



ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter

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CONTENTS

- Research Highlights
- Extension
- Training Programmes
- Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings
- Exhibitions
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Activities of ABI
- Technology Commercialization /Linkages/ Collaborations
- Capacity Building
- Publications
- Major Institute Events
- Other Important Events
- Distinguished Visitors
- Honours/Awards/Recognitions
- Media Coverage
- Personalia

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- International Women's Day 2026 (IWD 2026) will be celebrated during 02-06 March 2026 under the theme, 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls' at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.



Dr. G. Byju
Director

निदेशक की कलम से

मुझे किसानों और अन्य हितधारकों के लाभ के लिए कंद फसलों के अनुसंधान और विकास में आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई के महत्वपूर्ण योगदान को प्रस्तुत करते हुए खुशी हो रही है। इस अवधि दौरान, दो किस्में यथा, शकरकंद में श्री अरुणिमा और याम बीन में भूशकरकंद-1 ओडिशा राज्य में खेती के लिए जारी की गईं। संस्थान ने पौधा किस्म और किसान अधिकार संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (पीपीवी और एफआरए), नई दिल्ली के तहत किसान द्वारा विकसित कसावा किस्म, 'मन्ना' के पंजीकरण की सुविधा भी प्रदान की। किसानों और अन्य हितधारकों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए ऑन-कैंपस और ऑफ-कैंपस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम, प्रदर्शनियाँ और प्रमुख कंद उत्पादक राज्यों में कृषि सलाहकार दौरे आयोजित किए गए। कंद फसल दिवस, विश्व मृदा दिवस और किसान दिवस जैसे प्रमुख कार्यक्रम भी मनाए गए। आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई के इतिहास में एक प्रमुख मील का पत्थर 17-21 नवंबर 2025 के दौरान तिरुवनंतपुरम में पोषण, कृषि-खाद्य प्रणाली, लचीलापन, उद्यमिता और स्थिरता (आईएसआरटीसी-4 एनएआरआईएस) के लिए उष्णकटिबंधीय जड़ और कंद फसलों पर 20 वें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी की सफल मेज़बानी थी। भारत सरकार की क्षमता-निर्माण पहल के हिस्से के रूप में, सभी स्टाफ सदस्यों ने iGOT कर्मयोगी प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम पूरा किया। संस्थान ने जीनोम संपादन प्रयोगशाला, वैक्यूम-फ्राइंग चिप्स प्रसंस्करण इकाई, एक ओपन रूट स्केप छुम फोटो पॉइंट और एक एसबीआई एटीएम आउटलेट की स्थापना के साथ अपने बुनियादी ढांचे को और मजबूत किया। लगभग ₹3.09 करोड़ की कुल फंडिंग वाली छह नई अनुसंधान परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई, जिससे संस्थान के अनुसंधान एवं विकास कार्यक्रमों को और मजबूती मिली। आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई के कर्मचारियों को कंद फसलों के अनुसंधान में उनके सराहनीय योगदान के लिए कई प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार प्राप्त हुए, जिनमें इंटरनेशनल सोसाइटी फॉर ट्रॉपिकल रूट क्रॉप्स का लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड, इंडियन सोसाइटी फॉर रूट क्रॉप्स के फेलो और यंग साइंटिस्ट अवार्ड्स शामिल हैं। उष्णकटिबंधीय कंद फसलों के अनुसंधान और विकास में निरंतर नवाचारों के साथ, आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई विकसित भारत के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप आगे बढ़ रहा है।

From the Director

I am delighted to present the significant contributions of ICAR-CTCRI in research and development of tuber crops for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders. During the period, two varieties viz., Sree Arunima in sweet potato and Bhu Shakarkanda-1 in yam bean were released for cultivation in the state of Odisha. The Institute also facilitated the registration of a farmer-developed cassava variety, 'Manna', under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV & FRA), New Delhi. Both on-campus and off-campus training programmes, exhibitions, and farm advisory visits to major tuber crops growing states were organized to empower farmers and other stakeholders. Major events such as Tuber Crops Day, World Soil Day, and Kisan Diwas were also celebrated. A major milestone in the history of ICAR-CTCRI was the successful hosting of the 20th International Symposium on Tropical Root and Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES) during 17-21 November 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram. As part of the Government of India's capacity-building initiative, all staff members completed online courses through the iGOT Karmayogi platform. The Institute further strengthened its infrastructure with the establishment of a Genome editing laboratory, vacuum-frying chips processing unit, an open root scape cum photo point, and an SBI ATM outlet. Six new research projects with a total funding of approximately ₹3.09 crores were sanctioned, further strengthening the Institute's R&D programmes. The staff of ICAR-CTCRI received several prestigious awards for their meritorious contributions to tuber crops research, including the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops, Fellow of the Indian Society for Root Crops, and Young Scientist Awards, among others. 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.

G. Byju

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Research Highlights

Bhu Arunima: Purple flesh sweet potato hybrid

Kalidas Pati, Chauhan, V.B.S., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Laxminarayana, K., Archana Mukherjee and Byju, G.

Bhu Arunima is a biofortified, anthocyanin-rich purple flesh sweet potato hybrid released in 2025 from Regional Station, ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the state of Odisha. The semi-erect herbaceous plants bear triangular, slightly toothed leaves with purple-tinted veins. The variety produces elliptic tubers characterized by purple skin and deep purple flesh. Tubers measure 15–20 cm in length and 12–15 cm in girth, with individual weight ranging from 125–175 g. Each plant yields approximately 400–500 g. Anthocyanin content ranges from 133–157 mg per 100 g fresh weight. The variety is suitable for boiling, baking, frying and processing into chips, purees and flour that can partly replace wheat flour in bakery products.



Tubers of Bhu Arunima

Bhu Shakarkanda-1: A high yielding yam bean variety

Kalidas Pati, Chauhan, V.B.S., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Laxminarayana, K., Archana Mukherjee and Byju, G.

Bhu Shakarkanda-1 is the first high yielding yam bean variety, released from the Regional Station, ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, Odisha in 2025 for the state of Odisha. The plants bear pinnately trifoliate, coarse leaves and purple flowers. The fusiform tubers have a brown exterior and white flesh, measuring about 12–16 cm in length and 25–30 cm in girth, with an average weight of 400–500 g per plant. The crisp tubers are consumed raw or used in salads, soups, stir-fries and pickles. The variety is rich in Vitamin C and yields approximately 33 t/ha.



Tubers of Bhu Shakarkanda-1

New promising line (SH-1) identified in cassava for chips with high yield

Mohan, C., Asha, K.I., Nandini, C., Senthilkumar, K.M., Makesh Kumar, T. and Suresh, G.

A new promising clone (SH-1), suitable for chips production, has been identified in cassava. It has desirable characteristics such as conical shape tuber, non-bitter taste and high dry matter content (42%). This clone is free from cassava mosaic disease (CMD) and exhibits a non-branching growth habit, reaching heights of more than three meters. The tubers are easy to peel, have good raw taste, and show excellent cooking quality. Chips produced from this line are very crispy and have a pleasant taste.



Tubers of SH-1

Fried chips from SH-1

Manna – ICAR-CTCRI's first farmer variety in cassava

Visalakshi Chandra, C., Kalidas Pati, Sheela, M.N., Anjitha A.K., Ajolin Jemima, Abilash, P.V., Amalnath, S., Pooja Krishnan and Shameer, P.S.

India has established a unique legal framework to protect plant varieties while safeguarding the rights of both farmers and plant breeders through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001. This pioneering sui generis system recognizes farmers as cultivators, conservers, and breeders, while balancing breeders' rights in line with India's obligations under TRIPS and the UPOV (1978) framework. Farmers' varieties include traditional varieties, landraces, and wild relatives conserved and developed by farmers over generations. Depending on their role as developers or conservers, farmers can register these varieties and receive exclusive rights for production and commercialization for a defined period. In this context, ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, facilitated the registration of the first cassava farmer variety, 'Manna', under the PPV&FR Act on 14 November 2025. Developed by farmer, Shri. Johnson Mathew of Kozhikode, Kerala, 'Manna' is a 10-month duration cassava variety with long tubers, excellent cooking quality, and tolerance to cassava mosaic disease. Its registration highlights the importance of farmer-led innovation, biodiversity conservation, and formal recognition of farmers' contributions to Indian agriculture.



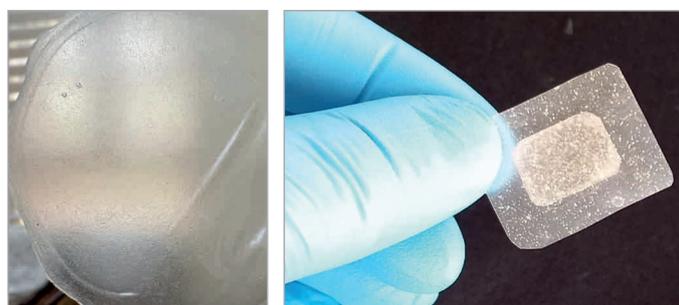
Field view of “Manna” with the developer, Shri. Johnson Mathew and “Manna” registration certificate received from PPV & FRA, New Delhi

OFT on greater yam at Uzhamalackal

Cassava starch-derived mucoadhesive films for intra-oral drug delivery

Jyothi Sreekumar, Manoj Komath and Sajeev, M.S.

The oral mucosa or the lining of the mouth is frequently exposed to infections, inflammatory conditions and potentially malignant lesions, making local drug delivery an effective treatment strategy. However, the wet and dynamic conditions in the mouth make it difficult to deliver drugs locally for longer durations. To address this challenge, drug-loaded mucoadhesive oral patches were developed from native as well as modified cassava starch and evaluated for drug content uniformity, surface pH, hydration, matrix erosion and *in vitro* drug release in simulated saliva. To enhance sustained release, bilayer films and unidirectional drug delivery designs were investigated, with bilayer systems exhibiting more controlled release than monolayer films and sustained drug release achieved for up to 240 min. Multidirectional systems exhibited a more pronounced initial burst release. The findings highlighted the potential of starch-based mucoadhesive films as effective buccal drug delivery systems with tunable release characteristics.



