

# ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter

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## CONTENTS


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


## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- VIROCON-2026

  National Conference on 'Viruses in a Changing World: Ecology, Evolution and Future Preparedness' during 11-13 November 2026 at Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Tuber Crops Day on 24 November 2026 at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram..

## निदेशक की ओर से




**Dr. G. Byju**
**Director**

मुझे इस तिमाही (जुलाई-सितंबर 2026) की समाचार-पत्रिका पेश करते हुए बहुत खुशी हो रही है, जिसमें अनुसंधान, प्रौद्योगिकी विकास, क्षमता निर्माण और हितधारक-केंद्रित फ्रंटलाइन विस्तार कार्यक्रमों में उत्कृष्टता के लिए संस्थान की निरंतर प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डाला गया है। इस अवधि के दौरान, संस्थान ने आनुवंशिक संसाधन संरक्षण, फसल सुधार और रोग प्रबंधन पर अनुसंधान में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की। प्रौद्योगिकी प्रसार और अनुसंधान आउटपुट का व्यावसायीकरण आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्राथमिकताएं बनी हुई हैं। आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई जमुनी को दी गई राष्ट्रीय मान्यता, जो एक विशिष्ट बैंगनी-धारीदार तारो लाइन है, और एक निजी उद्यम को इसका लाइसेंस देना वैज्ञानिक नवाचारों को व्यावहारिक अनुप्रयोगों में बदलने की दिशा में एक उत्साहजनक कदम है। ASEAN-भारत कृषि बैठकों में भू कृष्णा सहित बायोफोर्टिफाइड शकरकंद की किस्मों के प्रदर्शन ने पोषण-संवेदनशील और टिकाऊ कृषि खाद्य प्रणालियों को बढ़ावा देने में कंद फसलों की क्षमता को उजागर करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच प्रदान किया। संस्थान ने अग्रिम पंक्ति के प्रदर्शनों, किसान प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों, मूल्य संवर्धन में व्यावहारिक प्रशिक्षण और क्षेत्र-स्तरीय सलाह के माध्यम से किसानों और अन्य हितधारकों के साथ अपने जुड़ाव को मजबूत करना जारी रखा । अनुसूचित जाति उप-योजना, जनजातीय उप-योजना और उत्तर पूर्वी पहाड़ी कार्यक्रमों के तहत कार्यान्वित पहल समावेशी कृषि विकास और आजीविका वृद्धि के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है। मिट्टी और पौधों के विश्लेषण, बेहतर फसल उत्पादन प्रौद्योगिकियों और जीनोम संपादन पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि हम मानव संसाधन विकास और वैज्ञानिक क्षमता निर्माण को कितना महत्व देते हैं। 27 जुलाई 2026 को संस्थान के 63वें स्थापना दिवस का आयोजन हमारी उपलब्धियों पर विचार करने और भविष्य के लिए अपनी प्राथमिकताओं को फिर से तय करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर था। हमारी प्रौद्योगिकियों को अपनाने और प्रभाव में तेजी लाने के लिए अनुसंधान साझेदारी, उद्योग संबंधों, प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण और हितधारकों की भागीदारी पर निरंतर ज़ोर देना आवश्यक होगा। इसी तरह, 'स्वच्छता ही सेवा 2026' का आयोजन पर्यावरण के प्रति ज़िम्मेदारी, स्वच्छता और सामुदायिक भागीदारी के लिए हमारी संस्थागत प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। जैसे-जैसे हम आगे बढ़ेंगे, आईसीएआर-सीटीसीआरआई टिकाऊ उत्पादन प्रणालियों, मूल्यवर्धन, उद्यमिता और बेहतर आजीविका के अवसरों पर ध्यान देने के साथ अभिनव, समावेशी और प्रभाव-उन्मुख अनुसंधान को आगे बढ़ाना जारी रखेगा।

## From the Director

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Newsletter for the quarter (July- September 2026), highlighting the Institute's continued commitment to excellence in research, technology development, capacity building and stakeholder-centric frontline extension programmes. During the period, the Institute made notable progress in research on genetic resource conservation, crop improvement and disease management. Technology dissemination and the commercialization of research outputs remain important priorities for ICAR-CTCRI. The national recognition accorded to ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni, an elite purple-streaked taro line, and its licensing to a private enterprise mark an encouraging step towards translating scientific innovations into practical applications. The showcasing of biofortified sweet potato varieties, including Bhu Krishna, at the ASEAN-India agricultural meetings also provided an important platform to highlight the potential of tuber crops in promoting nutrition-sensitive and sustainable agrifood systems. The Institute continued to strengthen its engagement with farmers and other stakeholders through frontline demonstrations, farmer training programmes, hands-on training in value addition and field-level advisories. Initiatives implemented under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan, Tribal Sub-Plan and North Eastern Hill programmes reflect our commitment to inclusive agricultural development and livelihood enhancement. The training programmes on soil and plant analysis, improved crop production technologies and genome editing also demonstrate the importance we place on human resource development and scientific capacity building. The celebration of the Institute's 63rd Foundation Day on 27 July 2026 was an important occasion to reflect on our achievements and reaffirm our priorities for the future. The continued emphasis on research partnerships, industry linkages, technology transfer and stakeholder participation will be essential to accelerating the adoption and impact of our technologies. Equally, the observance of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 reflects our institutional commitment to environmental responsibility, cleanliness and community participation. As we move forward, ICAR-CTCRI will continue to pursue innovative, inclusive and impact-oriented research, with a focus on sustainable production systems, value addition, entrepreneurship and improved livelihood opportunities.

**G. Byju**

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## Research Highlights

### Integrated management of cassava stem and root rot in wetland agroecosystems of Keralam

M.L. Jeeva, Jeena Mathew, S.S. Veena and S. Divya

Cassava stem and root rot (CSRR) has emerged as an important disease of cassava in the wetland agroecosystems of Kerala, particularly in low-lying fields with poor drainage. The disease is characterized by collar and basal stem necrosis, root and tuber deterioration, yellowing, drooping and eventual wilting of plants. Detailed investigations identified *Fusarium falciforme*, belonging to the *Fusarium solani* species complex, as a major pathogen associated with the disease. Field observations indicated a strong association between disease development and prolonged soil wetness, inadequate drainage and fluctuations in soil moisture. Management studies emphasized an integrated approach involving the use of healthy planting material and suitable varieties, improved drainage, balanced nutrition, field sanitation, organic amendments and beneficial microorganisms. Antagonistic microorganisms such as *Trichoderma*, *Penicillium* and *Bacillus* showed potential for reducing disease incidence and improving soil biological health. Findings from 15 field trials conducted by ICAR-CTCRI across Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts highlight the importance of soil-health-centred management, cultivation of tolerant cultivars, and regular monitoring of soil moisture, drainage and disease incidence for sustainable cassava production in wetland environments.



Cassava stem and root rot affected field

### Farmers' varieties of minor tuber crops identified and germplasm collected to facilitate registration

P. Murugesan

Five promising farmers' varieties of minor tuber crops being cultivated by a custodian farmer at Oonjampara, Marayur, were identified and collected, conserved at ICAR-CTCRI, and facilitated for registration under the PPV&FR Act, 2001. The farmers' varieties include Queensland arrowroot, represented by purple-eye *Seeni Kalvalai Kilangu* and White-eye *Seeni Kalvalai Kilangu*, valued for their edible starch-rich rhizomes; white turmeric, locally known as Vellai manjal, for rhizome starch; West Indian arrowroot, characterized by a high number of rhizomes per plant; and winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*), locally known as *Chathura payaru*, for high pod yield and edible tubers.

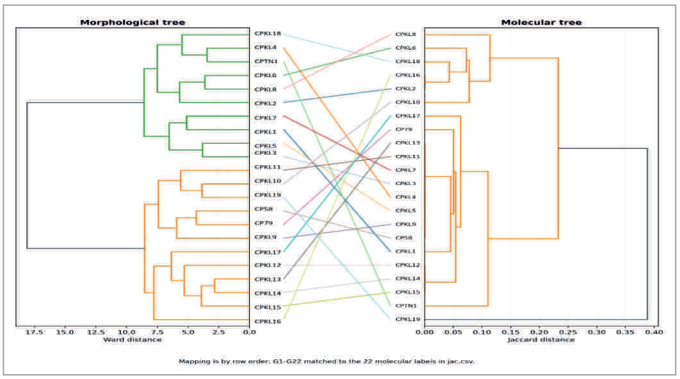


Purple-eye *Seeni Kalvalai Kilangu* | White-eye *Seeni Kalvalai Kilangu* | West Indian arrowroot

### Genetic diversity characterization of Chinese potato germplasm using morphological and molecular markers

K. Parul, P. Murugesan and K.M. Senthilkumar

Twenty-two Chinese potato (*Plectranthus rotundifolius*) germplasm accessions collected from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, including the released varieties namely Sree Dhara and Nidhi, were characterized using morphological descriptors and SSR markers. Significant variability was recorded for plant and tuber traits, with tuber size, tuber weight and total tuber weight per plant emerging as major contributors to phenotypic diversity. The accession CPKL16 (Varappetty-2) recorded the highest tuber yield of 465.46 g/plant, followed by CPKL15 (Aloor) with 353.68 g/plant and CPKL13 (Vadakkanchery) with 328.26 g/plant. SSR analysis produced 25 bands, of which 10 were polymorphic, revealing 40% polymorphism, and grouped the accessions into three distinct molecular clusters. CPKL19 (Meenakshipuram) was identified as the most genetically divergent accession.




Tanglegram: Morphological vs molecular clustering

## Extension

### FLDs/OFTs

- Three Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) were initiated on arrowroot variety Sree Aadya in collaboration with ICAR-KVK Kannur, ICAR-KVK Mitraniketan, Thiruvananthapuram and ICAR-KVK Tavanur, Malappuram.
- An OFT with biofortified sweet potato lines 447/1, 50/14 and 50/26 was conducted at Mavilakkadavu, Thiruvananthapuram.



