2026-27 organised by NABARD at Hotel Hycinth, Thiruvananthapuram.	21 January 2026
5	Dr. G. Suja Dr. M.L. Jeeva	Scientific advisory committee meeting of KVK, Kumarakom, Kerala.	23 January 2026
6	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	Academic council meeting of Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi.	23 January 2026
7	Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. Jeena Mathew	National conclave on research and industrial landscape of microbiome and formal dedication of the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, KINFRA film & video park, Thiruvananthapuram.	23 January 2026
8	Dr. S.S. Veena	38 th Kerala Science Congress, St. Albert's College, Ernakulum.	30 January-02 February 2026
9	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	23 rd Dr. R.S. Murthy memorial lecture, Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar.	31 January 2026
10	All Scientists	Third party evaluation meeting for the review of central sector scheme of ICAR-CTCRI conducted by Quality Council of India, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram	09-10 February 2026
11	Dr. G. Suja	Workshop on 'Strengthening technology application programmes of KVK's through appropriate technologies, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, Zone XI (Online)	12 February 2026
12	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	VAIGA, Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram	13 February 2026
13	All Staff	National launch of Bharat Vistaar - the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for AI in agriculture held at Jaipur as a side event of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	17 February 2026
14	Dr. M. R. Sahoo Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	Brainstorming session on 'Emerging areas of agricultural bioinformatics & computational biology	18 February 2026
15	Dr. G. Byju Dr. G. Suja Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar Dr. J. Sreekumar	Tribal connect: Transformation of tribal food basket by strengthening tuber crops based agri-food systems in Marayoor forest, Kerala Forest Department, Marayoor, Idukki.	18-19 February 2026
16	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar Dr. S.S. Veena	National Conference on Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management, BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.	18-20 February 2026
17	Ms. B.S. Deepa	National workshop on AI tools for teaching, learning and research, Mar Gregorios college of Law, Nalanchira, Thiruvananthapuram.	22 February 2026
18	Dr. G. Byju Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. A. Asha Devi Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar Dr. Kalidas Pati Dr. S.S. Veena Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Brainstorming on current status and future breeding strategies for development of improved elephant foot yam, National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh (Hybrid mode).	23 February 2026
19	Dr. G. Suja	Interim meeting of action taken on recommendations of 28 th meeting of ICAR regional committee - Zone VIII (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep) (online)	24 February 2026
20	Dr. K. Susan John	Awareness session for newly recruited Senior Scientists & Heads of KVKs at KVK, Pathanamthitta	24 February 2026
21	Dr. R. Muthuraj	Scientific Advisory Committee meeting at ICAR-KVK, Urmelalagian, Tenkasi district, Tamil Nadu	24 February 2026

22	Dr. Kalidas Pati Dr. S.N. Rahana	22 nd DUS Review meeting by PPVFRA at NAAS complex, New Delhi	27 February 2026
23	Dr. V. Ramesh	17 th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting at ICAR-KVK, Tirupatisaram, Tamil Nadu	27 February 2026
24	All staff	Post budget webinar on Agriculture and rural transformation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	06 March 2026
25	Dr. K. Laxminarayana	State level thematic consultation on 'Role of climate resilient agricultural practices in adapting to and mitigating the effect of climate change towards achieving gender equality and nutritional security across regions of Odisha' WASSAN at CYSD, Bhubaneswar.	11 March 2026
26	All Staff	Live web telecast of the 22 nd instalment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	13 March 2026
27	Dr. V. Ramesh Dr. Jeena Mathew	Session on Basics of data generation on Carbon accounting/GHG inventory under Net Zero Carbon Mission Program at Harita Keralam mission office, Thiruvananthapuram	13 March 2026
28	Dr. Jeena Mathew	Webinar on 'Use of AI and data science in watershed management' organized by the Centre of Excellence on Watershed Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru.	17 March 2026
29	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	MoU signing ceremony for stake holder collaboration with Swadeshi Science Movement, (Kerala Chapter of Vignana Bharathi), for implementation of Agrobased Science, Technology and Innovation Hub project (funded by DST)	18 March 2026
30	Dr. C. Pradeepika	13 th International conference on 'Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry & allied sciences for sustainable Himalayan ecosystem (ICAHFAS-2026), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (Online)	18-20 March 2026
31	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar Dr. Manas Ranjan Sahoo Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar Dr. P.S. Sivakumar Dr. Jeena Mathew Dr. J. Suresh Kumar Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar Dr. C. Pradeepika	Research and Technology Conclave 2026 (RTC-2026), Scientific Insight: Pioneering Perspectives in Science & Technology, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram	19-20 March 2026
32	Dr. Jeena Mathew	Technical Evaluation Committee meeting of the KERA project	23 March 2026
33	All staff	Webinar on 'Integrated nutrient management in tropical tuber crops: Recent Advances', ICAR- Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram	30 March 2026