Cassava starch based mucoadhesive membrane

Extension

FLDs/OFTs

- Three OFTs on minisett raised protray nursery of greater yam (Sree Nidhi) were established in farmer's fields. Two in Uzhamalackal village, and one in Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.

Training programmes

On campus programmes

- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organised at Techno Incubation Centre on 21 October 2025 for 18 beneficiaries from Kudumbasree, Perumkadavila, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Hands on training on 'Resilient crop production practices in tropical tuber crops' for six B.Sc. (Hons.), Agricultural students, Guru Kashi University, Bathinda, Punjab during 22 October - 26 November 2025.



Students participating in a session on the physical properties of soil

- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was conducted at Techno Incubation Centre during 27-28 October 2025 for 14 beneficiaries from Kudumbasree, Kollam.
- Farmers training on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was organized during 01-02 December 2025 for the benefit of 20 farmers from Tamil Nadu.
- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was conducted at Techno Incubation Centre on 02 December 2025 for 17 beneficiaries from Department of Agriculture, Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu.
- As part of the AICRP-TC NEH programme, a three-day capacity-building programme on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was organized during 03-05 December 2025 for 25 Subject Matter Specialists representing different Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Assam.



Participants of the training programme from Assam

- Training cum exposure visit for 32 Officers of Odisha was jointly organized by ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute & State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Odisha during 09-11 December 2025.



Participants of the training programme from Odisha

- Hands on training on 'Value added products for entrepreneurship development in tropical tuber crops' was conducted at Techno Incubation Centre on 12 December 2025 for 12 beneficiaries from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kanyakumari.
- Training programme on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was organised during 15-17 December 2025 for the participants from Thane district of Maharashtra in which, 32 farmers, three Block Technology Managers and two Assistant Block Technology managers attended the training.



Participants of the training programme from Maharashtra

Off campus programmes

- Training programme on 'Tuber crops for Seed village programme' and distribution of critical inputs under SCSP programme was conducted on 07 October 2025 at Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram.



Distribution of planting materials at Parassala

- Training programmes on 'Value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' were conducted on 14 and 15 October 2025 for SCSP beneficiaries from Mathur and Pattithara villages in Palakkad district.



Participants from Palakkad

- AICRP on Tuber Crops in collaboration with RVS-KVK, Tirunelveli (Tenkasi), organized a one-day sensitization workshop on 'Nematode management in Chinese potato' on 15 October 2025 at Keezha Ambur, Kadayam block, Tenkasi district, under the SCSP programme. Quality planting materials of Chinese potato and sweet potato, along with ICAR-IIHR vegetable seed kits were distributed to the participants. About 75 farmers attended the programme.



Distribution of farm inputs to farmers Session on nematode management

- Training programme on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' under SCSP was organized on 29 October 2025 in association with the Malanadan Farmer Producer Company and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala, at Karunapuram Panchayat, Nedumkandam Block, Idukki district, in which 35 farmers participated.



Training at Karunapuram Panchayat



Distribution of seed materials of elephant foot yam at Parassala & Pramadom

- Awareness programme on 'Improved Tuber Crop Technologies' under SCSP was organized on 19 December 2025 at Parassala block, Thiruvananthapuram and on 29 December 2025 at Pramadom panchayat, Pathanamthitta. Distributed seed materials of elephant foot yam to SC beneficiaries.

Off-campus training programmes organised by Regional Station, Bhubaneswar

Sl. No.	Title of programme	Date	Panchayat, District, State	No. of beneficiaries
1	Biofortified sweet potato-mango-poultry integrated farming system for livelihood and nutritional security, under NABARD project	10.10.25	Jamundihi village, Jorda G.P., Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	40
2	Biofortified sweet potato-mango-poultry integrated farming system for livelihood and nutritional security, under NABARD project	11.10.25	Gopalpur village, Hatabadada G.P. Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	40
3	Value addition in tuber crops under MIDH	15.12.25	T. Dengasargi village, Dumuriguda G.P., Kolnara block, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	70
4	Value addition in tuber crops under MIDH	16.12.25	Block Agricultural office, Bissamcuttack, Rayagada district, Odisha	60
5	Value addition in tuber crops under MIDH	18.12.25	Saragchhida village, Kuliana block, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	72
6	Value addition in tuber crops under AICRP TC-TSP	18.12.25	Lambabari, Khajuripada, Kandhamal district, Odisha	54
7	Value addition in tuber crops under MIDH	19.12.25	Kanchhinda village, Sorisapal G.P., Mayurbhanj district, Odisha	66



Training programme at Saragchhida village, Mayurbhanj district



Training programme at Lambabari, Kandhamal district

Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings/Field Diagnostic Visits Organized

Live Webcast of the 'Launching of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

ICAR-CTCRI organized a live web telecast of the launch of the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses, along with a Scientist-Farmer Interface on Improved tuber crop technologies on 11 October 2025. The programme was attended by over 260 participants, including farmers from Thiruvananthapuram and Pathanamthitta districts and Institute staff.

Dr. G. Suja, Director i/c, ICAR-CTCRI, in her presidential address highlighted tuber crops-based pulse cropping systems for climate resilience, food and livelihood security, and emphasized the role of SCSP, TSP and NEH programmes in stakeholder empowerment. Following the inauguration, participants watched the live telecast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address, during which agriculture and allied sector projects worth over ₹42,000 crore were launched, including the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses. The Prime Minister also interacted with farmers, reaffirming the government's commitment to agricultural self-reliance and rural development. Participants later visited key Institute facilities, and the programme enhanced scientific awareness, dissemination of government schemes, and farmer-scientist interactions to promote sustainable tuber crops-based farming systems.



Presidential Address by Dr. G. Suja,
Director i/c, ICAR-CTCRI



Participants of the programme

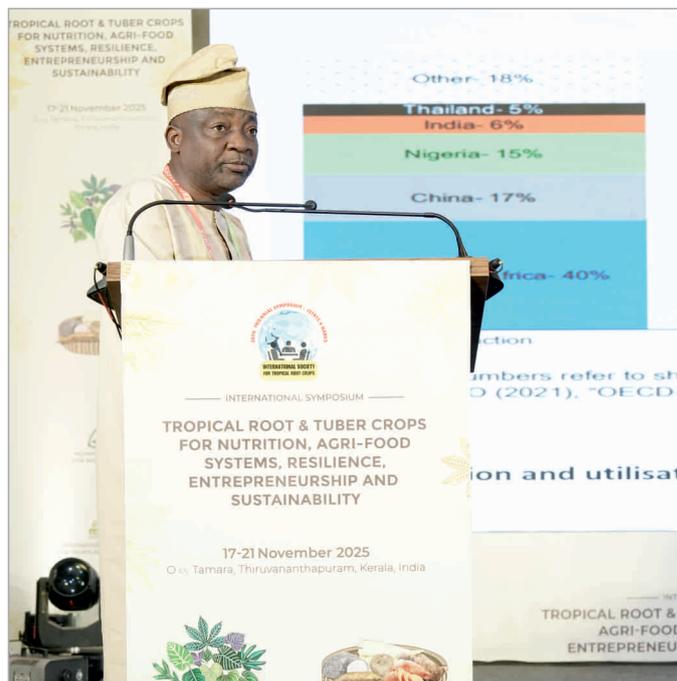
International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)

The 20th International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES) was hosted by ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and jointly organized with the Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC) and the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC) during 17-21 November 2025 at Hotel O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram. The symposium brought together over 90 international delegates from 25 countries across six continents, along with 200 Indian delegates, representing scientists, policymakers, industry experts, entrepreneurs, students, and other stakeholders. At the inaugural session, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR, advocated diversified food systems over monocropping, emphasizing zero waste and full utilization of plant parts. He highlighted the role of tropical root and tuber crops in addressing agrarian and climate challenges while enhancing food and nutritional security and promoting entrepreneurship. Prof. Lateef O. Sanni, President of ISTRC and Executive Director, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute, outlined the broader vision of ISTRC and highlighted the importance of tuber crops and banana as staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, reiterated the shared international commitment to improving food security through enhanced production and value-chain development of tropical tubers. During the inaugural proceedings, scientists were felicitated with the ISRC Fellow Award and Dr. A. Abraham Award and an important policy-level proposal, the National Mission on Tuber Crops (NMTC), was proposed to mainstream tropical tuber crops into India's food basket and to enhance productivity, farmer income and value-chain development of these climate-resilient crops.

The five-day programme featured 8 keynote addresses, 31 lead talks, 86 oral presentations, and 94 poster presentations, reflecting strong global participation and scientific depth. Technical sessions were organized across six thematic tracks along with a Young Scientist Award Contest. Keynote and plenary talks highlighted advances in germplasm utilization, precision and climate-smart practices, seed systems, stress resilience, value addition, and market-led scaling approaches in root, tubers and banana (RTB) value chains. The plenary session on 21 November 2025 also included presentation of several awards, including the ISRC Young Scientist Award, Pat Coursey Award, Prof. Satish Chandra Award, Best Sweet potato scientific paper award, and best oral, poster and logo design awards.