Harvesting of sweet potato at Mavilakkadavu

- Two OFTs on the management of cassava stem and root rot were initiated at Palakuzha, Ernakulam district, in collaboration with Krishibhavan, Palakuzha, Ernakulam.

## Training programmes

### On campus programmes

- Training programme on "Analytical techniques in soil, plant and water analysis" was organized for 22 officials of the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Kerala, during 29 June to 01 July 2026.



Hands on training on analytical techniques

- Training programme on 'Standard operating procedures and techniques in soil analysis' was organised for 20 staff members of soil testing laboratories under the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmer's Welfare, Kerala, during 04-08 August 2026.




Trainees with the Director and resource persons

- A training on 'Genome Editing in Plants' was organized by ICAR-CTCRI from 24-30 September 2026, with seven participants from various research and academic institutions. Scientists from ICAR-CTCRI and other ICAR institutes served as resource persons. The training covered CRISPR-Cas, gRNA design, virus-mediated gene editing, gene expression analysis, IBSC guidelines, and molecular screening of edited lines, along with practical sessions on guide design, construct development, transformation, and evaluation of edited plants.




The participants with Director and resource persons

Details of trainings conducted for farmers at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram

| Sl. No. | Date | Subject | Location of the farmers' fields | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20-21 July 2026 | Improved varieties and agro techniques in tropical tuber crops | Idukki, Keralam | 22 |
| 2 | 30 July 2026 | Agrotechniques and quality planting material production of tropical tuber crops | Kottayam, Keralam | 26 |
| 3 | 03 August 2026 | Agrotechniques and quality planting material production of tropical tuber crops | Alappuzha, Keralam | 43 |
| 4 | 10 August 2026 | Agrotechniques and quality planting material production of tropical tuber crops | Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam | 43 |
| 5 | 08 September 2026 | Agrotechniques and quality planting material production of tropical tuber crops | Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu | 23 |
| 6 | 22 and 24 September 2026 | Improved production technologies, post-harvest processing and value addition in cassava | Kadambur hills, Erode, Tamil Nadu | 20 |




Trainees with Director and resource persons.

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

| Sl. No. | Date | Participants | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 03 July 2026 | Pallikal Krishi Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram | 24 |
| 2 | 20-24 July 2026 | KAU, Vellayani | 20 |
| 3 | 21 July 2026 | Kanchiyar Krishi Bhavan, Idukki | 20 |
| 4 | 28 July 2026 | Chirakara Krishi Bhavan, Kollam | 23 |
| 5 | 30 July 2026 | Poothakulam Krishi Bhavan, Kollam | 29 |
| 6 | 31 July 2026 | Kalluvathakkal Krishi Bhavan, Kollam | 22 |
| 7 | 07 September 2026 | ATMA, Thiruvalla | 45 |
| 8 | 09 September 2026 | Kairali FPC, Vellarada | 19 |
| 9 | 14 September 2026 | Nemam block, Thiruvananthapuram | 26 |
| 10 | 17 September 2026 | Kallakuruchi district, Tamil Nadu | 20 |
| 11 | 22 September 2026 | Erode district, Tamil Nadu | 19 |
| 12 | 29-30 September 2026 | MSSRF, Wayanad | 03 |









Glimpses of trainings on value added products at TIC

## Training programmes at Regional Station, Bhubaneswar

- Training on 'Agro-techniques, nutrient management and value addition in tuber crops' was organized under the ATMA scheme for two guide officers and 26 farmers from Athamallik and Kishorenagar blocks of Angul district, Odisha on 28 July 2026.
- Training on 'Agro-techniques, nutrient management and value Addition in tuber crops' was organized on 14 August 2026 for 15 beneficiaries from an AWARD NGO, Bhubaneswar.
- Training on 'Tuber crops production and value addition in tuber crops' sponsored by Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Banspal Block, Keonjhar district of Odisha was organized during 02-03 September 2026 for 24 beneficiaries.



Training for farmers of Banspal Block, Keonjhar district of Odisha

- Training on 'Tuber crops production and value addition in tuber crops' sponsored by Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Angul district of Odisha was organized during 22-23 September 2026 for 22 beneficiaries.




Training for farmers of Angul district of Odisha

## Off campus programmes

- An awareness programme on 'Newly emerged diseases of tropical tuber crops' was jointly organised with the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala, at the VFPCK Aeram Unit, Anchal, Kollam district, Keralam on 03 July 2026 for 89 beneficiaries.




Awareness programme at Aeram, Anchal

- A sensitization meeting on the 'Introduction of elephant foot yam var. Gajendra and its production technologies' and 'Awareness program on mitigation of El Nino and climate contingency measures' was organized in Karur district, Tamil Nadu on 09 July 2026 for 24 SC farmers.




Sensitization meeting at Karur district, Tamil Nadu

- Training programme on 'Improved production technologies on tuber crops' was organised at Kadambur Hills, Sathiyamangalam taluk, Erode district, Tamil Nadu on 10 July 2026 for 25 farmers.
- Training programme on 'Tuber crops technologies for sustainable food, nutrition and livelihood security' was organised under SCSP project on 14 July 2026 in association with STI Hub, Dept of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare and LSGD at Pookkotumpadam, Kalikavu Block, Malappuram district Kerala for 60 beneficiaries.



Training programme at Kalikavu Block, Malappuram

- Training programme on 'Value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized at MSSRF, Puthurvayal, Wayanad on 15 July 2026 for 100 beneficiaries.
- Training programme on 'Value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organized at Aaralam farm, Kannur on 16 July 2026 for 60 beneficiaries.
- A farmer's training programme and distribution of farm inputs was organised under SCSP, jointly by ICAR-CTCRI and the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala at Kollayil Grama Panchayat on 24 July 2026 for 30 SC beneficiaries.



Inaugural session of the training programme at Kollayil

- Training programme on 'Innovate, connect, grow: Building a vibrant start-up ecosystem' was conducted at KAU-ABI, Vellanikara (online) on 03 August 2026 for 125 beneficiaries.
- Training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tuber crops' was conducted at Keelamylar village, Ambasamudram taluk, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu on 07 August 2026.



Training programme at Ambasamudram taluk, Tamil Nadu

- Training on 'Climate resilient agri-value chain modernization (KERA) project' was conducted at SAMETI, Thiruvananthapuram on 11 August 2026 for 60 beneficiaries.

- Training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tuber crops' was organised at Kadambur hills, Erode, Tamil Nadu on 19 August 2026 for 53 beneficiaries.



Training at Kadambur hills, Tamil Nadu

- Two sensitization workshops on 'Nematode Management in Chinese Potato' under the SCSP programme of AICRP on Tuber Crops were conducted at Manthiyur, Tenkasi, and Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with RVS-KVK, Tirunelveli (Tenkasi), during 19-20 August 2026, benefiting 95 participants.



Sensitization workshop at Manthiyur



Distribution of farm inputs at Ambasamudram

- A capacity building training programme on tuber crops and a tuber crop-based agrifood system project was launched at Amboori, Thiruvananthapuram on 09 September 2026 under the Tribal Sub-Plan programme of the AICRP on Tuber Crops benefiting 125 farmers. Shri C. K. Hareendran, Hon'ble MLA, Parassala, inaugurated the program and launched the project.



Shri C. K. Hareendran, Hon'ble MLA, Parassala, addressing the farmers

- A special awareness-cum-training programme and field visit on farmers' variety protection was jointly organised by the PPV&FRA Branch Office, Shivamogga, ICAR-CTCRI and Kerala Forest Department at Marayur, Idukki, during 10-11 September 2026. The programme was attended by about 150 participants.



Awareness-cum-training programme at Marayur

- An agricultural seminar cum planting material distribution programme was held at Kanjikuzhi Panchayat, Alappuzha on 16 September 2026 under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan programme of the AICRP on Tuber Crops benefiting 170 farmers. Shri P. Prasad, Hon'ble MLA, inaugurated the programme and Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, delivered the keynote address.



Shri P. Prasad, Hon'ble MLA, inaugurating the agricultural seminar

- Under NEH programme of ICAR-CTCRI for promoting tuber crops, a training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tuber crops' was conducted on 16 September 2026 at Kanubari, Longding, Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Longding for the benefit of 100 farmers and other stakeholders.




Participants with the resource persons

- An awareness programme on 'Newly emerged diseases of cassava and elephant foot yam' was jointly organised with Krishibhavans of Makkarapramba and Kuruva panchayats, Malappuram district, Keralam at Makkaraparamba on 17 September 2026 for 62 beneficiaries.




Awareness programme at Makkarapramba

- Under NEH programme of ICAR-CTCRI for promoting tuber crops, a training programme on 'Improved production technologies of tuber crops' was conducted on 19 September 2026 at Wokha, Nagaland in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Wokha for the benefit of 100 farmers and other stakeholders.




Participants with the resource persons

- Under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) of ICAR-CTCRI, a technology-driven training programme on 'Production and processing of tuber crops' was organized on 24 September 2026 at Kanthalloor, Idukki, benefiting more than 115 participants.




Training programme under TSP at Kanthalloor, Idukki

- A training programme on 'Tuber crops technologies for sustainable food, nutrition and livelihood security' was organised under SCSP project of ICAR-CTCRI on 25 September 2026 at Konnathadi, benefitting 75 farmers.



Training programme under SCSP at Konnathadi

- A training programme on 'Value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops' was organised at Vathikudi, Idukki under SCSP project of AICRP on PHET on 25 September 2026 for 60 beneficiaries.