Publications

Research papers

1. Amrutha Pandirikkal Ravindran, Jeeva Muthulekshmi Lajapathy, Sreelatha Gopalakrishnan Lalithakumari, Makesh Kumar Thangaraj, Veena Syamala Swayamvaran, Tom Cyriac, Akhil Kannolickal Mohan and Shilpa Sreekumar Usha. 2026. Genomic insights and biocontrol potential of endophytic *Bacillus subtilis* strain B_SP against fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* in *Dioscorea alata* L. *Bio Control*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10526-026-10388-8> (NAAS score: 8.7).
2. Aura Senson, Santhosh Kumar, T., Chitra, N., Sangeetha, B.G. and Thania Sara Varghese. 2025. Evaluation of the toxicity of various insecticides to coconut rhinoceros beetle. (*Oryctes rhinoceros* L.) larvae under laboratory conditions. *J. Appl. Hort.*, **27**(4): 696-700. <https://doi.org/10.37855/jah.2025.v27i04.122>. (NAAS score: 5.43).
3. Bharath, D.A., Ninitha Nath, C., Seeja, G., Murugesan, P., Beena, T., Sreehari, S. 2026. Engineering genetic diversity: Optimizing gamma ray mutagenesis in yam bean variety RM-1 for future trait development. *Plant Sci. Today*, <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.13464> (NAAS score: 6.7).
4. Divya Joseph, Jyothi, A.N. and Sreekumar, J. 2026. Synthesis, characterization and evaluation of cassava starch phosphate carbamates for chemical dye adsorption in water remediation, *Starch-Stärke*, **78**: e70177, <https://doi.org/10.1002/star.70177>. (NAAS score: 8.70)
5. Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C., Jeevarathinam, G., Chelladurai, V., and Velmurugan, M. 2026. Drying kinetics, quality characteristics and mathematical modelling of circular shaped cassava slices: Effect of varieties, thicknesses, and drying methods. *J. Food Process. Eng.*, **49**(1): e70334. (NAAS score: 8.90)
6. Pradeepika, C., Alias Sankar, S., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Gowda, K.H. and Koundinya, A.V.V. 2026. Bioactive-linked antioxidant and antidiabetic properties of different