Inauguration by dignitaries



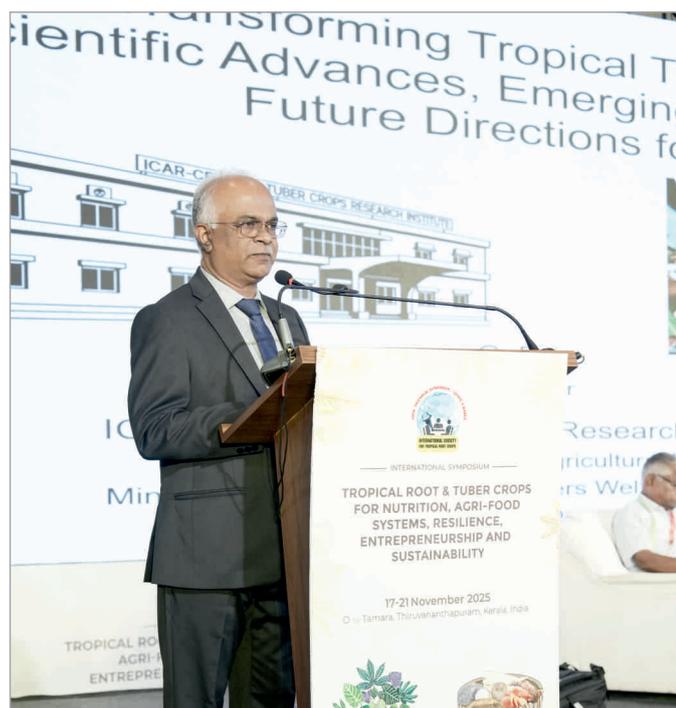
Keynote lecture by Prof. Lateef O Sanni



Inaugural address by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Hort. Sci.), ICAR, New Delhi



Participants attending the symposium



Keynote lecture by Dr. G. Byju



Visit of dignitaries to ICAR-CTCRI exhibition stall

Stakeholder Interface on 'Fostering Global Partnerships and Business Models for Tropical Tuber Crops'

ICAR-CTCRI in collaboration with AgrInnovate India Ltd. organized a Stakeholder Interface on 'Fostering Global Partnerships and Business Models for Tropical Tuber Crops' during the International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops on 20th November 2025. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, as Chief Guest, who emphasized technology-driven growth in the sector. Guests of Honour, Dr. Neeraj Sharma (CIP, New Delhi), Dr. George Ninan (ICAR-CIFT, Cochin), and Shri Dhruva V.C. (Agrinnovate India Ltd., New Delhi), highlighted opportunities in research, entrepreneurship, and international collaboration. The interface brought together global scientists, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and policy experts, and featured panel discussions on business development, export regulations, and financing. The programme concluded with a commitment to innovation, value-chain efficiency, and strengthened global engagement in tropical root and tuber crops.



Stakeholders interface

National Farmers Day 'Kisan Diwas' 2025

ICAR-CTCRI organized National Farmers Day (Kisan Diwas 2025) on 23 December 2025. The programme was attended by over 270 participants, including farmers from Thiruvananthapuram district and Institute staff.

Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Director (i/c), ICAR-CTCRI, delivered the Presidential address who emphasized the provisions of the VB G RAM G Bill, 2025 for agricultural and rural development and highlighted ICAR-CTCRI's contributions to nation building through improved tuber crop varieties and technologies. A Scientist-Farmer Interface on improved tuber crop technologies and central government schemes was conducted, followed by the live telecast of the address by Shri. Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and

Farmers Welfare, who highlighted farmers' contributions and recent agricultural schemes, including the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025. Participants visited key Institute facilities, received training materials, and the programme enhanced scientific awareness, dissemination of government schemes, and farmer–scientist interactions to promote sustainable tuber crops–based farming systems.



Presidential Address by Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Director i/c



Participants of the Kisan Diwas

Exhibitions

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

- Exhibition in connection with Education Festival 2025 during 11-12 October 2025 at Lekshmi Vilasom High School (LVHS), Pothencode, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The ICAR-CTCRI Agri-Business Incubator (ABI) participated in the Kerala Women Entrepreneurs Conclave 2025 held on 13 October 2025 at the Lulu International Convention Centre, Thrissur organized by the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kerala.
- Exhibition on value added products and tubers crops technologies were conducted during 14 and 15 October 2025 under SCSP programme at Mathur and Pattithara in Palakkad district.
- Exhibition in connection with INFIBOT 2025-2026 on 30 October 2025 at St. Thomas Residential School, Mukkolakkal, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Exhibition in connection with International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for

Nutrition, Agrifood systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES) organized by Indian Society for Root Crops, International Society for Tropical Root Crops and ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute during 17-21 November 2025 at O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram and ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Exhibition in connection with ISTRTC 4 NARES 2025

Exposure visits to ICAR-CTCRI

- One day exposure visit cum training on 'Improved technologies of tuber crops' was organized for the benefit of 20 farmers, 779 students and 34 officials during this period at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Swachhta Pakhwada-2025

Swachhta Pakhwada–2025 was organized at ICAR–CTCRI from 16 to 31 December 2025. The programme commenced with the administration of the Swachhta Pledge by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR–CTCRI. More than 60 staff members and 25 farmers from Maharashtra participated in the pledge. As part of Swachhta Pakhwada, a series of activities were successfully conducted, including the observance of Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas), planting of fruit trees, promotion of kitchen gardening, recycling of wastewater, and community outreach programmes. Other initiatives comprised weeding out old office records, cleanliness drives across the institute premises, guest house, and Veli Beach, signature campaigns within the institute and in public places, plastic waste shramdaan at the canteen, and walkathons across the campus.

Activities of Agribusiness Incubator

Incubatee enrolment: 2

Sl. No.	Name of the incubatee	Name of organisation/business	Address of the company	Date of enrolment
1	Ms. M. Aswathy	V One Organics	Meera KrishnaThalagamkulam, Tholicode P.O, Punalur, Kerala-691333	13 October 2025
2	Dr. Punnen Kurian	Ties Farmer Producer Company Ltd	19/583 Ecological Research Campus, Velloor, Kottayam, Kerala-686501	15 October 2025



Swachhta Pakhwada at ICAR-CTCRI

Technology Commercialization/Linkages/ Collaborations

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 11 November 2025 with M/s Orabio Organic LLP, Bangalore, for the development of a simulation model for ginger yield improvement, plant growth, and pest and disease outbreak alerts through e-Crop based smart farming (eCBSF). The project is being implemented as a collaborative initiative under the category of a partially funded project, with revenue of ₹ 2,42,225.
- Voucher samples of nine accessions of germplasm (Cassava-1, Aroids-4, yams-2, yam bean-1) received

from ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Farming System Research Centre for Hill and Plateau Region, Ranchi, Jharkhand on 26 November 2025 for conservation.



Signing of MoA with M/s Orabio Organic LLP

Capacity building Trainings attended by staff

Sl. No.	Name	Particulars of the training	Period
1	Dr. S.S. Veena	Generative AI Tools for Agriculture, ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad	26-28 November 2025
2	Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	2 nd International Workshop-cum-Webinar on CRISPR-Cas Genome Editing in Plants, Glostem, Chandigarh	10-12 December 2025
3	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Training programme for Development of Master Trainers under Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme Phase II (Zone V), ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad	15-17 December 2025

iGOT Karmayogi training programmes (October-December 2025)

Sl. No.	Particulars of the training	Name
1	AI Led Digital Transformation in Agriculture, Wadhvani Foundation	Dr. Manas R. Sahoo, Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. E.R. Harish, Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, Dr. R. Saravanan, Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Dr. Jeena Mathew, Shri. B. Satheesan, Shri. D.T. Rejin, Smt. Rini Alocious, Dr. M.S. Sajeev, Dr. C. Pradeepika, Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. B.S. Prakash Krishnan, Shri. R. Ajith Kumar, Shri. K. Chandran, Ms. Pooja Krishnan
2	AIS Conduct Rules (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. M.S. Sajeev, Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar, Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. C. Pradeepika
3	Gen AI for everyone (Fractal)	Dr. Manas R. Sahoo, Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. K. Susan John, Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Dr. R. Saravanan, Dr. Jeena Mathew, Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Dr. E.R. Harish, Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, Dr. M.S. Sajeev, Dr. C. Pradeepika, Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. D. Jaganathan, Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. J. Sreekumar
4	Time management (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. P. Murugesan, Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, Dr. L.K. Bharathi, Dr. T.P. Sujatha, Dr. N. Krishna Radhika, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. G. Suja, Dr. V. Ramesh, Dr. R. Muthuraj, Dr. Jeena Mathew, Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Smt. Rini Alocious, Shri. S. Abhishek, Smt. R. Anuja, Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. D. Jaganathan, Dr. P. Prakash, Shri. R. Ajith Kumar, Ms. S.L. Jyothi
5	Conduct Rules (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. P. Murugesan, Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. C. Mohan, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, Dr. L.K. Bharathi, Dr. N. Krishna Radhika, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Smt. R. Anuja, Dr. T.P. Sujatha, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. G. Suja, Dr. K. Susan John, Dr. S. Sunitha, Dr. V. Ramesh, Dr. P. Prakash, Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Dr. D. Jaganathan, Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. B.S. Prakash Krishnan, Shri. R. Ajith Kumar, Ms. Pooja Krishnan, Ms. S.L. Jyothi, Shri. K. Chandran, Shri. B. Satheesan, Shri. D.T. Rejin, Smt. Rini Alocious, Shri. S. Abhishek
6	Stress Management (Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad)	Dr. G. Suja, Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. M.S. Sajeev, Ms. S.L. Jyothi, Dr. C. Pradeepika, Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar, Ms. Pooja Krishnan, Dr. B.S. Prakash Krishnan, Shri. R. Ajith Kumar, Shri. K. Chandran
7	Green Revolution to Amrit Kaal, Karmayogi Bharat	Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. C. Mohan, Dr. L.K. Bharathi, Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Dr. T.P. Sujatha, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. K. Susan John, Dr. S. Sunitha, Dr. V. Ramesh, Dr. R. Muthuraj, Dr. R. Saravanan, Dr. Jeena Mathew, Shri. S. Abhishek, Smt. R. Anuja, Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar, Dr. C. Pradeepika, Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Dr. P. Prakash