Training at Vathikudi, Idukki

## Off-campus training programmes organized by Regional Station, Bhubaneswar

| Sl. No. | Title of programme | Date(s) | Panchayat, District, State | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY sponsored project | 07.08.2026 | Birikote GP, Mohana block, Gajapati, Odisha | 60 |
| 2 | Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY sponsored project | 08.08.2026 | Khariguda, Gajapati, Odisha | 67 |
| 3 | Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY sponsored project | 09.08.2026 | Lendrumaliguda, Koraput, Odisha | 60 |
| 4 | Cultivation practices of yam bean for seed and tuber production, under RKVY sponsored project | 10.08.2026 | Petta, Lamtaput, Koraput, Odisha | 55 |
| 5 | Production & value addition in biofortified sweet potato based integrated farming systems, under NABARD sponsored project | 19.08.2026 | Dalki village, Jorda Gram Panchayat, Kusumi block, Mayurbhanj,Odisha | 75 |
| 6 | Production & value addition in biofortified sweet potato based integrated farming systemsm under NABARD sponsored project | 20.08.2026 | Khejuria village, Hatabhadra G.P., Kusumi Block, Mayurbhanj, Odisha | 65 |




Training programme at Birikote GP, Mohana block, Gajapati, Odisha




Training programme at Khariguda, Gajapati, Odisha




Training programme at Lendrumaliguda, Koraput, Odisha



Training programme at Kusumi block, Mayurbhanj, Odisha

## Seminars/Workshops/Interface Meetings/Field Diagnostic Visits Organized

- A webinar on 'Elephant foot yam - Production and prospects' was organised in association with the Agrobased STI Hub under Swadeshi Science Movement-Kerala on 11 August 2026 with 110 participants attending the programme.

### Field Diagnostic visits

- Field Diagnostic visits were conducted on 03 July 2026 at Aeram and Punalur in Kollam district, Keralam in connection with the incidence of foliar diseases of elephant foot yam and bacterial wilt in arrowroot.



Field diagnostic visit at Aeram

- A field diagnostic visit was conducted in the areas with cassava stem and root rot affected plots at Venganoor and Parasuvikkal, Thiruvananthapuram on 10 July 2026 for 20 beneficiaries.



Field diagnostic visit at Parasuvikkal, Thiruvananthapuram

- Field Diagnostic visits were conducted in Thodupuzha, Idukki and Palakuzha, Ernakulam during 23-24 July 2026 to assess the damage and give advisories on management of cassava stem and root rot and diseases of elephant foot yam.
- Field Diagnostic visits were conducted on 17 September 2026 at Makkaraparamba and Aliparamba in Malappuram district, Keralam in connection with the incidence of cassava stem and root rot in cassava and leaf and pseudostem rot in elephant foot yam.



Field diagnostic visit to cassava stem and root rot affected fields



Field diagnostic visit to leaf and pseudostem rot affected EFY field

- A variety identification visit was undertaken at Perumkadavila, Neyyattinkara, on 28 September 2026 to identify the local cassava cultivar 'Ulli Chuvappan' maintained by a progressive farmer.



Variety identification team with the farmer

## Exhibitions

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

- Exhibition in connection with 'Kisan Mela: Haritha Vismayam' on 22 July 2026 at Parassala block office, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.



Shri. T. Siddique, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Keralam visiting the exhibition stall

- Exhibition in connection with Industry Expo 2026: Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Marian Engineering College during 24-25 July 2026 at Marian Engineering College, Kazhakkoottam, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.
- Exhibition in connection with 63rd Foundation Day celebrations of ICAR-CTCRI on 27 July 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.
- Exhibition in connection with 'Agriculture Fest 2026' during 18-20 August 2026 at Velland campus, Mitraniketan, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.
- The ICAR-CTCRI showcased biofortified sweet potato varieties, Bhu Krishna and its powder at the ASEAN–India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (9th AAIMMAF) and the 10th ASEAN–India Agriculture Working Group Meeting (10th AIWGAF) held during 08-09 September 2026 in New Delhi, India.



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Dr M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR visiting stall

**Exposure visits to ICAR-CTCRI**

- One day exposure visit cum training on 'Improved technologies of tropical tuber crops' was organized for the benefit of 339 farmers, 859 students and 108 officials during the period at ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.

## Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

### Swachhata Hi Seva 2026

ICAR-CTCRI observed Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2026 from 17 September to 2 October 2026 under the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag - Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'. The campaign was launched with the Swachhata pledge led by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI on 17 September 2026. Subsequently, slogan-writing, quiz competition and cleanliness programmes were organised for school children. It was followed by the identification of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) for transformation, e-waste and scrap segregation, and cleanliness drives in public places, including the Sreekaryam–Akkulam road. A major Jan Bhagidari Advocacy Drive, organised in collaboration with Suchitwa Mission, Keralam, promoted four-way waste segregation under SWM Rules, 2026 (Ab Do Nahi Chaar). The programme was conducted by Smt. Suma, Assistant District Coordinator, Suchitwa Mission, Keralam. Zero-waste practices, vermicomposting, Waste-to-Wealth/Waste-to-Art, and a Human Chain for Swachhata were organised during 28-29 September 2026. A community outreach programme and cleanliness drive were organised at Akkulam Tourist Village to promote responsible tourism. A Shramdaan was also organised in the local corporation area near the International Guest House. A Safai Mitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivir was organised with health check-ups conducted by a medical team headed by Dr. Sicylet, Medical Officer, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Cheruvakkal, benefiting around 100 Safai Mitras and their dependents. The SHS campaign culminated on Swachh Bharat Diwas, 02 October 2026, with floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, tree planting at cleaned CTUs under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," and felicitation of Safai Mitras, students, farm staff, security personnel and volunteers. The collective participation throughout the fortnight effectively reflected the spirit of "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag - Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat."




Glimpses of activities under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 at HQ




Staff and students of ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, Bhubaneswar taking Swachhata pledge

## Activities of Agribusiness Incubator

### Sensitisation workshop on IPR Management organised

- A Sensitisation workshop on 'Intellectual Property Management, Technology Transfer and Commercialization' was organised on 05 August 2026. The programme was presided over by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI. The programme featured Mr. R.S. Praveen Raj, Scientist-F, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, as the expert speaker who delivered a thematic session on "AgTech Commercialisation and Intellectual Property Monetisation Strategies," covering key aspects of intellectual property management, technology transfer, IP monetisation and commercialisation of research outputs.




Director addressing scientists during IP workshop

### ICAR-CTCRI ABI participates in Nationwide SHITIJ 2.0 Startup Incubation Programme

- The Agri-Business Incubator of ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, participated in SHITIJ 2.0, a nationwide startup incubation programme sponsored by the ICAR-National Agricultural Innovation Fund. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, ICAR-CTCRI, delivered an introductory session on incubation schemes, technology commercialisation, and support services offered by ICAR-CTCRI ABI. The programme provides two months of free online entrepreneurship training, followed by technology incubation, technical mentoring, market linkages, and financial assistance guidance. Following the pre-incubation programme, four promising tuber crop-based business ideas were selected for technology incubation at ICAR-CTCRI ABI, with support for technology validation, product development, and business mentoring.

## Technology Commercialization/Linkages/ Collaborations

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 26 July 2026 with M/s Sri Nandi Enterprises, Harobele (PO), Nallahali, Kanakapura Taluk, Karnataka for licensing sweet potato fried chips for a license fee of Rs. 29,500.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 22 September 2026 with M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation for licensing tuber crops based fried snack food technologies for a license fee of Rs. 29,500.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 22 September 2026 with M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation for licensing functional bakery food products technologies for a license fee of Rs. 88,500.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed on 28 September 2026 with Sugam Organics, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu for licensing snack food technologies of tropical tuber crops for a license fee of Rs. 29,500.



Licensing of oil fried chips to M/S Nandi enterprises



Licensing of snack food technology to M/S Sugam organics

## Collaborations

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 27 July 2026 between ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and TECHIN, the Technology Business Incubator of IIT Palakkad, for promoting startup incubation, entrepreneurship development, technology commercialization, knowledge exchange, and innovation ecosystem development.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 04 August 2026 between ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute and the Kerala Institute for Entrepreneurship Development for onboarding ICAR-CTCRI as a Technical Support Provider (TSP) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.



MOU for collaboration with TECHIN, IIT Palakkad and KIED

## Capacity building

### Trainings attended by staff

| Sl. No. | Name | Particulars of the training | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dr. T. Makeshkumar | 36th Management development programme on 'Leadership development (a Pre-RMP programme) at ICAR- NAARM, Hyderabad | 29 June -10 July 2026 |
| 2 | Smt. B.S. Deepa | User awareness programme on One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) & INFLIBNET services, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, Karnataka. | 05 August 2026 |
| 3 | Dr. S.S. Veena | Workshop on 'Conduct of inquiry on complaints relating to sexual harassment of women at work place at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, New Delhi. | 10-11 August 2026 |
| 4 | Dr. Sheela Immanuel | Online training on 'Strengthening agricultural research with gender perspective for sustainable agri-food systems' organised by ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. | 10-12 August 2026 |
| 5 | Dr. V. Ramesh | Training programme on 'System approaches for integrated analysis' at RARI, Jaipur, Rajasthan | 14-16 September 2026 |
| 6 | Dr. S.N. Rahana | Online training programme on 'Oppurtunities for Plant Breeders in big data era' Super Breed Seeds, Hyderabad. | 21-27 September 2026 |

### iGOT Karmayogi Training Programmes (July-September 2026)

| Sl. No. | Particulars of the training | Name |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | AgriTech Innovation: Transforming Agriculture through Digital Solution, IIT Ropar | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. D. Jaganathan<br>Dr. C. Pradeepika |
| 2 | Remote Sensing in PMFBY: Innovations in Tech-Driven Crop Insurance, Pradhan Manthri Fasal Bima Yojana PMFBY | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. E.R. Harish |
| 3 | Sankalpa Shakti: Timeless lessons from women leaders, Capacity Building Commission | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra |
| 4 | Climate Resilient Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare | Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. A. Asha Devi<br>Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra<br>Dr. T. Krishnakumar |
| 5 | Water and Wastewater Treatment | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. A. Asha Devi<br>Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil<br>Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar |

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|---|---|---|
| 6 | Financial inclusion for Viksit Bharat 2047, National E-Governance Division (NEGD) MeitY | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena |
| 7 | Managing and leading teams, ISB Hyderabad | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena |
| 8 | Major risks covered under Pradhan Manthri Fasal Bima Yojana, PMFBY | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar |
| 9 | Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) | Dr. A. Asha Devi<br>Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra |
| 10 | Cybersecurity (Basic level), IIT Madras | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. S.S. Veena |
| 11 | AI in agri food systems | Dr. A. Asha Devi<br>Dr. T. Krishnakumar |
| 12 | Digital public infrastructure for agriculture, DPI Academy by Artha Global and eGov Foundation | Dr. T. Krishnakumar<br>Dr. C. Pradeepika |
| 13 | Introduction to Climate Finance | Dr. K.I. Asha<br>Dr. P. Prakash |
| 14 | Panch Pran and India's Civilizational Reawakening for Viksit Bharat<br>Overview of Viksit Bharat 2047<br>Improving Outreach and Communication for Viksit Bharat<br>AI in Government: Transforming Public Service Delivery<br>Fundamentals of Public Policy | Dr. K.I. Asha |
| 15 | Indian Knowledge System: Perspectives on Public Administration, IIM Bangalore<br>Introduction to Circular Economy, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) | Dr. S.S. Veena |
| 16 | Introduction to circular economy<br>Navigating climate challenges -a guide to civil servants | Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil |
| 17 | Effective communication, Practicing excellence,<br>Navigating climate challenges: A Guide for civil servants<br>Sustainability assessment methods | Dr. D. Jaganathan |
| 18 | Green revolutions to Amrit Kaal<br>Public-private partnership<br>Navigating climate challenges-A guide for civil servants | Dr. E. R. Harish |
| 19 | Crop residue management<br>AI applications in Government | Dr. T. Krishnakumar |
| 20 | Conservation Economics<br>Moral thinking for action: An introduction to values and ethics | Dr. K.M. Sethilkumar |

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

| Sl. No. | Name of the participant | Programme | Date(s) of the programme |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dr. V. Ramesh<br>Dr. Jeena Mathew | Stakeholder consultation on 'Novel fertilizer technologies' at CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram | 03 July 2026 |
| 2 | Dr. M. L. Jeeva<br>Dr. S.S. Veena<br>Dr. H. Kesava Kumar | Online webinar on 'Novel mechanized priming technology using sugarcane sett treatment device for effective disease management'. ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | 03 July 2026 |
| 3 | Dr P. Sethuraman Sivakumar | ICAR CSR conclave at NASC Complex, New Delhi | 15 July 2026 |
| 4 | Dr P. Sethuraman Sivakumar | ICAR Foundation Day at NASC New Delhi | 16 July 2026 |
| 5 | Dr. P. Murugesan<br>Dr. T.P. Sujatha | T-RIC X Impact Conclave & ANRF Grantee Meet 2026, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram | 16-17 July 2026 |
| 6 | All Scientists | Quarterly review meetings of scientists, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 21 & 23 July 2026 |
| 7 | Dr. K. Laxminarayana | 12th State level sanctioning committee (SLSC) under PM-RKVY-WDC-PMKSY 2.0 | 22 July 2026 |
| 8 | Dr P. Sethuraman Sivakumar | Annual Review cum Workshop/ Meeting of ICAR-ZTMC/ ITMUs & ABICs | 23 July 2026 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | Dr. T. Makeshkumar | ICAR-NRCB Institute Biosafety Committee, ICAR-NRCB, Trichy | 23 July 2026 |
| 10 | All Staff | 63rd Institute Foundation Day of ICAR-CTCRI, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 27 July 2026 |
| 11 | Dr. K. Sunilkumar<br>Dr. J. Suresh Kumar | Meeting on mode of project execution and project appraisal requirements at State Horticulture Mission HQ, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram | 01 August 2026 |
| 12 | All Scientists | Workshop on Intellectual Property Management, Technology Transfer and commercialization, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 05 August 2026 |
| 13 | Dr. T. Makeshkumar | Selection committee meeting for selecting Project Associate-I (PAT-I), CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram. | 05 August 2026 |
| 14 | Dr. D. Jaganathan | Golden Jubilee celebrations of Post graduation studies at Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram | 07 August 2026 |
| 15 | Dr. Jeena Mathew | Technical meeting of the KERA project at KERA Project Office, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram | 07 August 2026 |
| 16 | Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil | Online meeting with CIP officials, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 10 August 2026 |
| 17 | Dr. T. Krishnakumar<br>Dr. P. Prakash | International Conference on Environment, Agriculture, Horticulture & Life Sciences, Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC & RI), TNAU, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. | 27-28 August 2026 |
| 18 | Dr. K. Laxminarayana | Internal screening committee meeting under the state plan scheme 'Innovative projects', Krishi Bhavan, Bhubaneswar. | 28 August 2026 |
| 19 | Dr. G. Byju<br>Dr. T. Makeshkumar<br>Dr. Manas Ranjan Sahoo<br>Dr. M. L. Jeeva<br>Dr. J. Sreekumar<br>Dr. N. Krishna Radhika<br>Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar<br>Dr. B.G. Sangeetha<br>Dr. T.P. Sujatha | Institutional Biosafety Committee meeting, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 11 September 2026 |
| 20 | Dr. Sheela Immanuel | State Level Workshop on VKSA-Roadmap for Kerala for the next five years, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi | 11 September 2026 |
| 21 | Dr. K. Sunilkumar | Farm Fest 'Niravu 2026' at District Agriculture Farm, Peringammala, Thiruvananthapuram. | 14 September 2026 |
| 22 | Dr. G. Suja | Farmers seminar & Distribution of planting material under SCSP of AICRPTC at Cherthala, Alapuzha. | 15 September 2026 |
| 23 | Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil | Online meeting with (Zomato) for discussion on possibility of commercialization of the biofortified sweet potato genotypes for products like french fries and purple sweet potato powder, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 16 September 2026 |
| 24 | Dr. K. Laxminarayana | ICAR-CTCRI-Hyperpure (A Zomato venture) partnership meeting (virtual mode). | 16 September 2026 |
| 25 | Dr. C. Visalakshi Chandra | National Symposium on Harnessing Plant Genetic Resources of peninsular India (NSPPI), ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru. | 17-19 September 2026 |
| 26 | Dr. K. Laxminarayana | Tender finalization committee meeting at the office of the Odisha state seed corporation (OSSC) Ltd., Bhubaneswar. | 18 September 2026 |
| 27 | Dr. K. Laxminarayana | Meeting of Odisha State Horticulture Development Mission (OSHDM), Krishi Bhavan, Bhubaneswar. | 19 September 2026 |
| 28 | Dr. Kalidas Pati | Screening committee meeting for release of horticultural crop varieties | 22 September 2026 |

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| 29 | Dr. G. Byju<br>Dr. G. Suja<br>Dr. T. Makeshkumar<br>Dr. Sheela Immanuel<br>Dr. P. Murugesan<br>Dr. Jyothi Sreekumar<br>Dr. R. Muthuraj<br>Dr. D. Jaganathan | Meeting with Shri Suresh Kumar Chandravanshi, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Rajya Krishak Kalyan Parishad, Government of Chhattisgarh, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 25 September 2026 |
| 30 | Dr. K. Sunilkumar | Malayalam Science Congress-2026 at ICAR-CIFT, Kochi | 26 September 2026 |
| 31 | Dr. G. Byju<br>Dr. G. Suja<br>Dr. T. Makeshkumar<br>Dr. Manas Ranjan Sahoo<br>Dr. M.L. Jeeva<br>Dr. V.S. Santosh Mithra<br>Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar | Meeting of the CTCRI-RRC Committee, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram | 28 September 2026 |
| 32 | T. Krishnakumar | International Conference on Emerging AI, Robotics and IOT Technologies in Agriculture (EARITA), North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. | 30 September - 01 October2026 |

## Publications

### Research papers


1. Amrutha Lakshmi, M., Arutselvan, R., Baby, A.S., Javeedvali, S., Khan, A.S., Manyam, P., Harsh, N.S.K., Kumar, S. and Verma, R. 2026. Molecular crosstalk in oil palm–*Ganoderma* interactions: Lignin breakdown and basal stem rot progression. *Plant Soil*, **526**: 1011–1048. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-026-08904-x (*NAAS score: 10.1*).
2. Bhupenchandra, I., Chongtham, S.K., Devi, A.G., Sharma, L.D., Kumar, S., Mohanty, S., Dutta, P., Meena, M., Bora, S.S., Jat, A.L., Devi, E.L., Choudhury, A.K., Shimray, P., Sahoo, M.R.,Devi, H.L., Singh, S.K., Bouket, A.C. and Swapnil, P. 2026. Innovative approaches of brown manuring induction as a strategic path to harmonize ecosystems and leveraging agricultural sustainability. *Discov Sustain*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-026-04217-2 (*NAAS score: 9.0*)
3. Devi, S.H., Bharali, B., Kalita, P., Bhupenchandra, I., Ramasamy, R., Sharma, L.D., Sahoo, M.R. and Dasgupta, M. 2026. Foliar Zinc fortification enhances morphological, physiological and biochemical properties in traditional rice cultivars indigenous to the Northeastern hill region of India. *J Plant Growth Regul*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00344-026-12365-y (*NAAS score: 10.4*)
4. Divya, S., Bag, T.K., Jeeva, M.L., Makeshkumar, T., Ambika Manirajan, B., Chouhan, V., Veena, S.S. and Kumar, A. 2026. Integrated metabarcoding and culturomics reveal the rot suppressive rhizoplane mycobiome of cassava across contrasting agroecological habitats. *Frontiers in Plant.Science,* **17**:1782244. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls20261782244. (*NAAS score: 10.8*).
5. Ghosh, D., Islam, S., Das, M., Laxminarayana, K., Maity, A., Jha, Debroy, P., Jena, S. K. and Sarangi, A. 2026. Mitigating chromium toxicity and enhancing rice productivity in chromium-affected regions of Odisha, India. *Paddy Water Environ,* **24**: 561-577 (*NAAS score: 8.10*)
6. Jeevarathinam, G., Pandiarajan, T., Deepa, J., Aniesrani Delfiya, D.S., Dinesh Kumar, S., Krishnakumar, T. and Balakrishnan, M. 2026. Effects of infrared, hot air and infrared-assisted hot air-drying on drying characteristics, quality, and energy efficiency of turmeric slices, *J. Food Process Eng.*, **49**(8): e70709 (*NAAS score: 8.9*)
7. Krishna, S.R., Gowda, K.H., Arutselvan, R., Narendar, G., Yagneswar, B., Tripathy, P. and Mishra, N. 2026. Evaluation of sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam.) genotypes for sensory quality and tolerance to *Sweet potato leaf curl virus* (SPLCV) under eastern Indian conditions. *International Journal of Advanced Biochemistry Research*, **10**(7): 805-809. (*NAAS score: 5.29*).
8. Krishna, S.R., Gowda, K.H., Tripathy, P., Arutselvan, R., Das, S., Maharana, K. and Yagneswar, B. 2026. Phenotypic and genotypic correlation and path coefficient analysis for storage root yield and its contributing traits in sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*

(L.) Lam.) genotypes. *International Journal of Advanced Biochemistry Research*, **10**(7): 831-835. (*NAAS score: 5.29*).