- flesh colored Indian sweet potato cultivars. *J. Food Meas. Charact*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-025-04000-3>, (NAAS score: 9.30)
7. Pradeepika, C., Anusha, M., Upadhyay, N., Krishnakumar, T. and Sajeev, M. S. 2026. Gluten-free pancake mix from sweet potato and finger millet flours: a comprehensive physicochemical, functional, rheological, and sensory assessment. *J. Food Meas. Charact*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-026-04163-7>, (NAAS score: 9.30)
 8. Pradeepika, C., Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Sreekumar, J. and Hanume Gowda, K. 2026. Nutritional and sensory profiling of protein-fortified cassava-wheat composite biscotti/rusk. *European J. Nutr. Food Saf.*, **18** (1): 174-190. (NAAS score: 5.14)
 9. Suja, G., Sreekumar, J., Sunitha, S. and John, J. 2025. Growth dynamics, yield and quality of short-duration cassava in rice based cropping systems. 2025. *Journal of Horticultural Sciences*, **20**(2), <https://doi.org/10.24154/jhs.v20i2.2819> (NAAS score 6.40)
 10. Sunitha, S., Saravanan, R., Suresh Kumar, J., Ramesh, V. and Suja, G. 2026. Balancing yield and water productivity in sweetpotato through crop evapotranspiration-based irrigation scheduling across seasons. *Irrigation Science* **44**:27. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00271-025-01070-5> (NAAS score: 9.5)
- Technical bulletins**
1. Ramesh V., Saravanan R. and Prakash, P. 2025. *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. Saravanan, R., Ravi, V., Suresh Kumar, J. and More, S.J. 2026. *Physiological Research on Climate Resilience and Stress Mitigation in Tropical Tuber Crops: A Decade of Insights at ICAR-CTCRI*. Technical Bulletin No. TB-107/2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 49p.
- Popular articles**
1. Jeena M. and Saravanan, R. 2026. Smart fertilizers for safe and sustainable future. *Kerala Karshakan e journal* **13**(9): 27-31.
 2. Kumar, H.K., Sirisha, T., Harish, E.R. and Arutselvan, R. 2026. Nematodes: Ubiquitous microscopic worms (Sootrakrimi: Har jagah paaye jaane vaale sookshma krimi-Hindi), *Indradhanush*: **2**: 33-35.
 3. Lohitha, B., Makesh Kumar, T., Krishnaveni, K., Divya, S. and Pavitra, S.A. 2026. Cassava mosaic virus: Mechanisms of infection, host interactions, and disease dynamics in cassava. *Agritech*, **3** (1):12-14.
 4. Pavitra, S.A., Veena, S.S., Divya, S., Beegam Nazrin and Soumya, S.S. 2026. Microbiomes in agriculture: Tiny tools shaping the future of farming. *Kerala Karshakan e-journal*, March 2026: 40-43.
 5. Sangeetha B. G., Makesh Kumar, T., Harish, E. R., Pradeepika, C. and Arutselvan, R. 2026. Post translational modification of proteins in plants under biotic stress. *Agritech*, **3** (1): 5-6.
 6. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D. and Prakash, P. 2026. Myths and realities about women in agriculture. *Agro India*, March 2026: 32-35.
 7. Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Amrutha, P.R., Tom Cyriac, Divya, S., Pavithra, S.A and Krishnaveni. K. 2026. The battle against taro leaf blight: Modern approaches to an age-old problem, *Kerala Karshakan e-journal*, **13** (10): 31-35.
 8. Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R., Tom Cyriac, Karthikeyan, S., Beegam Nazrin and Soumya, S.S. 2026. Nature's shield: Biocontrol solutions for managing taro leaf blight. *Agritech*, **3** (1): 7-9.
 9. Shirly Raichal Anil, Visalakshi Chandra, C., Pradeepika, C. and Kalidas Pati. 2025. Jaivsuddhredeekaran kyom aur sakarkhand hi kyom. *Indradhanush Hindi e-pathrika*, 18-20.
 10. Sunitha, S. 2026. Vanijya kizhanguvila krishi varumanamakkan thulli nana (Malayalam) *Kerala Karshakan*, **71**(7): 40-41.
 11. Tom Cyriac, Jeeva, M.L., Makesh Kumar, T., Harish, E.R., Amrutha, P.R., Shilpa, S. U., Divya, S., Mamatha Mary Mathews, Soumya, S.S and Pavithra, S.A. 2026. Sick seeds rising heat: The climate-virus crisis facing the global yam production. *Kerala Karshakan e-journal*, **13** (11): 26-29.
- Technical/Extension folders/Leaflets**
1. 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*. Technical Folder No. TF-22/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 2. Jaganathan, D. and Suja, G. 2026. *Agrotechniques of tropical tuber crops* (Tamil). Technical leaflet TL 16/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 3. Suja, G. and Jaganathan, D. 2026. *Agrotechniques of tropical tuber crops* (English). Technical leaflet TL 14/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
 4. Suja, G. and Jaganathan, D. 2026. *Agrotechniques of tropical tuber crops* (Malayalam). Technical leaflet TL 15/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Conference/Symposia/Seminar proceedings**
1. Divya, S., Bag, T.K., Jeeva, M.L., Makesh Kumar, T., Veena, S.S. and Aundy Kumar. 2026. From dysbiosis to eubiosis: Microbiome assisted microbial interventions for sustainable management of cassava stem and root rot'. In: *National conclave on research and industrial landscape of microbiome*, 23 January 2026, Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