8	Stress Management, (Indian Institute of Public Administration)	Dr. Manas R. Sahoo, Dr. P. Murugesan, Dr. K.I. Asha, Dr. C. Mohan, Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, Dr. N. Krishna Radhika, Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra, Dr. T.P. Sujatha, Dr. S.N. Rahana, Dr. G. Suja, Dr. S. Sunitha, Dr. V.Ramesh, Dr. R. Muthuraj, Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Shri. B. Satheesan, Smt. Rini Alocious, Shri. S. Abhishek, Smt. R. Anuja, Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. E.R. Harish, Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. J. Sreekumar, Dr. D. Jaganathan, Dr. P. Prakash
9	Prevention of sexual harassment of Women at workplace (Institute of Secretariat Training and Management)	Dr. S.S. Veena, Dr. B.S. Prakash Krishnan, Shri. K. Chandran, Ms. Pooja Krishnan, Shri. B. Satheesan, Shri. D.T. Rejin, Smt. Rini Alocious
10	Basics of vertical garden (CPWD)	Dr. S.S. Veena
11	Leave rules	Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Shri. S. Abhishek, Smt. R. Anuja
12	Rajbhasha Hindi	Ms. S.L. Jyothi, Shri. S. Abhishek, Smt. R. Anuja
13	Public relations skills (IRITM)	Dr. S.S. Veena
14	An introduction to vermicomposting (CPWD)	Dr. S.S. Veena
15	Microsoft PowerPoint Advance (Microsoft)	Dr. S.S. Veena
16	Time management Skills (ITITM)	Dr. G. Suja

Staff participation in scientific events/ seminars/ symposia/ conferences/ workshops/ meetings

Sl. No.	Name of the participant	Programme	Date of the programme
1	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	Review meeting of the project, 'Germplasm exchange, improvement and testing advanced clean seed technology in cassava' under Biovarsity International & CIAT Alliance collaborative, New Delhi	06 October 2025
2	Dr. S. Sunitha	DAESI programme at KVK, Kumarakom, Kottayam	06 October 2025
3	Dr. K.I. Asha Dr. A. Asha Devi	Meeting for discussing the laws and rules of biodiversity and ideas relating to conservation of biodiversity, KSBB, Thiruvananthapuram	07 October 2025
4	All staff	Live webcast of the address on the 'Launching of PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and mission for Aatmanirbharata in Pulses', ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	11 October 2025
5	Dr. S. Sunitha	Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, Sahakarana Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram	14 October 2025
6	Dr. K.I. Asha	Policy Consultation Workshop on Wild Edibles with the Review meeting, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Sasthra Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram	16 October 2025
7	Ms. B.S. Deepa	Seminar on 'Eugene Garfield and the Science of Scientific Communication', KSCSTE, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram	22 October 2025
8	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	Review meeting of CRPVD project, ICAR-IVRI, Bengaluru	23-24 October 2025
9	Dr. S.N. Rahana	Second Stakeholders Consultation meeting (online), PPVFRA	26 October 2025
10	All staff	Vigilance Awareness week 2025- Integrity pledge at ICAR-CTCRI	27 October 2025
11	All staff	Valedictory function of the vigilance awareness week 2025, ICAR-CTCRI	31 October 2025
12	All staff	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge and unity walk, ICAR-CTCRI	31 October 2025
13	Ms. B.S. Deepa	International Conference on 'Libraries Empowering Communities: Global Perspectives', P.N. Panicker Foundation, Thiruvananthapuram	02-03 November 2025
14	Dr. K.I. Asha	New Project Proposal at KSBB HQ, Thiruvananthapuram	06 November 2025
15	Dr. G. Byju Dr. P. Murugesan Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	11 th Indian Horticultural Congress and International Meet on 'Horticulture for inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth', Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru	06-09 November 2025
16	All staff	Vande mataram, a solemn mass singing	07 November 2025
17	Dr. P. Murugesan Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	Training for the ASRB exam, Multidata, Thiruvananthapuram	11 November 2025
18	All Scientific and Technical staff	International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES), ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.	17-21 November 2025
19	All Scientific and Technical staff	Stakeholder Interface on 'Fostering Global Partnerships and Business Models for Tropical Tuber Crops' (Harnessing science, partnerships, and enterprise for global impact), ICAR-CTCRI and AgrInnovate India Ltd.	20 November 2025
20	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Mid-term review meeting of AICRP on Tuber Crops at ICAR-CTCRI	20 November 2025
21	Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar	International scientific meeting on 'Global cassava breeding network', ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	21 November 2025

22	Dr. G. Suja	Sixth International Agronomy Congress, CSIR-NPL, New Delhi	24-26 November 2025
23	Dr. A. Asha Devi	Annual meeting of the Board of Studies in Botany (UG), University College, Thiruvananthapuram	27 November 2025
24	Dr. G. Suja Dr. S. Sunitha Dr. V. Ramesh Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra	International Seminar on Climate-Weed Nexus: Innovations for Sustainable Farming (CWIS-2025), College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	27-28 November 2025
25	Dr. K. Sunilkumar	Academic Council Meeting, CUSAT, Kochi	29 November 2025
26	Dr. D. Jaganathan Dr. P. Prakash	Stakeholders meet on Climate Resilience in Agriculture under KERA Project, Hotel Appollo Dimora, Thiruvananthapuram	29 November 2025
27	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	Online meeting with ATARI, Bengaluru for planning state level workshop under VKSA	01 December 2025
28	All staff	Tuber Crops Day, ICAR-CTCRI	04 December 2025
29	All staff	World Soil Day, ICAR-CTCRI	05 December 2025
30	Dr. A. Asha Devi Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Hindi quarterly review meeting. ICAR-CTCRI	05 December 2025
31	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	Online meeting to review progress of IGoT courses and development of domain IGoT courses under DARE/ICAR	05 December 2025
32	All Scientists	DG's meeting with scientists of ICAR Institutes (online)	08 December 2025
33	Dr. T. Makesh Kumar	National conference on 'Novel strategies for biotic stress management in crop plants', ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur	11-12 December 2025
34	Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra	Brainstorming session on 'Artificial intelligence and its applications in agriculture and agricultural research', NAAS (online)	12 December 2025
35	Dr. G. Byju Dr. S.S. Veena	Preparatory meeting for study visit of Parliamentary Standing Committee on implementation of POSH act (online)	16 December 2025
36	All staff	Swachhata Pakhwada 2025, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram	16-31 December 2025
37	Dr. G. Byju Dr. T. Makesh Kumar Dr. J. Sreekumar Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar Dr. N. Krishna Radhika Dr. B.G. Sangeetha Dr. T.P. Sujatha	Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting	18 December 2025
38	Dr. M.L. Jeeva	National Conference on Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security, IPS-SZ, PAJANCOA, Karaikal, Puducherry	18-19 December 2025
39	Dr. Sheela Immanuel	Scientific advisory committee meeting, KVK, Mitraniketan, Thiruvananthapuram	19 December 2025
40	Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra	'Reinventing Web3 through AI' in BlockHash LIVE 2025, the annual emerging technology summit at the C-DAC Auditorium, Technopark, Phase I, Kerala Blockchain Academy	20 December 2025
41	All staff	Kisan Diwas 2025 and webcast of the address on Kisan Samman Diwas by the Hon'ble Union Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister	23 December 2025
42	Dr. G. Byju Dr. S.S. Veena Shri. S. Bhadra Kumar	Study visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 'Empowerment of Women', Lemon Tree Premier, Thiruvananthapuram	29 December 2025
43	Dr. A. Asha Devi	Review meeting of Hindi Cell, ICAR-CTCRI by Dr. Sudhakar Pandey (ADG, FVS & MP)	30 December 2025

Publications

Research papers

- Amrutha Rajeev, Jacob, D., Shalini Pillai, P., Santhosh Mithra, V.S., Nisha, S.K. and Sheeja K Raj. 2025. Influence of sowing date on fruit yield of okra varieties. *Int. J. Res. Agron.*, 8(12): 01-06. (NAAS score: 5.2).
- Anushka, S.R., Santhoshkumar, T., Harish, E.R. and Narayana, R. 2025. Management of sucking pests of tapioca. *Int. J. Adv. Biochem. Res.*, 9 (10): 489-493. (NAAS score: 5.29).
- Byju, G. 2024. Role of plant nutrition in food security: Achievements, aspirations and action plan. *J. Indian Soc. Soil Sci.*, 72 (Supplement): S66-S77. (NAAS score: 5.34).
- De, S., Nayak, P.P., Nayak, A., Garnaik, S., Kumar, S., Das, S., Sivakumar, P.S., Raju, S. and Panda, S. 2025. Synergistic control of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms using *Limosilactobacillus fermentum* and preservation factors. *Food Biosci.*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fbio.2025.107797> (NAAS score: 11.90).
- Drishya, P., Jayaprakas, C.A., Siji, J.V. and Sangeetha, B.G. 2025. Molecular identification and phylogenetic analysis of spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*) Russell (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) from different Agro-Ecological