9. Kumar, S., Kapoor, A., Kumar, M., Verma, R., Dhiman, S., Dey, U., Korra, T., Arutselvan, R., Bouket, A.C., Singh, U.B., Meena, M. and Swapnil, P. 2026. Engineering plant enzymes for enhanced agricultural productivity and stress tolerance. *Physiology and Management of Sustainable Crops*, **2**(1): 4. https://doi.org/10.53941/pmsc.2026.100004.
10. Murugesan, P., Somasundaram, G., Pedapati, A., Sunil Kumar, K., Rahana, S. N., Bhagya, H. P., Ramajeyam, D., Ravichandran, G., Mathur, R. K. and Suresh, K. 2025. Characterization of oil palm germplasm using IBPGR descriptors and identification of promising genetic stocks. *Journal of Plantation Crops*, **53**(2): 1-12.https://doi.org/10.25081/jpc.2025.v53.i2.9999. (*NAAS score: 4.65*)
11. Pal, R., Verma, R., Kumar, S., Hazowary, J., Jayajeevitha, S.R.M., Das, A., Bairwa, A., Mitra, D., Bouket, A.C., Chamani, M., Singh, U.B., Arutselvan, R., Bhupenchandra, I. and Meena, M. 2026. Quorum sensing-mediated infochemical dialogue in the rhizosphere: Implications for plant stress resilience. *Rhizosphere*, 39, 101414. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rhisph.2026.101414 (*NAAS score: 9.5*).
12. Parida, M.R., Sahoo, B.B., Yadav, R.K., Tripathy, P., Nayak, B.S., Sahoo, M.R. and Neeraj. 2026. Production dynamics of late kharif onion across diverse sowing windows: A principal component analysis-based approach for enhancing quality and economic viability. *Plant Science Today*. 2026; **13**(5): 1-13. https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.14161(*NAAS score: 6.0*)
13. Raju, S., Kookal, A., Manju, R.V., Joshy, S., Bhavya, M.S.P., Amrutha, E.A., Aushna, J. and Chandra, N.C. 2026. Elevated $CO_2$ and the hidden hunger crisis: mechanisms, magnitudes, and mitigation of micronutrient dilution in staple crops. *Front. Plant Sci.* **17**:1929375. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2026.1929375. (*NAAS score: 10.80*)
14. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D. and Prakash, P. 2026. Gender analysis and women empowerment in sweet potato cultivation in Odisha. *Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development*, **21**(2): 450-455. (*NAAS score: 5.02*).
15. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D. and Prakash, P. 2026. Traditional knowledge and use of tropical roots and tubers by indigenous tribes of India: A review. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*, **25**(7): 623-631. (*NAAS score: 6.0*).
16. Shilpa, S.U., Jeeva, M.L., Veena, S.S., Arutselvan, R., Amrutha, P.R. and Tom Cyriac. 2026. Multifunctional endophytic bacteria in taro suppress *Phytophthora colocasiae* and enhance plant growth: A sustainable biocontrol approach. *3Biotech,* **16**: 377. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13205-026-05010-8. (*NAAS score: 8.9*).
17. Suja, G., Sreekumar, J., Harishma, S.J., Byju, G. Veena, S.S., Sheela, M.N., Sunitha, S., Jyothi, A.N., Jaganathan, D., Ravisankar, N. and Sooraj, C.S. 2026. Organic system evaluation of cassava varieties in the humid tropics of South India: agronomic, nutritional, quality, economic and soil health indicators. *Org. Agr.*, **16**: 35. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13165-026-00564-6. (*NAAS score: 9.60*).
18. Yedla Nikhil Krishna, Parveen, S., Krishnakumar, T., Anand, M. and Gurusamy, K. 2026. Functional modification of cassava starch using clean label technologies: Heat moisture treatment, annealing, and atmospheric pressure plasma jet. *Int. J. Adv. Biochem. Res.*, **10**(7S):1720-1731. DOI: 10.33545/26174693.2026.v10.i7Su9291 (*NAAS score: 5.29*).

## Book

1. Jeeva, M.L., Makeshkumar, T., Veena, S.S. and Kesava Kumar, H. 2026. *Proceedings of the Brainstorming meeting on Fusarium diseases in tropical tuber crops: Emerging challenges and research priorities*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India. 12 p.

## Book chapters

1. Jena, K., Arutselvan, R., Laxminarayana, K., Pradhan, S., Lagna, J. and Routray, S. 2026. Collar rot disease of elephant foot yam (*Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* L.): Biotechnological interventions for sustainable management of the pathogen. In: *Soil Biology and Fundamentals of Microbial Ecology*. Laxminarayana, K., Singh, B., Yadav, U. A., Giri, P., Ali, M., Vijayakumar, V. R., Chahal, K., Gunjal, A., Kamble, P. B., Boominathan, M., Khandelwal, S., Ghosh, S., Mandal, M., Karthik, Y., Kishore, M. A. and Mali, S. (Eds.). Iterative International Publishers IIP Series, Vol. **6**, pp. 38-53.

2. Jisha Lagna, R., Arutselvan, R., Laxminarayana, K. and Pradhan, S. 2026. Sustainable soil systems - indicating microbial indicators into health and resilience assessment. In: *Soil Biology and Fundamentals of Microbial Ecology*. Laxminarayana, K., Singh, B., Yadav, U. A., Giri, P., Ali, M., Vijayakumar, V. R., Chahal, K., Gunjal, A., Kamble, P. B., Boominathan, M., Khandelwal, S., Ghosh, S., Mandal, M., Karthik, Y., Kishore, M. A. and Mali, S. (Eds.)**.** Iterative International Publishers IIP Series, Vol. **6**, pp. 1-14.
3. Pradhan, S., Arutselvan, R., Laxminarayana, K., Jena, K. and Lagna, J. 2026. Biofertilization & beyond: Microbial innovations for next generation soil productivity. In: *Soil Biology and Fundamentals of Microbial Ecology*. In: *Soil Biology and Fundamentals of Microbial Ecology*. Laxminarayana, K., Singh, B., Yadav, U. A., Giri, P., Ali, M., Vijayakumar, V. R., Chahal, K., Gunjal, A., Kamble, P. B., Boominathan, M., Khandelwal, S., Ghosh, S., Mandal, M., Karthik, Y., Kishore, M. A. and Mali, S. (Eds.)**.** Iterative International Publishers IIP Series, Vol. **6**, pp. 15-29.
4. Sivakumar, P. S. 2026. Nutritional models in India for tackling malnutrition. In: *Nutritional strategies, predictive models, and sustainable policies.* Panda, S.K., Barron, U.G. and Routray, S. (Eds.), Elsevier. pp. 11-39.

## Technical bulletins

1. Asha, K. I., Asha Devi, A., Murugesan, P. and Jyothi Sreekumar. 2026. *Catalogue of arrowroot genetic resources*. Technical Bulletin No. TB-125/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India, 32p.
2. Sivakumar, P.S., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Ramesh V., Susan John, K. and Poovarasan, P. 2026. Agro-advisory manual on soil health management for cassava and sweet potato in Kalvarayan Hills, Tamil Nadu. Technical Bulletin No. TB-122/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India, 56p.
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## Popular articles

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2. Das, B.B., Arutselvan, R., Pradhan, S., Jena, K., Routray, S. and Sharma, S. 2026. From rhizosphere to research lab: Modern tools for protecting crops. *Agri Magazine,* **3**(7): 568-572.
3. Jaganathan, D., Prakash, P., Sheela Immanuel and Byju, G. 2026. Transforming livelihoods through cassava-based agrifood systems: A progressive farmer's success story. *Kerala Karshakan e journal*, **14**(4): 29-32.
4. Jata, S.K., Arutselvan, R., Dangi, A.K. and Reddy, K.D. 2026. Tuber crops for nutrition, livelihoods and sustainability. *Odisha Review*, **83**(1): 86-91.
5. Jata, S.K., Nedunchezhiyan, M., Arutselvan, R., Dangi, A.K. and Reddy, K.D. 2026. Climate-resilient crops: Importance of tuber crops. *Krushi Sanchar* (Odia), **6**(3): 35-39.
6. Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C. and Velmurugan, M. 2026. Enzyme assisted cassava starch extraction: A sustainable industrial technology for enhancing cassava starch yield and purity. *Kerala Karshakan*, **14**(3): 18-20.
7. Krishnakumar, T., Sajeev, M.S., Pradeepika, C., Prakash, P., Mohan, C. and Velmurugan, M. 2026. Modern continuous cassava starch production: Boosting starch recovery and purity. *Agro India*, **7**(1): 24-26.
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9. Murugesan, P., Krishna Radhika, N., Kesavakumar, H. K. and Manas Ranjan Sahoo. 2026. Enriching underutilised tuber crops: Emerging opportunities. *Indian Horticulture*, **71**(05): 11-13.
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11. Pradhan, S., Arutselvan, R., Das, B.B., Jena, K., Routray, S. and Sharma, S. 2026. From DNA to discovery: The wonders of biotechnology. *Agri Magazine*, **3**(7): 564-567.