2. Divya, S., Bag, T.K., Jeeva, M.L., Makesh Kumar, T., Veena, S.S. and Aundy Kumar. 2026. Rhizoplane microbiome bioprospecting for sustainable management of cassava stem and root rot. In: *Book of Abstracts of International conference on biodiversity conservation & sustainable utilization of bioresources (ICBCSUB-2026)*, 17-19 February 2026, Department of Botany, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. pp.79.
3. Divya, S., Makesh Kumar, T., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Bag, T.K. and Aundy Kumar. 2026. Exploring rhizoplane micro biome of cassava for suppression of stem and root rot disease. In: *Research and technology conclave 2026 (RTC-2026)*, 19-20 March 2026, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
4. Murugesan, P., Mathur, R.K., Sunil Kumar, K. and Suresh, K. 2026. Variability in fatty acid composition of mesocarp oil and fresh fruit bunch traits of African (*Elaeis guineensis*, Jacq.) and American (*Elaeis oleifera* (Kunth) Cortés) oil palm germplasm in India, In: *Book of abstract of PLACROSYM26 - Future proofing plantation sector for wellbeing and welfare*, 05-07 January 2026, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, India, pp. 50.
5. Reshma Maria Joseph, Shirly Raichal Anil, Senthilkumar, K. M., Sreekumar, J. and Krishna Radhika, N. 2026. Photoperiodic regulation of tuber development in sweet potato: Insights from transcriptome analysis. In: *Research and technology conclave 2026 (RTC-2026)*, 19-20 March 2026, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
6. Resmi, T.R and Makesh Kumar, T. 2026. Precision genome engineering for viral resilience: A multiplexed CRISPR/Cas9: Approach against *Sweet potato leaf curl virus*. In: *National conference on current perspectives on crop health and sustainable plant disease management*, 18-20 February 2026, BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal, India.
7. Sangeetha. B.G., Makesh Kumar, T., Harish, E.R., Santhosh Kumar, T., Shirly Raichal Anil and Sreekumar, J. 2026. Identification of a novel source of sweetpotato weevil (*Cylas formicarius* (Fabricius)) resistance from wild *Ipomoea mauritiana* (Jacq.) In: *National conference on Transformative science and technology education for viksit Bharat (32nd Swadeshi Science Conference (SSC))*, 7-9 January 2026, Central University of Kerala, Tejaswini Hills, Kasaragod, Kerala, India.
8. Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac. 2026. Antagonistic behaviour and disease suppressive mechanisms of endophytic *Bacillus pumilus* against taro leaf blight. In: *Souvenir & Abstracts of National conference on current perspectives on crop health and sustainable plant disease management*, 18-20 February 2026, BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal, India, pp. 15.
9. Suresh Kumar, J., Sunilkumar, K. and Nedunchezhiyan, M. 2026. Advancing sweet potato production through soilless systems. In: *Book of Abstracts, 4th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference*, 28-30 January 2026, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India, pp. 123.
10. Thangamuniyandi, M.T., Prabhu and Murugesan, P. 2026. Seasonal influence on vegetative, flowering and tuber traits of Chinese Potato (*Plectranthus rotundifolius* (Poir.) Spreng.) genotypes grown under matured coconut garden. In: *Book of abstract of PLACROSYM26 - Future proofing plantation sector for wellbeing and welfare*, 05-07 January 2026, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, India, pp. 130.
11. Veena, S.S., Jeeva, M.L., Shivani Gupta, Rao, G.P., Makesh Kumar, T., Pavithra, S.A., Divya, S., Pravi Vidhyadharan, Santhosh Mithra, V.S. and Karthikeyan, S. 2026. Emerging and complex disease threats in tropical tuber crops: Diagnosis, management, and future needs. In: *Souvenir & Abstracts of National conference on current perspectives on crop health and sustainable plant disease management*, 18-20 February 2026, BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal, India, pp. 52.

Institute Publications

1. Sheela Immanuel, Prakash, P. and Jaganathan, D. 2026. *Training Calendar (2026-2027)*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 14p.
2. Suresh Kumar, J., Prakash, P., Sangeetha, B.G., Krishnakumar, T. and Krishnaradhika, N. (Eds.). 2026. *Quarterly Review Meeting October to December 2025*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 246p.
3. Veena, S.S., Jaganathan, D., Kalidas Pati, Suresh Kumar, J., Pradeepika, C., Sangeetha, B.G. and Senthilkumar, K.M. 2026. *ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter (October-December 2025)*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 32 p.

Major Institute Events

Awareness Programme on NABL Accreditation at ICAR-CTCRI

The Quality Council of India (QCI) and ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute jointly organized an awareness programme under Gunvatta Yatra on 'NABL accreditation for testing and calibration of laboratories and its benefits' at ICAR-CTCRI on 09 January 2026. The programme aimed to create awareness on the importance of laboratory accreditation and its role in ensuring quality, competence, and credibility in laboratory services. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, inaugurated the programme and highlighted the significance of maintaining quality standards in research and testing laboratories. Dr. T. Makesh Kumar, Head, Division of Crop Protection and Institute Coordinator for the programme, emphasized the relevance of NABL accreditation in strengthening research and testing standards during his address. The technical session was delivered by Dr. Bhumi Rajyaguru, Joint Director, NABL-QCI, providing valuable insights into the accreditation process and its benefits in promoting standardization and excellence in laboratory operations.