- Zones of Kerala, India. *Entomon.*, 50(3):291-298. <https://doi.org/10.33307/entomon.v50i3.1523> (NAAS score: 5.24).
6. Greeshma, P.R., Leno, N., Rani, B., Byju, G., Isaac, S.R and Gladis, R. 2025. Temporal variation in micronutrient content in soil amended with thermochemical organic fertilizer prepared from different reagent combinations. *Int. J. Plant Soil Sci.*, 37(10): 476-482. (NAAS score: 5.07).
 7. Iype Praveen Thomas, Adarsh Krishnan, U., Sreekumar, J. and Makesh Kumar, T. 2024. Acclimatization of virus-free tissue culture plants of cassava through Semi Autotropic Hydroponics technique. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 20-25.
 8. Jaganathan, D., Sheela Immanuel, Prakash, P. and Muthuraj, R. 2024. Mapping of women and men empowerment in Chinese potato cultivation in Tamil Nadu: A comparative analysis. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 33-37.
 9. Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C., Jeevarathinam, G., Chelladurai, V. and Velmurugan M. 2025. Drying kinetics, quality characteristics and mathematical modelling of circular shaped cassava slices: effect of varieties, thickness and drying methods. *J. Food Process Eng.*, 49: e70334 (NAAS score: 8.90).
 10. Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C., Muthuraj, R. and Jaganathan, D. 2024. Determination of engineering properties of Chinese potato tubers (*Plectranthus rotundifolius*): Implications for designing grading equipment. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 61-64.
 11. Lekshmi, G.S., Devidas, A.R., Raji, P., Byju, G. and Hariprasad, K.M. 2025. Enhancing coconut yield potential: A climate-smart land suitability analysis using machine learning. *Smart Agricultural Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atech.2025.101087>. (IF: 5.7).
 12. Lekshmi, K.M., Ajay Prabhakumar, J., Suresh Kumar, J. and Sunitha, S. 2024. Biochemical changes in greater yam (*Dioscorea alata*) tubers at different stages of maturity. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 65-68.
 13. Meenakshi Kailas, Jacob, D., Shalini Pillai, P., Santhosh Mithra, V.S., Nisha, S.K., Sheeja K Raj and Jince Mary M Joy. 2025. Influence of sowing date on pod yield of yard long bean varieties. *Int. J. Res. Agron.*, 8(12): 37-42. (NAAS score: 5.2)
 14. Muthuraj, R., Asha Devi, A., Makesh Kumar, T., Suja, G. and Byju, G. 2024. Seed certificate standards for quality planting material production of tannia [*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L) Schott]. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 55-60.
 15. Nandini, C., Jayalekshmi, S., Aakash, A., Senthilkumar, K.M., Makesh Kumar, T., Sreekumar, J., Byju, G., Koundinya, A.V.V. and Mohan, C. 2025. Tagging of cassava mosaic disease resistance gene in cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers. *Plant Sci. Today*, 12(4): 1-7. (NAAS score: 6.7).
 16. Nayak, D., Behera, P., Singh, S., Tripathy, P.S., Dash, S.S., Sahoo, M.R., Satapathy, C.R. and Sahu, S. 2025. Sucrose supplementation influences gut microbial diversity and functional shifts in *Apis cerana indica*. *Front. Microbiol.*, 16:1733283. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2025.1733283>. (NAAS score: 10.5).
 17. Pavithra, S.A., Veena, S.S., Aundy Kumar, Krishnaveni, K., Divya, S., Lohitha, B., Beegam Nazrin, Tom Cyriac, Shilpa, S.U., Karthikeyan, S., Jeeva, M.L., Arutselvan, R. and Makesh Kumar, T. 2024. Protocol optimization: A comparative study on phylloplane microbial recovery. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 49-54.
 18. Prakash, P., Jaganathan, D. and Sheela Immanuel. 2025. Economic impact of high yielding cassava varieties in Tamil Nadu: Insights on farmer adoption and preferences. *Indian J. Agric. Sci.*, 95(10): 1198-1204. (NAAS score: 6.3).
 19. Rakshitha, R., Thangamani, C., Kavitha, M., Manivannan, N., Raghu, R., Indu Rani, C., Murugesan, P. and Kingsly Raj, A. 2025. Unveiling the genetic diversity of winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* (L.) DC.) genotypes: A phenotypic and genotypic assessment for crop improvement. *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 29:1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11105-025-01660-9> (NAAS score: 7.4).
 20. Rewati Bhattarai, Geethu Sulochana, Riddhiben Ghanshyambhai Maheta, Anita Severn-Ellis, Kalidas Pati, Sruthi, N.U., Amboge Samson and Stuart Johnson. 2025. Comparative analysis of bioactives and protein characteristics in six genotypes of yam bean tubers. *Sustain Food Technol.*, 3: 2074-2087. DOI: 10.1039/D5FB00398A. (IF: 5.3).
 21. Saravanan, R., Makesh Kumar, T., Aparna, R., Senthilkumar, K.M. and Ravi, V. 2025. Cassava mosaic disease impairs photosynthesis and sugar metabolism: varietal susceptibility and key metabolic disruptions. *Funct. Plant Biol.*, 23; 52(12): FP25184. DOI: 10.1071/FP25184. (NAAS score: 8.6)
 22. Shukla, K.K., Kishore, K., Pradhan, K., Swain, S.C., Sahoo, M.R., Bhol, R., Samal, S., Sahu, A. and Mishra, A. 2025. Evaluation of gamma irradiation effect on morpho-physiological and biochemical traits of dragon fruit (*Selenicereus monacanthus*) under water stress environment. *Plant Physiol. Rep.*, 30(4): 771-779. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40502-025-00893-w>. (NAAS score: 7.5).
 23. Sujatha T.P., Nasreena, C., Shaji, E., Sheela, M.N., Abhilash, P.V., Sreekumar J. and Varghese, R.M. 2025. Isolation of genomic DNA from tubers of white Guinea yam (*Dioscorea rotundata* Poir.) without using liquid nitrogen. *Appl. Biol. Res.*, 27(3): 406-415. DOI: 10.48165/abr.2025.27.01.40 (NAAS score: 6.3)
 24. Susan John, K. and Sheela. M.N. 2024. Optimum nutrient dose for K use efficient cassava genotypes in an Ultisol of Kerala, India, *J. Root Crops*, 50(2):13-19.
 25. Thangamani, C., Suresh Kumar, J., Pugalendhi, L., Saravanan, R., Tamilselvi, N.A., Khapte, P.S. and Ajith, S. 2025. Grafting hybrid and monoecious cucumbers onto cucurbit rootstocks enhance growth and yield under net house conditions. *J. Agric. Sci. Technol.*, e27578. (NAAS score: 7.6).
 26. Veena, S.S., Pavithra, S.A., Arutselvan, R., Suja, G. and Jeeva, M.L. 2024. Collar rot of elephant foot yam (*Amorphophallus paeoniifolius*): pathogen biology, detection, and management strategies – A review. *J. Root Crops*, 50(2): 3-12.

Books

1. Jaganathan, D., Pradeepika, C., Visalakshi Chandra C., Prakash, P., Suresh Kumar J., Sangeetha, B.G., Arutselvan, R. and Makesh Kumar, T. (Eds.). 2025. *Souvenir. International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)*, Indian Society for Root Crops, International Society for Tropical Root Crops and ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, 17-21 November 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 159p.
2. Jyothi, A.N., Suja, G., Veena, S.S. and Asha Devi, A. (Eds.). 2025. *Proceedings and Recommendations. International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)*, Indian Society for Root Crops, International Society for Tropical Root Crops and ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, 17-21 November 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 44p.
3. Jyothi, A.N., Suja, G., Veena, S.S., Asha Devi, A., Senthilkumar, K.M., Krishna Radhika, N., Sheela Immanuel, Krishnakumar, T. and Kesava Kumar, H. (Eds.). 2025. *Book of Abstracts. International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)*, Indian Society for Root Crops, International Society for Tropical Root Crops and ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, 17-21 November 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 337p.
4. Murugesan, P., Asha Devi, A., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Bharathi, L.K. and Manas R. Sahoo. 2025. *Proceedings and technical recommendations of brainstorming workshop on harnessing crop wild relatives for tuber crops improvement (29 July 2024)*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 101p. ISBN 978-81-993004-0-8.

Book chapters

In: *Souvenir, International Symposium on Tropical Root and Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES)*. Jaganathan, D., Pradeepika, C., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Prakash, P., Suresh Kumar, J., Sangeetha, B.G., Arutselvan, R. and Makesh Kumar, T. (Eds.). ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

1. Asha Devi A., Asha, K.I., Senthilkumar, K.M., Visalakshi Chandra, C., Krishna Radhika, N., Rahana, S.N., Mohan, C., Sujatha, T.P., Murugesan, P., Shirly Raichal Anil., Bharathi, L.K. and Manas Ranjan Sahoo. 2025. Harnessing biodiversity for sustainable crop improvement in tropical tuber crops. pp. 63-75.
2. Byju, G. 2025. Transforming tropical tuber crops: Scientific advances, emerging challenges and future directions for India. pp. 1-19.
3. Jyothi, A.N., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C. and Krishnakumar, T. 2025. Nutritional wealth of tropical tuber

crops: unlocking the potential through value addition and enterprises pp. 110-114.

4. Makesh Kumar, T., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Harish, E.R., Kesava Kumar, H., Sangeetha, B.G. and Arutselvan, R. 2025. Pest and disease management of tropical tuber crops. pp. 102-109.
5. Nedunchezhiyan, M., Arutselvan, R., Laxminarayana, K., Kalidas Pati and Gowda, K.H. 2025. Scaling varieties and technologies of tropical tuber crops for nutrition and livelihood among tribes in India: Prospects and way forward. pp. 84-91.
6. Saravanan Raju and V. Ravi. 2025. Climate-smart tropical root and tuber crops: Linking field physiology to plate-level nutrition. pp. 92-101.
7. Sreekumar, J., Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan D., Santhosh Mithra, V.S., Sivakumar P.S. and Prakash P. 2025. Scaling tuber crops technologies: A roadmap for enhancing farmer income and sustainable development. pp. 115-122.
8. Suja, G. 2025. Enhancing resilience in tuber crops through diversified cropping systems and climate smart practices. pp. 76-83.

Other Book chapters

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In other Conferences/Symposium

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2. Makesh Kumar, T., Pravi Vidyadharan and Resmi, T.R. 2025. Multi-platform diagnostics for *Sweet potato feathery mottle virus*. In: *National conference on Novel strategies for biotic stress management in crop plants*, 11-12 December 2025, ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur.
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5. Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac. 2025. Integrated management of taro leaf blight using *Bacillus stercoris* CTCRI KV6: A powerful bio-control and growth-promoting agent. In: *International Conference on Wetland Conservation Protecting Biodiversity*, 16-17 December 2025, Devaswom Board Pampa College, Parumala, Pathanamthitta, Kerala.
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7. Suja, G. 2025. Regenerative and resilient production systems involving tropical tuber crops. In: *Proceedings, International Seminar on Climate-Weed Nexus: Innovations for Sustainable Farming (CWIS 2025)*, 27-28 November 2025, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, pp. 88-98.

TV programme

1. Harish, E.R. 2025. *Pest management using cassava biopesticides* in Central government schemes for doubling farmer's income, Janam TV and telecasted on 08 November 2025.

Radio talk

1. Dr. K. Susan John delivered a radio talk on 'Integrated Nutrient Management at Farm and Home' in All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 13 November 2025.
2. Dr. S.S. Veena delivered a radio talk on 'Postharvest

disease management in tuber crops' in All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 22 December 2025.

3. Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra delivered a radio talk on 'Climate-resilient farming' in Vayalum Veedum Programme of All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 22 December 2025.