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13. Prakash, P., Jaganathan, D., Sheela Immanuel and Krishnakumar, T. 2026. Chilla market: A forest department led marketing revolution in Chinese potato for sustainable livelihoods of Maraiyoor tribes. *Kerala Karshakan e journal*, **14**(4): 25-28.
14. Sajeev, M.S., Krishnakumar, T. and Pradeepika, C. 2026. Hot airdrying - A healthier alternative to traditional deep fat frying for health-conscious consumers. *Kerala Karshakan*, **14**(4): 36-38.
15. Sheela Immanuel, Jaganathan, D., Prakash, P. and Aarsha, V.S. 2026. Women in agriculture from tradition to transformation. *Agro India*, July 2026: 35-38.
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### Conference/Souvenir/Seminar proceedings

1. Krishna Radhika, N., Keerthana, V.S., Murugesan, P., Srijith, P.S. and Sandhya, C.V. 2026. Evaluation of toxicity in *C. angustifolia*: A potent source for antibacterial drug. In: *Book of abstracts of National symposium on harnessing PGR of peninsular India, (NSPPI)*, 17-19 September 2026, ICAR-IIHR, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. pp. 101.
2. Prakash, P., Jaganathan, D. and Sheela Immanuel. 2026. Economics of Chinese potato production and marketing in Kerala: Evidence from farm level analysis. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Environment, Agriculture, Horticulture & Life Sciences (ICEAHLS 2026)*, 27-28 August 2026, International Association for Innovation and Scientific Research (IAISR), Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, (ISBN 978-81-992763-1-4). pp. 161.
3. Visalakshi Chandra, C., Shirly Raichal Anil, Senthilkumar, K.M., Sreekumar, J., Makeshkumar, T., Amalnath, S., Shameer, P.S., Anjitha, A.R., Senthil Muthukrishnan and Pooja Krishnan. 2026. Trait specific characterization of sweet potato germplasm for identification of superior genetic resources and breeding utilization. In: *Book of abstracts of National symposium on harnessing PGR of peninsular India, (NSPPI)*, 17-19 September 2026, ICAR-IIHR, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. pp. 100.

### Technical/Extension folders/Leaflets

1. Harish E.R., Jayaprakas, C.A., Sreelakshmi, L. 2026. *Use of ICAR-CTCRI developed biopesticides (Malayalam).* Technical Leaflet TL-17/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India.
2. Harish E.R., Jayaprakas, C.A., Sreelakshmi, L., Asha Devi, A. 2026. *Use of ICAR-CTCRI developed biopesticides (Hindi).* Technical Leaflet TL-19/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India.
3. Harish E.R., Jayaprakas, C.A., Sreelakshmi, L., Jeeva M.L. 2026. *Use of ICAR-CTCRI developed biopesticides (Tamil).* Technical Leaflet TL-18/2026. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India.
4. Sreekumar, J., Kumar, H.K., Akhila Anil, I. and Anu Reshmy R. Nair. 2026. *All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops- A Profile*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India.
5. Suresh Kumar, J. and Padmakshi, T. 2026. *Production technologies of tropical tuber crops (Hindi).* Technical Leaflet TL 20/2026, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India.

### Radio talk

1. Veena, S.S. 2026. *Disease Management in Tuber Crop Production* in Vayalum Veedum, All India Radio, Thiruvananthapuram on 06 August 2026.

### Institute Publications

1. ICAR-CTCRI. 2025. *Annual Report 2025*. ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India, 220 p.
2. ICAR-CTCRI. 2026. *ICAR-CTCRI Newsletter April-June 2026*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, **43**(2): 28p.
3. ICAR-AICRP TC. 2026. XXVI Annual Group Meeting, 21-23 May 2026: Proceedings. ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India, 51p.
4. ICAR-CTCRI. 2026. *Quarterly Review Meeting April to June 2026*, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India. 162p.

## Major Institute Events

### The 63rd Foundation Day of ICAR - CTCRI

- ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI), Sreekariyam, celebrated its 63rd Foundation Day on 27 July 2026, highlighting advances in tropical tuber crop research and technology dissemination. Shri Minhaj Alam, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Agricultural Production Commissioner, Government of Kerala, inaugurated the programme. Shri T.V. Subhash, IAS, Special Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Kerala, was the Guest of Honour. Presiding over the function, Dr. G. Byju, Director, presented the institute's achievements for 2025-26 and its Strategic Roadmap for 2026-27. New crop varieties, improved production technologies and institute publications were released, and Memoranda of Understanding were signed and exchanged with partner institutions to strengthen research and extension. Eight progressive tuber crop farmers from six states were honoured for scientific farming and technology adoption. Recipients of the Best Research Paper awards and outstanding staff members were also felicitated. A Farmer-Scientist Interface brought together farmers, subject experts and an industry representative to discuss production challenges, technological innovations and strategies to improve tuber crop productivity and sustainability.




Inaugural session of the Foundation Day celebration



Inauguration by the Chief Guest

### Institute Biosafety Committee meeting

- The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) meeting was held on 11 September 2026 to review research projects involving recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology. The meeting was attended by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI and Chairman, IBSC; Dr. S. Manjula, Scientist G, RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram and DBT Nominee; Dr. T. Bindu, Medical Officer, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Biosafety Officer; Dr. E. V. Soniya, Scientist G (Retd.), RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram and the Heads of Divisions/Section-in-Charges and scientists involved in rDNA-based research projects. The committee members appreciated the scientists for their strict adherence to biosafety guidelines in the Institute's research laboratories.

## Other Important Events

### Hindi corner

- The Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of ICAR-CTCRI organized the quarterly meeting for the 2nd quarter (July to September 2026) on 08 September 2026 under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Byju, Director and Chairman, OLIC.

### Hindi Pakhwada Celebrations 2026

- The Hindi Fortnight was observed at ICAR-CTCRI from 14 - 28 September 2026 in a befitting way with many competitions for the staff, students and for the staff's kids. The event was inaugurated on 16 September 2026 by Dr. T. Makeshkumar, Director-in-Charge and Head (Crop Protection), ICAR-CTCRI. The competitions spanning the fortnight included essay writing, children's contests, translation (English to Hindi and Hindi to English), dictation, calligraphy, poetry recitation, elocution, 'What the Picture Speaks', memory test and Antakshari. Around 40 participants participated from various categories viz., Scientific, Technical, Administrative, Students and Non-permanent Staff.




Inauguration of Hindi Pakhwada 2026



Calligraphy competitions for the staff

- A Hindi workshop on 'Effective Official Language Implementation through Advanced Technology' was organized on 29 September 2026 for ICAR-CTCRI staff. The workshop was conducted by Dr. P. R. Hareendra Sharma, Assistant Director (Official Language), Doordarshan Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. G. Byju, Director & Chairman, OLIC, delivered the inaugural address. Fifty-one employees participated in the workshop. Dr. A. Asha Devi, Principal Scientist & Liaison Officer (Official Language), and Shri S. Bhadrakumar also addressed the gathering




Director delivering the inaugural address

## POSH &Women's Welfare

- An awareness programme on 'Understanding the POSH Act, 2013' was organised for permanent and temporary staff and students who joined the Institute on or after 01 January 2026. Dr. G. Byju, Director, highlighted the struggles and milestones in women's empowerment and emphasized the need for zero tolerance of sexual harassment in the workplace. The awareness talk was delivered by Dr. S. S. Veena, Presiding Officer, Internal Committee. She covered the genesis of the POSH Act, the definition of the workplace, the categories of persons covered under the Act, the timeline for processing complaints, the various complaint mechanisms available at the Institute and SheSpace, the dedicated space for women at the Institute. The talk was followed by an interactive session involving the speaker and Dr. A. Asha Devi and Dr. B. G. Sangeetha, members of the Internal Committee. A total of 35 participants attended the programme.




Director delivering Presidential address



Participants and resource persons with the Director

## Director's Visits

Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI inaugurated the 'Stakeholder Consultation on Novel Fertiliser Technologies' programme organized by CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram on 03 July 2026.




Director being received at CSIR–NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram

- Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, attended the capacity building training programme on tuber crops and launched tuber crop-based agrifood systems project at Amboori on 08 September 2026. The programme focuses on promoting tuber crops and strengthening livelihood opportunities for tribal farmers in Amboori, Thiruvananthapuram.



Launching of tuber crop-based agrifood systems project at Amboori

- Dr. G. Byju, Director delivered the keynote address during inaugural session of the Farmers' Seminar organised by the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops (AICRPTC) at Cherthala under the SCSP Programme on 16 September 2026.



Inaugural session of Farmers' Seminar at Cherthala

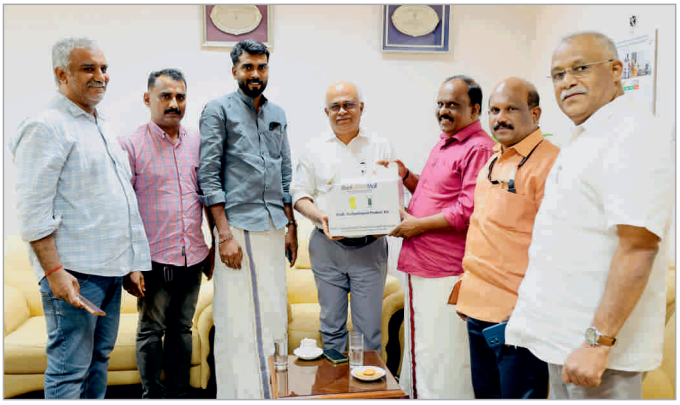
## Infrastructure/Facilities

- A new real-time PCR (₹ 10.00 lakh) was procured and installed at the Division of Crop Improvement under institute EFC fund

## Distinguished Visitors

### Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

- Shri B.B. Gopakumar, Hon'ble MLA, Chathannoor visited ICAR-CTCRI to explore collaborative initiatives for sustainable agricultural development in the constituency on 07 July 2026.