Dr. Bhumi Rajyaguru addressing the awareness programme



Dr. R. S. Jayasree delivering Women's Day speech



Participants of the awareness programme



View of audience during Women's Day celebration

POSH & Welfare

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated on the focal theme of IWD 2026, 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls' with the campaign theme 'Give to Gain'. Dr. R.S. Jayasree, Head, Division of Biophotonics and Imaging, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, was the Chief Guest and delivered the Women's Day address on the focal theme. She emphasized the need to provide greater opportunities for women, ensure quality education for girls, and create more leadership spaces for talented women. She noted that empowering women through education, opportunity and leadership would contribute significantly to build a more inclusive and progressive society. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, presided over the function. Dr. S.S. Veena, Presiding Officer, Internal Committee, and Dr. A. Asha Devi, Member, Internal Committee also addressed the gathering. The celebrations included various competitions for women employees and a cultural programme, which added colour and enthusiasm to the occasion.

Tuber Crops Day

A 'Tuber crops Day, programme, highlighting the role of tuber crops in ensuring food security and improving livelihoods was organized by ICAR-CTCRI RS Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 19 March 2026 at Anukumpa village, R. Udaigiri, Gajapati district, under the Tribal Sub Plan. Dr. Dushmant Behera, DDH, Gajapati district was the chief guest. Dr. Sangram Paramaguru, Head, KVK, R. Udayagiri; Mr. Karunakar Paika, AHO, Mohana; and Dr. T. Jacob from PREM (NGO), Mohana also graced the occasion. Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan, Principal Scientist and organizing secretary along with Dr. K. Laxminarayana, Dr. Kalidas Pati, and Dr. R. Arutselvan served as the technical experts. Around 1,000 farmers actively participated, making the programme highly interactive and impactful. A felicitation ceremony was also held to honour selected farmers for their outstanding contributions to tuber crop cultivation. A felicitation ceremony was also organized to honour selected farmers for their outstanding contributions to tuber crop cultivation.



Tuber crops Day programme at Anukumpa village, R. Udaigiri, Gajapati district, Odisha



Valedictory function of Hindi fortnight-2025

Other Important Events

Hindi Corner

Hindi Workshop and World Hindi Day-2026

A Hindi workshop on the topic 'How to enhance linguistic skills, especially in Hindi' was organized by the Official Language Implementation Committee of ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute on 09 January 2026. Dr. B. Asok, Professor and Head of the Department (Hindi), University College, Thiruvananthapuram was the chief guest and resource person. Dr. Byju, G., Director and Chairman (OLIC), delivered the inaugural address. A total of 28 participants, including 12 officers and 16 staff members attended the workshop.



Hindi workshop on 09 January 2026

The valedictory ceremony of Hindi fortnight-2025 and the celebration of World Hindi day-2026 were also celebrated on the same day under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI and Chairman, OLIC. The chief guest, Dr. B. Asok along with the Director distributed prizes to the winners of the Hindi fortnight competitions.

- The meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of ICAR-CTCRI for the IV quarter from January to March 2026 was held on 18 March 2026 under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman (OLIC).



OLIC meeting on 18 March 2026

Director's Visits

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, reviewed and monitored the research programmes of the AICRP on Tuber Crops Centre at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University (CSKHPKV), Palampur on 19 January 2026.



Director's visit to experimental fields of AICRP TC at CSKHPKV

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI discussed with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur on 20 January 2026 about tropical tuber crops activities.



Director with Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Vice Chancellor, CSKHPKV and other officials

- Director, ICAR-CTCRI participated in farmers' training programme on tuber crops at Berthin, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradaesh on 21 January 2026.



Director at farmer training programme on tuber crops at Bilaspur

- The Director conducted an interaction meeting with tuber crop growers at village Jaisinghpur, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh and with Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at villgae Nagrota Bagwan, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh on value addition oppurtunities in tuber crops on 22 January 2026.
- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, delivered a talk at 114th edition of Ayiroor-Cherukolpuzha Hindumaha Parished, Marayur, Idukki district, Kerala on 17 February 2026.
- Director, ICAR-CTCRI monitored the tuber crops development project under the AICRP on Tuber Crops (AICRPTC) Tribal Sub Plan at Marayur, Idukki on 18 February 2026.



Monitoring the tuber crops development project under Tribal Sub Plan of AICRP TC

- Dr. G. Byju attended the farmers' training programme organised under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops (AICRP TC) at Marayur, Idukki on 18 February 2026.



Distribution of planting materials to Tribal Sub-Plan program beneficiaries

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, attended brainstorming on breeding strategies for elephant foot yam organised at Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh on 23 February 2026.



Director attending brainstorming on breeding strategies for elephant foot yam

- Director, ICAR-CTCRI reviewd and monitored the AICRP on Tuber Crops Centre at Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Kovvur & Peddapuram, Andhra Pradesh on 23 February 2026.