Institute publications

1. ICAR-AICRP TC. 2025. *Mid-Term Review Report, 20 November 2025: Proceedings*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 98 p.
2. ICAR-CTCRI 2025. ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter Volume 42(3), July-September 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, 26p.
3. Suresh Kumar, J., Krishnakumar, T., Prakash, P., Sangeetha, B.G. and Senthilkumar, K.M. (Eds.). 2025. Quarterly Review Meeting July to September 2025, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. 197p.

Major Institute Events

Mid-term review meeting of AICRP on Tuber Crops

The mid-term review meeting of AICRP on Tuber Crops was held on 20 November 2025 at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Project Coordinator, AICRP TC & Director, ICAR-CTCRI. Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators from 21 AICRP TC centres participated and presented their research achievements for the period April-November 2025. On this occasion, a technical bulletin titled 'Tuber crop varieties released in India' was released



Mid-term review meeting of AICRP on tuber crops



Release of technical bulletin

Tuber Crops Day 2025

ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, in collaboration with the Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC), celebrated Tuber Crops Day 2025 on 04 December 2025. The Chief Guest, Shri. Saji John, Mission Director, State Horticulture Mission, Government of Kerala, inaugurated the event and delivered the inaugural address. He highlighted the importance of climate-resilient smart tuber crops, advocating their promotion in urban and peri-urban areas and proposing a Centre of Excellence for Urban Horticulture at ICAR-CTCRI. The programme was presided over by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI and President, ISRC, who emphasized expanding tuber crops area in Kerala, the nutritional value of sweet potato, cassava as a saviour crop, and the need to strengthen seed systems, value addition, marketing and farmer–market linkages. A highlight was the felicitation of Shri. Johnson Mathew, developer of the PPVFRA-registered cassava farmer variety 'Manna'. The event saw participation of Subject Matter Specialists from 25 KVKs of Assam and about 50 farmers from Idukki.

As part of the programme, Shri. Saji John inaugurated the Gene Editing Laboratory of ICAR-CTCRI. Established at a cost of ₹1.25 crore under a plan-funded project, the state-of-the-art facility will strengthen ICAR-CTCRI's capabilities in precision breeding, crop improvement and advanced biotechnological interventions, marking a key milestone for innovation in tuber crops.



Felicitation of Shri. Johnson Mathew, a tuber crop farmer



Inauguration of Gene editing laboratory



Inauguration by Dignitaries



Inaugural address by the Chief Guest

World Soil Day 2025

The World Soil Day was celebrated on 05 December 2025 at ICAR-CTCRI headquarters and its Regional Station, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. At the headquarters, the programme was inaugurated by Dr. C. George Thomas, Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, and presided over by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI. Dr. C. George Thomas delivered a lecture on the World Soil Day theme, 'Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities.' The programme was attended by staff, students, and trainees of ICAR-CTCRI, as well as students from Loyola School, Thiruvananthapuram.

At the Regional Station, Dr. P. Pannerselvan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CRRI, delivered the Presidential address, emphasizing the urgent need to create awareness among the farming community about the growing challenges in soil management. Around 50 students participated in the programme. Scientists from the Regional Station highlighted the global objectives of World Soil Day and explained the importance of soil health to the students.



World Soil Day 2025 celebration at headquarters



World Soil Day 2025 celebration at Regional Station

14 November 2025. Apart from 163 tribal farmers and farm women, the programmes were attended by Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan, Head (i/c), and Mr. A. Laxmanarao, AAO, Regional Station, ICAR–CTCRI, Bhubaneswar; tribal religious and community leaders; village leaders; representatives of the Tribal Cultural Academy; ward members; the Nayab Sarpanch of Khariguda Gram Panchayat; headmasters of Karadapankala, Khariguda, and Mallipadara schools; Anganwadi teachers; entrepreneurs; and social workers from PREM (NGO).



Public awareness campaign at Koradapankala village



Educational initiatives at Mallipadara village

Other Important Events

- The quarterly review of scientists for the second quarter was held during 15–16 October 2025. Reviews of all institute-funded and externally funded projects were completed for all scientists of the Institute.



The quarterly review meeting of Division of Crop Production

150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

The Regional Station of ICAR–CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2025 under the theme 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda during 12–14 November 2025 at Koradapankala, Khariguda, and Mallipadara villages of Mohana block, Gajapati district, Odisha.

Three programmes were organized: Public awareness campaign at Koradapankala village on 12 November 2025, Tribal agri-entrepreneurship summit at Khariguda village on 13 November 2025, and educational initiatives on the legacy of tribal freedom fighters at Mallipadara village on

Hindi Corner

Hindi workshop on Indian Constitution

A Hindi workshop was organized on the topic 'Indian Constitution' on 17 October 2025. Shri. Ram Dayal Sharma, Joint Director, Official Language, ICAR, New Delhi, was the keynote speaker. Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman (OLIC), delivered the Presidential address. Nineteen officers and twelve employees were trained in the workshop.



Hindi workshop on Indian constitution

ICAR Inspection on Official Language

Two Official Language inspections were conducted at ICAR–CTCRI during the period. The first inspection was held on 17 October 2025 by Shri. Ram Dayal Sharma, Joint Director (Official Language), ICAR, followed by a second inspection on 30 December 2025 by Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, ADG (FVS&MP), ICAR. Review meetings were chaired by Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman, Official Language Implementation Committee. The inspections reviewed the implementation of the Official Language policy, and both inspecting officers expressed satisfaction and appreciated the Institute's commendable performance.



Inspection on official language at ICAR-CTCRI by Shri. Ram Dayal Sharma, Joint Director (OL), ICAR

- The OLIC meeting was held on 05 December 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman (OLIC) to review the progress of Official Language activities for the quarter.

POSH & Welfare

Study Visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women

The study visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women (2025–2026) to Thiruvananthapuram was held during 29–30 December 2025. The meeting was chaired by Dr. D. Purandeswari, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Committee.

Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR–ICAR-CTCRI, presented a detailed overview covering women in key decision-making positions, constitution and functioning of the Internal Committee, and initiatives for ensuring a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace, including women welfare measures. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General (FVS & MP), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. Anuradha Agrawal, Project Director (DKMA) and Nodal Officer (Women Welfare), ICAR, New Delhi; and members of the Internal Committee, ICAR-CTCRI. Based on the interactions and responses to queries, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the measures adopted by ICAR-CTCRI for implementation of the POSH Act, 2013 and awarded a Certificate of Satisfaction to the Institute.



Receiving an appreciation certificate from Dr. D. Purandeswari, Hon'ble MP

Director's Visits

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, monitored and reviewed the research programme of AICRP TC Centre, TNAU, Yethapur, Salem and TNAU, Coimbatore on 08 October 2025. He also attended the AICRPTC training cum demonstration programme on 'Production technology of cassava and distribution of agricultural inputs' at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem.
- Dr. G. Byju interacted with cassava farmers of Salem and Coimbatore on 09 and 11 October 2025, and held discussions with the Dean (Horticulture) and the Head, Department of Vegetable Science, TNAU, Coimbatore on 11 October 2025.



Review at AICRP TC Centre, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur, Salem



Review at AICRP TC Centre, TNAU, Coimbatore

- The Director, ICAR-CTCRI attended the 11th Indian Horticulture Congress (IHC-2025) held during 06–09 November 2025 at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. As part of IHC-2025, he convened the “Workshop on Root and Tuber Vegetable Crops” on 07 November 2025, delivered a plenary lecture on tropical tuber crops, and served as a panelist in the workshop.
- The Director monitored and reviewed the research programmes of the AICRP on Tuber Crops Centre at ICAR-RC NEH, Barapani, Meghalaya during 25-26 November 2025. On 26 November 2025, he inaugurated a training programme on tuber crop cultivation and distributed implements to farmers at Samanong village, West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, and also visited on-farm trials in farmers' fields in Meghalaya.



Participants of training programme



Distribution of implements

- The Director inaugurated Kisan Diwas and the Banana Festival at ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirappalli, on 23 December 2025, and distributed tissue culture banana plantlets and farm implements to beneficiary farmers. He also visited experimental fields and laboratories, including the embryogenic cell suspension (ECS)–based plantlet production facility.



Kisan diwas at ICAR-NRCB



Embryonic cell suspension (ECS) based plantlet production facility at ICAR-NRCB

Infrastructure/Facilities

- An ICAR-CTCRI Agri Business Incubator (ABI) Vacuum Frying Unit was inaugurated at ICAR-CTCRI on 12 November 2025 by the Director, Dr. G. Byju. The facility strengthened the Institute's value addition and processing infrastructure for tuber crops. The unit supports the development of healthy snack products with improved quality and shelf life. It also facilitates research, training, and entrepreneurship development under the ICAR-CTCRI Agri Business Incubator programme.



Vacuum frying unit at ABI, ICAR-CTCRI

- The Genome editing facility was inaugurated on 04 December 2025, and an inverted fluorescence microscope and an ice flaking machine were added to the facility.



Gene editing lab at ICAR-CTCRI



Inverted fluorescence microscope at ICAR-CTCRI

- *Rootscape Arena*, a beautifully crafted open-air auditorium was inaugurated on 20 November 2025.



Inauguration of *Rootscape Arena*



Rootscape Arena at ICAR-CTCRI

- ATM of State Bank of India at the campus was inaugurated on 20 November 2025.