Shri B.B. Gopakumar, Hon'ble MLA and his team with Director at ICAR-CTCRI

- Sri Benedict William John, CEO & Executive Director, Kerala Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (KIED), Government of Kerala visited ICAR-CTCRI to formalize a strategic partnership through the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 04 August 2026.
- Shri. Vineesh Kumar, Manager of Supreme Bakers visited ICAR-CTCRI on 15 September 2026 to discuss potential collaborations for the development and promotion of value added products based on tuber crops.
- Shri Suresh Kumar Chandrwanshi, Hon'ble Chairman, Chhattisgarh Rajya Krishak Kalyan Parishad, Government of Chhattisgarh, visited ICAR-CTCRI as part of his study and learned about advanced agricultural technologies, farm mechanisation and innovative practices in tropical tuber crops.



Shri Suresh Kumar Chandrwanshi interacting with Director and Scientists of the Institute

### Regional Station, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Shri. Hemant Gaur, Managing Director, Siddhi Vinayak Agri Processing Pvt. Ltd., Pune and Dr. J.S. Minhas, former Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR-CPRI Research Station, Jalandhar, Punjab visited Regional Station, Bhubaneswar on 07 September 2026.



Shri. Hemant Gaur and Dr. J.S. Minhas visiting tissue culture facility at Regional Station

- Dr. Yatendra S. Chaudhary, Chief Scientist and Dr. Manish Kumar, Scientist-F, CSIR-Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT), Bhubaneswar visited Regional Station, Bhubaneswar on 14 September 2026.



Dr. Yatendra S. Chaudhary and Dr. Manish Kumar at tissue culture facility

## Honours, Awards and Recognitions

### Awards

Dr. T. Krishnakumar and Dr. M.S. Sajeev received patent for an apparatus for peeling an agricultural product with patent No. 602448 dated 14 September 2026 of the Patent office, Government of India.


पेटेंट कार्यालय, भारत सरकार
पेटेंट प्रमाण पत्र
The Patent Office, Government Of India
Patent Certificate
पेटेंट सं. / Patent No. : 602448
आवेदन सं. / Application No. : 202341088486
फाइल करने की तारीख / Date of Filing : 23/12/2023
पेटेंटी / Patentee : 1.ICAR-CENTRAL TUBER CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2.PROJECT COORDINATOR, AICRP ON PHET (ICAR)
आविष्कारकों का नाम/Name of Inventor(s) : 1.KRISHNAKUMAR THULASIMANI 2.SAJEEV MOOTHANDASSERY SANKARAKUTTY
प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि पेटेंटी को, उपरोक्त आवेदन में यथाविहित AN APPARATUS FOR PEELING AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT नाम आविष्कार के लिए, पेटेंट अधिनियम, 1970 के उपबंधों के अनुसार आज तारीख दिसम्बर 2023 से पेटेंटी दिन में बीस वर्ष की अवधि के लिए पेटेंट अनुदत्त किया गया है।
It is hereby certified that a patent has been granted to the patentee for an invention entitled AN APPARATUS FOR PEELING AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT as disclosed in the above mentioned application for the term of 20 years from the 23rd day of December 2023 in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act,1970.
अनुदान की तारीख / Date of Grant : 14/09/2026
Controller of Patents

- Dr. V. S. Santhosh Mithra received copyright registration for 'MADHURAM', a growth simulation model for sweet potato developed by V.S. Santhosh Mithra and K. Somasundaram with copyright certificate No. SW-2026022350 from the Copyright Office, Government of India.
- Dr. V. S. Santhosh Mithra received copyright registration for 'SPOTCOMS', a growth simulation model for sweet potato developed by V.S. Santhosh Mithra and K. Somasundaram with copyright certificate No. SW-2026022349 from the Copyright Office, Government of India.
- Dr. V. S. Santhosh Mithra received copyright registration for 'SIMCAS', a growth simulation model simulation model of cassava, developed by V.S. Santhosh Mithra, C.S. Ravindran and J. Sreekumar with copyright certificate No. SW-2026022351 from the Copyright Office, Government of India.



MADHURAM SIMCAS SPOTCOMS

Copyright registration for three crop growth simulation models

- Dr. G. Suja received the Best Research Paper Recognition for Scientist (2026) for the research paper, Organic system evaluation of cassava varieties in the humid tropics of South India: agronomic, nutritional, quality, economic and soil health indicators (Authors: Suja, G., Sreekumar, J., Harishma, S.J., Byju, G. Veena, S.S., Sheela, M.N., Sunitha, S., Jyothi, A.N., Jaganathan, D., Ravisankar, N. and Sooraj, C.S.) published in Organic Agriculture in the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-CTCRI on 27 July 2026.



Dr. G. Suja receiving the Best Research Paper Recognition for Scientist

- Ms. Divya Joseph received the Best Research Paper Recognition for Student (2026) for the research paper, Synthesis and adsorption performance of cassava starch phosphate carbamate (Authors: Divya Joseph, Jyothi, A.N. and Sreekumar, J) published in Starch/Starke in the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-CTCRI on 27 July 2026.
- Dr. P.R. Amrutha received the Best Research Paper Recognition for Student (2026) for the research paper, Genomic insights and biocontrol potential of endophytic *Bacillus subtilis* strain B_SP against fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* in *Dioscorea alata* L. (Authors: Amrutha, P.R., Jeeva, M.L., Sreelatha, G.L., Makeshkumar, T., Veena, S.S., Tom Cyriac, Akhil, K.M. and Shilpa, S.U.) published in Biocontrol in the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-CTCRI on 27 July 2026.
- Dr. Saravanan Raju, received Best Scientist (Technology Transfer) 2026 in the 63rd Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-CTCRI on 27 July 2026 for licensing ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni, an elite line of purple taro technology to M/S Spudnik Farms Private Limited, Banglore, Karnataka for a cost of Rs. 5.9 lakhs.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar received Best Scientist Resource Mobilization (Externally Aided Project) 2026 for the project, 'Development of Cassava Value Chain Based Entrepreneurship through Satellite Incubation Centre to Enhance Tribal Livelihoods in Kalvarayan hills, Kallakurichi District, Tamil Nadu' with a budget of ₹ 1.674 crore (PI: P. Sethuraman Sivakumar and Co Investigators: G. Byju, T. Krishnakumar, M. Nedunchezhiyan, P. Prakash, Visalakshi Chandra and R. Arutselvan)
- ICAR-CTCRI bagged best exhibition stall award (Second prize) in the exhibition organized in connection with Kisan Mela and Karshika Seminar (Haritha Visamayam) on 22 July 2026 at Block Office, Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.




ICAR-CTCRI receiving best exhibition stall award

## Recognitions

### ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni received national recognition

- ICAR-CTCRI Jamuni, a purple-streaked taro elite line, was selected among the top 50 ICAR technologies showcased by the Horticultural Sciences Division at the CSR Conclave 2026 and the 98th ICAR foundation day celebrations at New Delhi during 15-16 July 2026. Its Technology Licensing Agreement with Spudnik Farms, Bengaluru, was exchanged in the presence of Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, marking the commercialisation of ICAR-CTCRI's first elite taro line. Jamuni was developed by Dr. R. Saravanan Raju (Lead Developer), Dr. A. Asha Devi, Dr. K.M. Senthil Kumar, Dr. P.S. Sivakumar and Dr. C. Pradeepika.



Technology Licensing Agreement with Spudnik Farms, Bengaluru

- Dr. P. Murugesan, reviewer for the journals, Plant Science Today, Legume Research, Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences and Indian Horticulture.
- Dr. A. Asha Devi served as the reviewer for the Journal of Root Crops.
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil nominated as Member, Board of Studies in Botany, All Saints College, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, reviewer for the journals, PLOS One, Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Journal of Cereal Research and Journal of Root Crops.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, evaluator for two M. Sc. thesis of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and ICAR-IARI-NRRI Cuttack Hub, Odisha.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, external examiner for a Ph. D. student of College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellayani.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, served as the Research topic editor 'Plant-environment interactions and abiotic stress responses in horticultural crops' for Frontiers in Horticulture journal.
- Dr. K.M. Senthilkumar, expert for the selection committee of SRF at ICAR-IIOPR, RC, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram.

- Dr. G. Suja delivered a talk on 'Regenerative agriculture & carbon negative farming: The next green revolution' at T-RIC X Impact Research Conclave at Achutha Menon Hall, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram on 17 July 2026.
- Dr. K. Laxminarayana, Chief Guest in the inaugural session of the International Conference on 'One Health Phyto-sciences and Integrated Biosystems (OHPB-2026)' during 21-22 August 2026 at Parlakhemundi, Gajapati district of Odisha.
- Dr. S. Sunitha served as an external examiner for a Ph.D. student and an M.Sc. (Ag.) student of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur.
- Dr. V. Ramesh served as member of the Recruitment committee for the selection of Senior Scientist cum Head, ICAR-KVK, Mithraniketan, Vellanad, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. R. Saravanan, external examiner, qualifying viva-voce examination of Ph. D student of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. K. Sunilkumar, external Examiner for qualifying viva voce for two M. Sc students of IARI-IIHR Hub.
- Dr. Jeena Mathew, evaluator for a M.Sc (Ag) thesis of College of Agriculture, KAU, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.
- Kalpa Poshak, developed by Dr. Jeena Mathew (at ICAR-CPCRI), was released as one among the 17 scalable technologies dedicated at the ICAR Foundation Day on 16 July 2026.
- Dr. T. Makeshkumar served as subject expert for the UGC-SRF assessment, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram on 28 September 2026.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, evaluator for three Ph. D theses of Kerala Agricultural University and University of Calicut.
- Dr. S.S. Veena, reviewer for the journals, Sugar Tech and Indian Phytopathology.
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, external examiner for setting question for M.Sc. students of College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Umiam.
- Dr. V.S. Santhosh Mithra handled a technical session on 'Hands-on expertise in creation of digital tools for effective dissemination of smart farming technologies in horticulture, on 24 September 2026 at Farmer's Training Centre Nilgiris,Tamil Nadu.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, Panelist for 'Industry case studies on ESG implementation - plantations, manufacturing, IT/ITES, tourism, ports and logistics organised by the ASSOCHAM Kerala State CSR & Sustainability Committee 2026-27 at Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, external expert for improvement for the synopsis of PG and PhD research scholars, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, delivered an invited talk at the Workshop on Scientific Writing, TNAU, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, delivered an invited talk at the MANAGE-CIA & MANAGE-FISHub.
- Dr. D. Jaganathan as resource person for the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) on 02 September 2026 at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kayamkulam, Alappuzha.