- Director, ICAR-CTCRI, attended a horticulture therapy programme collaborated with the Open Prison and Correctional Home, Nettukaltheri, Thiruvananthapuram to launch a horticulture therapy programme aimed at inmate rehabilitation and skill development on 31 March 2026.



At inaugural ceremony of horticulture therapy programme

New Project Sanctioned

- Development of natural farming practices for sustainability in different agrifood systems involving tropical tuber crops (PI: Dr. V. Ramesh, Co-PIs: Dr. G. Suja, Dr. S. Sunitha, Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. J. Sreekumar; National Mission on Natural Farming, ICAR- IIFSR, Modipuram; ₹ 22.40 lakhs)

Distinguished Visitors

Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Shri. Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visited the Institute and addressed the staff and farmers on 06 January 2026.



Shri. Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare addressing staff and farmers at ICAR-CTCRI

- Dr. Niraj U. Joshi, Director, Centre for Agrobiodiversity Conservation (CAbC) and Dr. C. Thamban, Senior Fellow, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, visited ICAR-CTCRI to discuss possible collaborative initiatives. The discussions focused on strengthening partnerships in agrobiodiversity conservation, sustainable tuber crop based farming systems, climate-resilient agriculture, livelihood enhancement, and farmer-centric innovations.



Director and Scientists of ICAR-CTCRI with Dr. Niraj U. Joshi and Dr. C. Thamban

- Dr. Alok Kumar Srivastava, Retd. Chief Scientist, CFTRI Mysore visited ICAR-CTCRI for the third party evaluation of the Institute by the Quality Council of India for the period 2020-2025



Glimpses of third party evaluation of the Institute by the Quality Council of India

- Dr. R.S. Jayasree, Head, Division of Biophotonics and Imaging, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram as the chief guest of International Women's Day celebration on 06 March 2026.
- Mr. N. Jehangir, Chairman and Managing Director of NeST Group, visited ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute on 24 March 2026 to discuss possible collaborations in the area of value added food product development.



Director and Scientists of ICAR-CTCRI with Mr. N. Jehangir

Honours, Awards and Recognitions

Awards

- Dr. B.G. Sangeetha bagged Best Oral Presentation Award for the paper, 'Identification of a novel source of sweetpotato weevil (*Cylas formicarius* (Fabricius)) resistance from wild *Ipomoea mauritiana* (Jacq.)' (Authors: Sangeetha. B.G., Makesh Kumar, T., Harish, E.R., Santhosh Kumar, T., Shirly Raichal Anil and Sreekumar, J.) in the National conference on Transformative Science and Technology Education for Viksit Bharat. 32nd Swadeshi Science Conference (SSC), 7-9 January 2026 at Central University of Kerala, Tejaswini Hills, Periyar, Kasaragod, Kerala, India.
- Ms. S. Divya bagged Best Oral Presentation Award for the paper, From dysbiosis to eubiosis: Microbiome assisted microbial interventions for sustainable management of cassava stem and root rot' (Authors: Divya, S., Bag, T.K., Jeeva, M.L., Makesh Kumar, T., Veena, S.S., and Aundy Kumar) in the National Conclave on Research and Industrial Landscape of Microbiome, 23 January 2026, Centre of Excellence in Microbiome, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
- Ms. S.U. Shilpa bagged M.J. Narasimhan Academic Merit Award Commendation Certificate for the paper, 'Antagonistic behaviour and disease suppressive mechanisms of endophytic *Bacillus pumilus* against

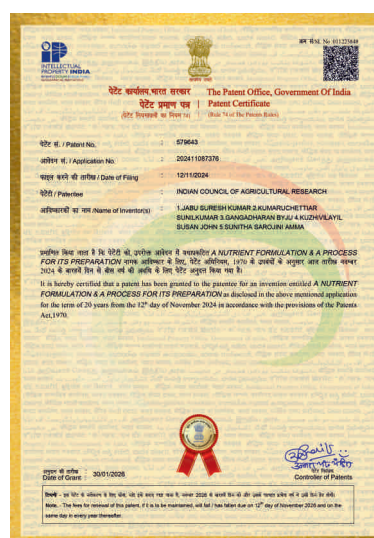
taro leaf blight' (Authors: Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac) in the National Conference on Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management on 20 February at BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.

- Ms. S. Divya bagged Best Oral Presentation Award for the paper, 'Exploring rhizoplane micro biome of cassava for suppression of stem and root rot disease' (Authors: Divya, S., Makesh Kumar, T., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Bag, T.K. and Aundy Kumar) in the Research and Technology Conclave 2026 (RTC-2026), 19-20 March 2026, Bio Medical Technology Wing, Poojappura, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.