SBI ATM facility at ICAR-CTCRI

New Projects Sanctioned

1. 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)
2. Demonstration and popularization of smart nutri gardens for food, nutritional and livelihood security in the urban and peri-urban households of Kerala (PI: K. Sunilkumar, Co-PIs: J. Suresh Kumar, Jeena Mathew, S.S. Veena and E.R. Harish; State Horticulture Mission, Government of Kerala; ₹ 22.5 lakhs).
3. Empowering tribal livelihoods through cassava value chain development in Kadambur hills, Erode District, Tamil Nadu (Project team leader: G. Byju; PI: R. Muthuraj; Co-PIs: M.S. Sajeev, D. Jaganathan, T. Krishnakumar, P. Prakash; Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; ₹ 68.99 lakhs).
4. Demonstration farm on Improved varieties of tuber crops for enhancing livelihoods and income at Parasala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (PI: P. Prakash; Co-PIs: D. Jaganathan, R. Muthuraj and J. Suresh Kumar; State Horticulture Mission; Rs. 21.5 lakhs).
5. Development of cassava value chain-based entrepreneurship through satellite incubation centre to enhance tribal livelihoods in Kalvarayan hills, Kallakurichi district, Tamil Nadu (PIs: P. Sethuraman Sivakumar and G. Byju; Co-PIs: T. Krishnakumar, M. Nedunchezhiyan, P. Prakash and Visalakshi Chandra, C; Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; ₹167.42 lakhs).
6. Contract research titled 'Development of simulation model for ginger yield improvement and plant growth and its pests and diseases outbreak alert through e-Crop based smart farming (Ecbsf)' (PI: V.S. Santhosh Mithra; M/S. Orabio Organic LLP, Bengaluru, Karnataka; Rs. 8.81925 lakhs).

Distinguished Visitors

Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

1. Padma Bhushan Dr. Krishna Ella, Co- founder and Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad.
2. Shri. Midhu Unnithan, COO, TECHIN-IIT Palakkad.
3. Prof. Sudheesh Manalil, Dean and Principal of the School of Agricultural Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore.
4. Shri. Ankit Asokan IPS, Superintendent of Police, Cyber operations, Kerala
5. Dr. G.M. Nair, President of the Kerala Academy of Sciences
6. Dr. Sanjay Behari, Director, Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram.
7. Dr. C. George Thomas, Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board
8. Shri. Saji John, Mission Director, State Horticulture Mission, Government of Kerala
9. Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General (FVS & MP), ICAR, New Delhi
10. Dr. Niraj U. Joshi, Director, Centre for Agrobiodiversity Conservation (Cabc), MSSRF, Wayanad
11. Prof. Lateef Oladimeji Sanni, Executive Director, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) & President, ISTRC
12. Dr. Hugo Campos, Deputy Director General, International Potato Center (CIP) -South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi.
13. Prof. Andrew Westby OBE, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom
14. Dr. Stephan Winter, Leibniz Institute DSMZ, Germany
15. Dr. Jan W. Low, Managing Director, JWLOW LTD, Kenya
16. Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, ICAR-NRC for Banana, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu
17. Dr. George Ninan, Director, ICAR-CIFT, Kochi, Kerala.

Honours, Awards and Recognitions

Awards

International Symposium on Tropical Root and Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES), held during 17-21 November, 2025 at O by Tamara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC).
- Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar was selected as the Fellow of Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC) 2025.

- Ms. Jinimol Raju, Ph.D. Scholar, bagged Dr. A. Abraham Award for the best paper published in *Journal of Root Crops*, 48 (1&2), 2022 titled 'Change in climate and climate suitability of major taro [*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott] growing regions of India' (Authors: Jinimol Raju, Shiny, R. and Byju, G.).
- Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan bagged Dr. A. Abraham Award for the best paper published in *Journal of Root Crops*, 49 (1&2), 2023 titled 'Spacio-temporal fertigation effect on yield, nutrient use efficiency and economics of greater yam+maize intercropping system' (Authors: Nedunchezhiyan, M., Kalidas Pati, Chauhan, V.B.S., Gowda, K.H., Arutselvan, R., Jata, S.K. and Dixit, J.).
- Dr. C. Pradeepika bagged ISRC Young Scientist Award 2025 for the research paper titled 'Nutritional synergy of sweet potato and vegan/non-vegan milk in the development of functional kulfi' (Authors: Pradeepika, C., Mary Everline, Shena, A.S., Adithya, N.T., Hanume Gowda, K., Krishnakumar, T. and Sajeev, M.S.).
- Dr. K. M. Senthilkumar bagged the ISRC Young Scientist Award 2025 (Runner-up) for the research paper titled 'Transcriptome sequencing and differential expression analysis of early bulking-responsive genes in cassava' (Authors: Senthilkumar, K. M., Sheela, M. N., Raju, S., Sreekumar, J. and Makesh Kumar, T.).



Dr. G. Byju, Director receiving Lifetime achievement award of ISTRC



Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar receiving ISRC Fellow 2025



Ms. Jinimol Raju receiving Dr. A. Abraham Award 2022



Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan receiving Dr. A. Abraham Award 2023



Dr. C. Pradeepika receiving ISRC Young scientist award 2025



Oral and Poster presentation awardees from ICAR-CTCRI

Oral Presentation Awards

1. Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra bagged Best Research Paper Award for the paper, 'Postharvest physiological deterioration in cassava: Varietal response, genetic variability, genetic parameters, trait associations and transcriptome profiling' (Authors: Visalakshi Chandra, C., Senthilkumar, K.M., Jyothi, A.N., Amalnath, S., Shameer, P.S., Pooja Krishnan, Ambu Vijayan, Senthil alias Sankar and Sreekumar, J.).
2. Dr. M.L. Jeeva bagged Best Research Paper Award for the paper, 'Cassava stem and root rot management: Bridging the gap between research and farmer adoption' (Authors: Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Susan John, K., Jeena Mathew, Makesh Kumar, T., Arutselvan, R., Karthikeyan, S. and Divya, S.).
3. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar received Best Research Paper Award for the paper, 'From Farm to Plate: Scaling up bio-fortified sweet potato in the NEH region through the rainbow diet campaign approach' (Authors: Sivakumar, P.S., Laxminarayana, K., Kesava Kumar, H., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Mahesh B. Tengli, Ashok Chhetri, Sasikumar, R. and Sheela, M.N.).
4. Dr. S.S. Veena bagged Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper, 'Prospective fungal and oomycete disease management strategies for ensuring aroid health and yield' (Authors: Veena, S.S., Jeeva, M.L., Arutselvan, R., Asha Devi, A., Santhosh Mithra, V.S., Sreekumar, J., Suja, G. and Karthikeyan, S.).
5. Shri. K.C. Rakshith bagged Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper, 'Development of gluten free pasta from yam (*Dioscorea alata*) based composite flour' (Authors: Rakshith, K.C., Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S. and Pradeepika, C.).
6. Dr. J. Suresh Kumar received Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper, 'Soilless sweet potatoes: Unlocking potential in controlled environments' (Authors: Suresh Kumar, J., Sunilkumar, K. and Pradeepika, C.).
7. Ms. S.U. Shilpa bagged Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper, 'Whole genome sequencing of taro endophyte *Bacillus pumilus* CTCRI PA3: A potential biocontrol agent for the suppression of taro leaf blight disease' (Authors: Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac).
8. Ms. Divya Joseph received Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper, 'Dual-modified cassava starch for low-fat and egg-free emulsion systems' (Authors: Divya Joseph, Gowri Nandha, R. and Jyothi, A.N.).

9. Dr. T. Krishnakumar received Best Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper titled 'Development and performance evaluation of a portable self-propelled cassava sett cutter' (Authors: Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S. and Pradeepika, C.).
10. Dr. D. Jaganathan was awarded with Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the paper titled 'Enhancing Chinese potato production through farmer participatory demonstrations: Technologies, prospects and way forward' (Authors: Jaganathan, D., Muthuraj, R., Sheela Immanuel, Prakash, P. and Byju, G.).

Poster Presentation Awards

1. Dr. Akhila P. Subhash bagged Best Research Paper Award for the poster, 'Suppression of cassava stem and root rot and mosaic diseases by soil inoculation with root-colonizing beneficial endophytic fungi' (Authors: Akhila P. Subhash, Anith, K.N., Veena, S.S. and Makesh Kumar, T.).
2. Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar received the Best Research Paper Award for the poster, 'Design and evaluation of cassava starch-derived mucoadhesive films for intra-oral drug delivery' (Authors: Jyothi, A.N., Manoj Komath, Anju, V. and Sajeev, M.S.).
3. Dr. S. N. Rahana, bagged the Best Research Paper Award for the poster, 'Community led revival of native yams: Biodiversity conservation in the Western Ghats' (Authors: Rahana, S.N., Vinodkumar, M.G., Sreekumar, J., Jyothi, A.N. and Bhagya Prakash)
4. Dr. J. Sreekumar received Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the poster, 'Deep learning based computer vision approach for classification of post-harvest physiological deterioration in cassava tubers' (Authors: Krishnendu Ashok, Visalakshi Chandra, C. and Sreekumar, J.).
5. Ms. Reshma Maria Joseph received Best Research Paper Award (Runner-up) for the poster, 'Transcriptomic analysis of sweet potato leaves unravels the molecular mechanism of photoperiodic tuberization' (Authors: Reshma Maria Joseph, Shirly Raichal Anil, Senthilkumar, K.M., Sreekumar, J. and Krishna Radhika, N.).
6. Ms. S. Devi Sanjeev received Best Research Paper Award (Runner-up) for the poster, 'Evaluation of natural, organic and integrated crop management in cassava based cropping system' (Authors: Devi Sanjeev, S. and Suja, G.).
7. Dr. S.S. Veena bagged Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the poster, 'Harnessing variability in *Trichoderma* isolates to enhance bio-control efficacy against fungal pathogens in tropical tuber crops' (Authors: Veena, S.S., Linet K Joseph, Chithra Vinod, Jeeva, M.L., Byju, G., Sreekumar, J. and Karthikeyan, S.).
8. Shri. P.N. Donn received Best Research Paper Award (Runner up) for the poster, 'Status of mechanization in cassava harvesting: Challenges and opportunities' (Authors: Donn, P.N., Krishnakumar, T. and Sunitha, S.).

Awards in other Conference/Congress

1. Ms. S. Devi Sanjeev bagged Best Poster Award for the poster titled 'Comparative assessment of natural, organic and integrated crop management in cassava + vegetable cowpea – green gram system' (Authors: Devi Sanjeev, S. and Suja, G.) in the Sixth International Agronomy Congress 2025, Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship, 24-26 November 2025, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, India.
2. Dr. Pravi Vidyadharan bagged Best Oral Presentation Award (Runner up) for the research paper titled 'Multiplex PCR assay for simultaneous detection of sweet potato viruses' (Authors: Pravi Vidyadharan and Makesh Kumar, T.) in the National Conference on Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security, 18-19 December 2025, PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, Pondicherry (UT).
3. Ms. S.U. Shilpa bagged second prize in Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Award contest in IPS (SZ) for the research paper titled 'Antagonistic behaviour and disease suppressive mechanisms of endophytic *Bacillus* isolates against *Phytophthora colocasiae* in taro' (Authors: Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac) in the National Conference on Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security, 18-19 December 2025, PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, Pondicherry (UT).