## Recreation Club

Srishti, Recreation Club organized the Independence Day celebration and a medical camp in association with DDRC-Agilus Pathlabs. The Independence Day celebration commenced with the flag hoisting by Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI and President of the Srishti Recreational Club, followed by the national anthem. Staff members and their family members participated in the event. A free medical camp was organized on 15 September 2026 in association with DDRC-Agilus Pathlabs. The camp witnessed active participation from scientists, students, workers and other staff members and was conducted successfully.



Director delivering Independence Day speech





Flag hoisting by the Director View from the medical camp

## Media Coverage

| Sl. No. | Date | News title | Name of the News paper |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 July 2026 | Training on cultivation of elephant foot yam for farmers | Dinakaran (Tamil) |
| 2 | 15 July 2026 | Farmer training was organized | Madhyamam |
| 3 | 16 July 2026 | The Project to transform the Aralam rehabilitation area into a model village has been launched | Madhyamam |
| 4 | 16 July 2026 | Training on tuber crop cultivation and value - added product was conducted at Aralam | Malayala Manorama |
| 5 | 17 July 2026 | Introduction of new cassava varieties and distribution of quality planting materials of cassava at Kadambur hills | Thinathanthi (Tamil) |
| 6 | 25 July 2026 | Young farmer Sujith receives national recognition | Madhyamam |
| 7 | 25 July 2026 | National recognition for farmer Sujith | Mathrubhumi |
| 8 | 25 July 2026 | S.P. Sujith receives national award | Malayala Manorama |
| 9 | 25 July 2026 | Foundation day celebration of the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute | Malayala Manorama |
| 10 | 25 July 2026 | CTCRI Foundation Day Celebration | - |
| 11 | 25 July 2026 | Foundation Day | - |
| 12 | 25 July 2026 | Seminar at Kollayil Grama Panchayat | Mathrubhumi |
| 13 | 26 July 2026 | Sujith receives national recognition again | Kerala Kaumudi |
| 14 | 28 July 2026 | Yalamathi receives Innovative Farmer Award | Eenadu |
| 15 | 28 July 2026 | ICAR Foundation Day celebrated with farmer felicitation and unveiling of new technologies | Janmabhumi |
| 16 | 28 July 2026 | The Central Tuber Crops Research Institute celebrated its Foundation Day | Metrovartha |
| 17 | 29 July 2026 | A Research team conducted an inspection of root rot in tapioca | Madhyamam |
| 18 | 29 July 2026 | Team formed to study root rot disease in Cassava | Mathrubumi |
| 19 | 02 August 2026 | Aswathy earns national recognition for her arrowroot cultivation | Kerala Kaumudi |
| 20 | 02 August 2026 | “Sowed arrowroot, reaped a national award” | Mathrubhumi |
| 21 | 03 August 2026 | National Award for a young women farmer | Desabhimani |
| 22 | 10 August 2026 | New mycobiome-based strategy to combat cassava rot disease | Tiki Rajwi |
| 23 | 13 August 2026 | Researchers find a solution to stem and root rot in cassava | Mathrubhumi |
| 24 | 22 August 2026 | Cultivation of tuber crops for farmers | Dina Thanthi (Tamil) |
| 25 | 08 September 2026 | Agricultural Seminar | Desabhimani |
| 26 | 20 September 2026 | Training on improved tuber crop technologies held at Wokha | Nagaland Post |
| 27 | 20 September 2026 | Wokha KVK trains farmers on tuber crop technologies | Morung Express |




## Personalia

### Promotions

| Sl. No. | Name | Promoted as | Date | O.O. No & Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dr. H. Kesava Kumar | Senior Scientist PB-4 (RGP-Rs.9000) | 01.09.2024 | F. No. 18/2025-Estt.III dated 27 July 2026 |
| 2 | Dr. J. Suresh Kumar | Senior Scientist PB-3 (RGP-Rs.8000) | 01.01.2025 | |
| 3 | Dr. Chintha Pradeepika | Senior Scientist PB-3 (RGP-Rs.8000) | 01.01.2025 | |
| 4 | Dr. T. Krishnakumar | Senior Scientist PB-3 (RGP-Rs.8000) | 01.01.2025 | |
| 5 | Dr. R. Arutselvan | Senior Scientist PB-3 (RGP-Rs.8000) | 16.11.2025 | |
| 6 | Dr. P. Prakash | Senior Scientist PB-3 (RGP-Rs.8000) | 03.02.2025 | |
| 7 | Shri. B. Satheesan | Senior Technical Assistant (T4) | 04.02.2026 | F. No. 16-1/2016-Estt.III dated 23 September 2026 |
| 8 | Shri. D.T. Rejin | Technical Assistant (T3) | 17.02.2026 | |
| 9 | Smt. S.S. Sneha | Senior Technician (T2) | 31.05.2026 | |
| 10 | Smt. S. Sunitha | Personal Assistant Pay Matrix Level-9 | 28.08.2025 | F. No. 04/2025-Admn. dated 03 August 2026 |

### Transfer

| Sl. No. | Name and Designation | From | To |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Shri. G. Shajikumar Technical Officer (Driver) | ICAR-CTCRI RS, Bhubaneswar | ICAR-CTCRI HQ Thiruvananthapuram 22.09.2026 |



*Tuber Crops for Food, Health, Wealth and Prosperity*

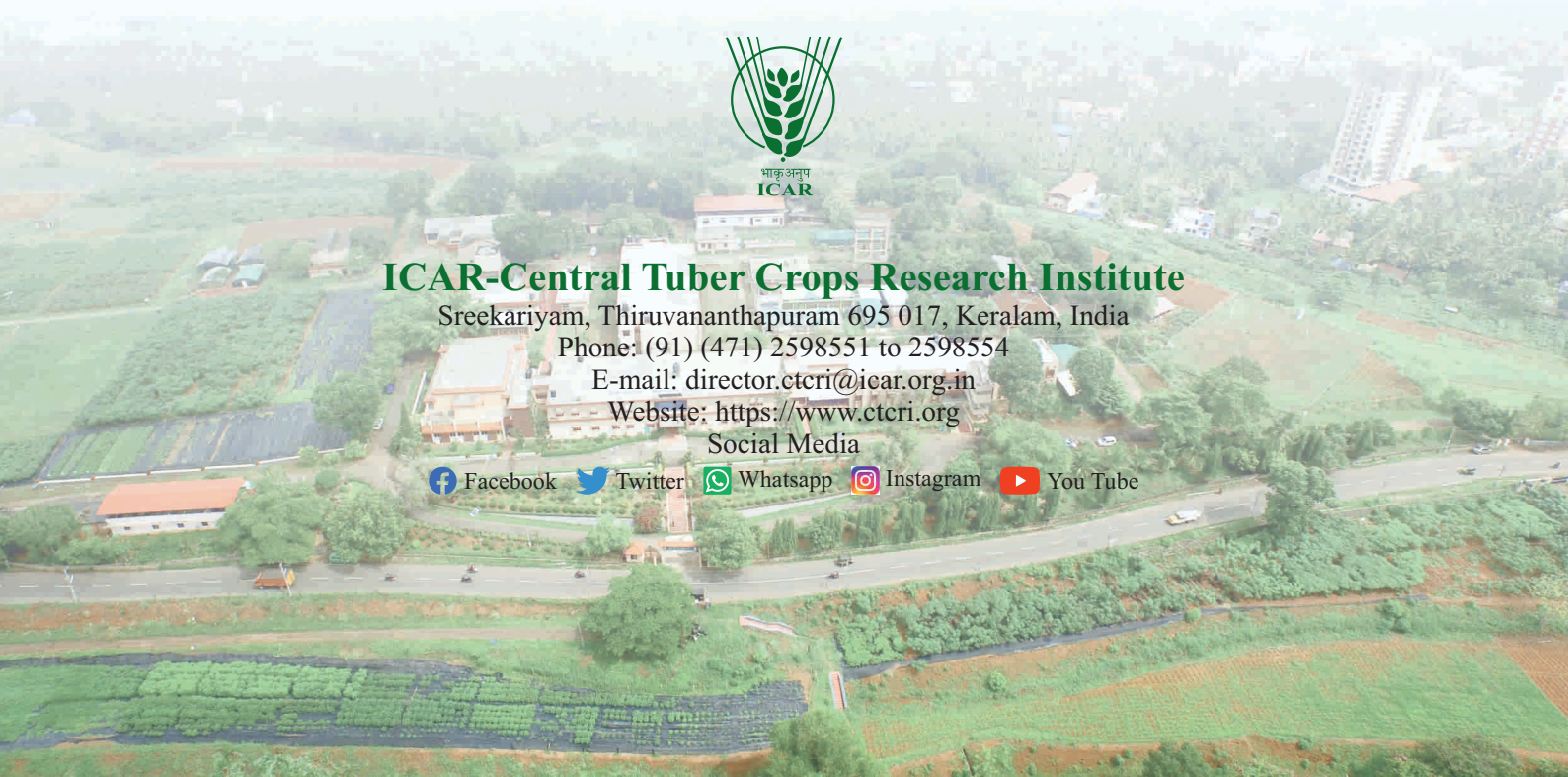
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