Ms. S. Divya receiving Best Oral Presentation Award at Research and Technology Conclave 2026

- Patent obtained for customized hydroponic nutrient solution titled 'A nutrient formulation and a process for its preparation with patent No. 579643 dated 12/11/2024 of the Patent office, Government of India. Lead developer: Suresh Kumar, J.; Co-developers: Sunilkumar, K., Byju, G., Susan John, K. and Sunitha, S.



Recognitions

- Dr. K.I. Asha, reviewer for the Journal of Traditional and Folk Practices (JTFFP)
- Dr. C. Mohan, evaluator for two M. Sc. Biology thesis of St. Josephs College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi, resource person in the brainstorming on Current status and future breeding strategies for development of improved elephant foot yam varieties on 23 February 2026.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi, resource person in 'International workshop on protein methods', University College, Thiruvananthapuram on 13 March 2026.
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil delivered an invited talk at the farm fest 'NATOURA 2026' held at Government orange and vegetable farm (GOVF), Nelliampathy, on 07 February 2026 under the ICAR AICRP-Seed project of RARS, Pattambi, Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, Convenor and invited speaker in the "Brainstorming on current status and future strategies for development of improved elephant foot yam varieties' at ICAR-National Research Institute for Commercial Agriculture, Rajamundry, 23 February 2026.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, reviewer for the journals, Frontiers in plant science and Journal of plant biochemistry and biotechnology.
- Dr. K. Susan John was recognized as one among the 20 women scientists in NRM and featured in the coffee table book titled 'Luminaries of Vasundhara' published jointly by ICAR-IISS and Solodaridad. The honour was received on 6 March 2026 at ICAR-IISS, Bhopal. She had also participated as a panelist in the session on 'Multi stakeholder dialogue'.



Dr. K. Susan John receiving the honour

- Dr. T. Makesh Kumar, Member of Assessment Committee for the assessment of Scientists of KFRI (online mode).
- Dr. T. Makesh Kumar, External examiner for 2 Ph. D students of ICAR-IARI.
- Dr. M.L. Jeeva, External examiner for two Ph.D students of Kerala Agricultural University and BCKV, Kalyani.
- Dr. M.L. Jeeva, Reviewer for the journal, Phytoparasitica.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, Expert reviewer for evaluating the oral and poster presentations in the 38th Kerala Science Congress, 30 January-02 February 2026.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, Invited speaker in the National conference on current perspectives on crop health and sustainable plant disease management, 18-20 February at BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, Co-Chairperson, in the National conference on current perspectives on crop health and sustainable plant disease management, 18-20 February at BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, External examiner for a Ph. D student, Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, reviewer for the journal, The Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, evaluator for a Ph.D. thesis, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, reviewer for the journal, Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, external examiner for setting the theory question paper for M.Sc. (Nematology) students of College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Umiam.
- Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, Evaluator for a Ph.D thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra, panellist in the Kerala AI FUTURECON 2026, 23 January 2026 at The Leela Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra, invited speaker in the session on AI and Smart Farming for Income Generation as part of VAIGA 2026, 13 February 2026 at SAMETI, Anayara, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra, invited speaker in the South Indian Regional Agriculture Fair, 18-22 February 2026 at KAU, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra delivered an invited talk at

the National Conference on 'Empowering cashew sector integrating technology, productivity and value addition for Global competitiveness', 25-26 February 2026 at KAU, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.

- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra delivered an invited talk at 'Agri Fest', 27 February-01 March at RARS, Chalakudy, KAU, Thrissur.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, invited speaker in the three-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on 'Nutraceuticals in Ayurveda: From Concept to commercialisation', 08 January 2026 at Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, member of the adjudication panel for evaluating business ideas at the Indo-Malaysian International Hackathon - Dekathon 4.0, 22-24 January 2026 at St. Thomas College of Engineering & Technology, Chengannur.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, technical mentor for two M.Sc. (Ag) Extension students of TNAU, Coimbatore, 26-27 January 2026.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, Co-speaker for the Fireside Chat on Agriculture 4.0, in the 'Future Green' track, at the Summit of the Future - Kerala 2026, 31 January 2026, Jain University, Kochi.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, invited speaker, Tuber Futures-a virtual/online conversation/talks series on 24 February 2026 organised by Edible Futures and M/S Spudnik farms, Bangalore.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, lead speaker at the 'MANAGE Dialogue 2026: International Workshop on the Future of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services', 26 February 2026 at MANAGE Hyderabad.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, invited speaker, at the EDP programme on 8 March 2026, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, expert in the Third advisory committee meeting of the NASF project (Online), 24 March 2026, NAARM, Hyderabad
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, evaluator for two M.Sc. and a Ph.D thesis of Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Master Trainer for the training programme on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme for the staff of ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode and ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, visiting scientist to KVK, Idukki, Kerala for providing technological and methodological support for strengthening activities of KVK.

- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Editor of the Journal of Traditional and Folk Practices published by Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment (KSCSTE), Government of Kerala.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Member, Advisory Committee for a Ph.D. student of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, external examiner for thesis adjudication of 3 M.Sc. and one Ph.D. student of Kerala Agricultural University
- Dr. P. Prakash, external examiner for thesis adjudication of a M.Sc., (Ag.) student of College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur in February 2026.

Recreation Club

- New officers of the recreation club, Srishti assumed charge in January 2026 and organized four events during the period, Republic Day celebrations, felicitation for the sports team, an online Women's Day quiz, and an Ayurveda and Siddha medical camp. The Republic Day program began with flag hoisting by Director and club President Dr. G. Byju, followed by the national anthem and a patriotic song that enhanced the spirit of national pride. The club also honored the institute's sports team for their commendable achievement in securing medals at the South Zone Sports Meet in Hyderabad. As part of Women's Day observance, an online quiz was conducted on 02 March 2026 via the Club's WhatsApp group exclusively for women members, encouraging active participation through an engaging and informative set of questions. Additionally, a free Ayurveda and Siddha medical camp was organized on 05 March 2026 in association with doctors from Santhigiri Medical College. Inaugurated by Dr. G. Byju, the camp offered consultations and basic medical services, witnessing enthusiastic participation from scientists, students, staff, and workers.



Felicitation for the sports team of ICAR-CTCRI



Flag hoisting on Republic Day
by Dr. G. Byju



Ayurveda and Siddha medical camp at ICAR-CTCRI

Media Coverage

Sl. No.	Date	News title	Name of the News paper
1	08 January 2026	A tuber at a turning point	-
2	25 January 2026	The tuber crop management programme has been launched (Malayalam)	Janmabhoomi
3	29 January 2026	Jamuni chembu, ready to fight cancer (Cancerine cherukkum jamuni chembu ready-Malayalam)	Kerala Kaumudi
4	29 January 2026	Jamuni chembu will now be developed into products: License granted to a startup company (Jamuni chembu ini ulppannangal aakum: Startup companyku license- Malayalam)	Malayala Manorama
5	29 January 2026	ICAR-CTCRI commercializes 'Jamuni' purple taro	The Hindu
6	31 January 2026	Purple chembumaayi CTCRI	Mathrubhumi
7	January 2026	Malayalam article on sweet potato research at ICAR-CTCRI	Karshakashree
8	23 February 2026	Training programme for farmers held in Nilgiri Hills	The Hindu
9	24 February 2026	High yield in tubers with better management practices (Telugu)	Epaper Ennadu, Andhra Pradesh (East Godavari)
10	25 February 2026	Cassava harvest in Jalandhar signals a shift beyond paddy	-
11	02 March 2026	Training programme and farm input distribution in Nilgiris	Dinakaran (Tamil)
12	03 March 2026	Kizhanguvila vikasanapadhatthikku thudakkamayi (Malayalam)	Janmabhoomi
13	08 March 2026	International Women's Day celebration at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (Malayalam)	Kerala Kaumudi
14	12 March 2026	Training on improved tuber crop technologies conducted in Wokha	Nagaland tribune (e-paper)
15	12 March 2026	Training on tuber crops held in Wokha	Nagaland post.com (e-paper)
16	13 March 2026	Training on tuber crops held in Wokha	Morung express.com (e-paper)
17	14 March 2026	Sreekrishnapuram blockil vithugramam padhatthikku thudakkamayi (Malayalam)	Kerala Koumudi
18	16 March 2026	Sreekrishnapuram blockil vithugramam padhatthikku thudakkamayi (Malayalam)	Janmabhoomi
19	17 March 2026	Farmers' training and input distribution programme conducted at Pallakkal Pothukudi, Tirunelveli	Amma Express
20	22 March 2026	ICAR-CTCRI organized field day on coconut and tuber crops based agrifood systems for resilience and sustainable income	The Assam Post, Guwahati edition
21	26 March 2026	Field day celebration at Bichennala, Kamrup under CDB funded project	Batori Kakot
22	27 March 2026	ICAR- Central Tuber Research Institute develops electronic starch indicator for cassava	The Hindu (e-paper)



Tuber Crops for Food, Health, Wealth and Prosperity

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