Recognitions

- Dr. P. Murugesan, observer (Server) and conducted the online CBT for Combined NET-2025 and Preliminary Examination for ARS, SMS (T-6) and STO (T-6) – 2025.
- Dr. K.I. Asha, observer (Server) and conducted the online CBT for Combined NET-2025 and Preliminary Examination for ARS, SMS (T-6) and STO (T-6) – 2025.
- Dr. C. Mohan evaluated two M.Sc. (Ag), Plant Breeding and Genetics thesis from College of

Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.

- Dr. A. Asha Devi, External expert for reviewing the extended abstracts of the 38th Kerala Science Congress for the subject Agriculture and Food Sciences.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi, Member, Selection committee for Dr. A. Abraham Endowment Award 2025, Kerala Academy of Sciences.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi, Member, Virtual cadre, Kerala State Biodiversity Board.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi, Member, Board of Studies in Botany (UG), University of Kerala.
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil, External examiner for adjudication of a Ph.D thesis of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, Supervisor Invigilator and conducted the online CBT for Combined NET-2025 and Preliminary Examination for ARS, SMS (T-6) and STO (T-6) – 2025.
- Dr. S.N. Rahana, Jury member for the selection of 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue – state championship' at Kerala Institute of Tourism & Travel Studies, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. G. Suja, External examiner for a Ph.D student of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram (Dual Ph.D. Award Programme between Western Sydney University (WSU) in Australia & Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. G. Suja, Member, Committee for selection of candidates for ISA Fellow & ISA Associate Awards.
- Dr. G. Suja, Co-Chairperson, Reception Committee and Convener of the session on 'Corporate, policy, civil societies, leveraging and research interface in food system', Sixth International Agronomy Congress, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, 24-26 November 2025.
- Dr. G. Suja, Co-Chairperson for the theme on 'Efficient resource use for climate change adaptation and mitigation' in the International Seminar on Climate-Weed Nexus: Innovations for Sustainable Farming at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
- Dr. G. Suja, lead speaker in the International Seminar on Climate-Weed Nexus: Innovations for Sustainable Farming (CWIS 2025) on 28 November 2025 at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
- Dr. K. Susan John as the Chief Guest for the National Seminar in connection with World Soil Day 2025, College of Agriculture, Padannakkad, Kasaragod.
- Dr. S. Sunitha, Subject expert at 'Stakeholders Consultation Workshop' organized by CWRDM at Sahakarana Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. S. Sunitha, Co-Chairperson for the theme on 'Climate change and weed dynamics in crops and cropping systems' in the International Seminar on Climate-Weed Nexus: Innovations for Sustainable Farming at College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.
- Dr. K. Laxminarayana, technical expert member for source verification of certified seed potato for Rabi 2025-26 under the state plan scheme 'Development of potato, vegetable and spices' on 27 October 2025.
- Dr. V. Ramesh, Evaluator, Oral and Poster presentations in the International Conference on Community Agro-biodiversity Management, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Centre Coordinator, Combined CBT for NET-2025 and Preliminary Examination for ARS, SMS (T-6) and STO (T-6)-2025 at centre Thiruvananthapuram-II.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar, Jury member, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue: State championship at KITTS, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Judge for the South Zone Sahodaya Science Exhibition on the theme “Nurturing Nature”, held at Loyola School, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, adjudicator for three M. Sc. (Hort.) theses of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Vellanikkara, Thrissur.
- Dr. J. Suresh Kumar, Jury member, Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue: State championship at KITTS, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. M.L. Jeeva, external examiner for three Ph. D students of Kerala Agricultural University and one M.Sc. student of The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, external examiner of a Ph. D student, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala and M.Sc (Ag.) student of Kerala Agricultural University.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, reviewer of The Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences and Journal of Horticultural Sciences.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, reviewer for the journal, Entomon.

- Dr. B.G. Sangeetha, reviewer for Current science and Journal of environmental biology.
- Dr. T. Krishnakumar, external examiner for evaluating the M.Tech thesis, NIFTEM-T, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
- Dr. T. Krishnakumar, technical committee member for Agroinnovate 2025: Sustainable Food Processing and Smart Agriculture for New India, Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Sathyamangalam, Erode, Tamil Nadu during 20-22 November 2025.
- Dr. T. Krishnakumar, selection committee member for recruitment of Senior Research Fellow for ICAR-IIOPR, Palode.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra delivered a training session on 'Seeing the unseen: Harnessing deep learning and computer vision for applied sciences research' on 13 October 2025 at ICAR-CIFT, Kochi, Kerala.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, Panellist, Workshop on Root and Tuber Vegetable Crops, 11th Indian Horticulture Congress and International Meet on 08 November 2025 at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, India.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar delivered an invited lecture at the MANAGE CIA Saturday Webinar series on 29 November 2025.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar delivered an invited lecture at the MDP on Leadership Development for Heads of Social Sciences on 12 December 2025.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar delivered an invited talk at the ICAR-NAARM Training Programme on 17 December 2025.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, external examiner for adjudication of Ph.D. thesis of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Observer for the conduct of online CBT for combined NET 2025 and preliminary examination for ARS, SMS(T6) and STO (T6) 2025 during 12-13 November 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan, Jury member in Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue: State championship on 20 December 2025 at KITTS, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. P. Prakash, Supervisory invigilator for the conduct of online CBT for combined NET 2025 and preliminary examination for ARS, SMS(T6) and STO (T6) 2025 during 12-13 November 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Dr. P. Prakash, External Expert Member in Progress Review Panel for assessing and evaluating the progress of the four Ph.D students of IARI for progression from Junior Research Fellow to Senior Research Fellow on 12 December 2025.

Media Coverage

Sl. No.	Date	News title	Name of the Newspaper
1.	08 October 2025	Sweet potato that ensures health and income: A Kudumbashree initiative for Adivasi communities	Kerala Kaumudi
2.	09 October 2025	Critical inputs were distributed (Malayalam)	Desabhimani
3.	17 October 2025	Kudumbashree initiative to create taste diversity in value-added tuber crop products (Malayalam)	Madayamam (E-paper)
4.	18 November 2025	Promote diversified food systems, says ICAR official	The Hindu
5.	20 November 2025	Symposium on tuber crops research (Malayalam)	
6.	20 November 2025	The significant role of tuber crops in nutritional security- Dr. Sanjaykumar Singh (Malayalam)	
7.	20 November 2025	National mission proposed for popularizing tuber crops	The New Indian Express
8.	05 December 2025	CTCRI celebrated Tuber Crops Day (Malayalam)	Malayala Manorama
9.	05 December 2025	Annual celebration (Malayalam)	Kerala Kaumudi
10.	06 December 2025	Soil day celebration at CTCRI	Kerala Kaumudi
11.	07 December 2025	Soil day celebration at CTCRI (Malayalam)	Janayugam and Kerala Kaumudi
12.	07 December 2025	Celebrated Tuber Crop Value Addition Day (Malayalam)	Janayugam
13.	07 December 2025	Sweet-tasting cassava 'Manna': Johnson's own variety (Malayalam)	Kerala Kaumudi special
14.	20 December 2025	Elephant foot yam seed distribution	Kerala Kaumudi

കേരള കാമുകി

ആരോഗ്യവും വരുമാനവും തരും മധുരക്കിഴങ്ങ്

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ദേശഭാഷിമാന E-PAPER

കാർഷികോപാധികൾ നൽകി



കാർഷികോപാധികൾ നൽകി

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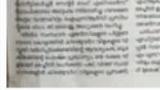
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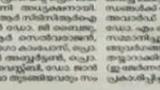
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കീഴങ്ങുവില ദിനം ആഘോഷിച്ചു

Promote diversified food systems, says ICAR official

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

marks the 20th edition of a series that began in 1967 at St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

India is hosting the symposium for the second time, having previously hosted the 14th edition in 2006.

Lateef O. Sanni, president, International Society for Tropical Root Crops, and executive director, Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute, outlined the vision of ISTRC and emphasised the importance of tuber crops and banana as staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Food security

ICAR-CTCRI director G. Byju stressed the shared international commitment to improving food security through enhanced production and value chain development of tropical tubers.

A.N. Jyothi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI, received the ISRC Fellow 2025 Award on the occasion. Jiminol and M. Nedunchezhiyan received the Dr. A. Abraham Award for the best papers published in the journal of Root Crops.

Key role

Dr. Singh highlighted the critical role of tropical root and tuber crops in addressing the global agrarian crisis and climate change.

He emphasised their significance in ensuring food and nutritional security and supporting entrepreneurship development.

The five-day symposium

Personalia Promotions

Sl. No.	Name	Promoted as	Date	O.O. No & Date
1	Shri. K. Sivadas	MACP-III	05 October 2025	F. No. 7/2009-Per dated 03 November 2025
2	Smt. Rohini K Nair	UDC	25 November 2025	F. No. 1-2/2019-Estt dated 25 November 2025
3	Mr. D. Arun Raj	UDC	25 November 2025	
4	Smt. C.P. Gayathri	MACP-I	23 December 2025	F. No. 7/2009-Per dated 03 November 2025
5	Smt. S.L. Jyothi	MACP-I	23 December 2025	
6	Shri. S. Abhishek	MACP-I	23 December 2025	
7	Smt. P. Vidhya	MACP-I	28 December 2025	

Superannuation/Retirement

Sl. No.	Name	Position held	Date of Retirement
1	Shri. Sivadas K	MTS	31 December 2025 (AN)



Tuber Crops for Food, Health, Wealth and Prosperity

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S.S. Veena

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Director

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B.G. Sangeetha and K.M. Senthilkumar



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