

ICAR-CIARI Hosts Various Travel and Tour Associations' Representative for Agro-Tourism Initiative

Denis Giles – 03 March 2025



Sri Vijaya Puram, March 3: The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) conducted a meeting with representatives from the Andaman Association of Tour Operators, Andaman Travel Agent Association, and Andaman Nicobar Tour Operators Association at its Sippighat and Garacharma farms. The visit was part of ICAR-CIARI's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable agro-eco tourism in the region.

During the visit, Dr. Ekanth B. Chakurkar, Director, and Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Incharge of Sippighat Farm, provided an in-depth tour of the farms, showcasing innovative agricultural practices, indigenous crops, and eco-friendly farming technologies developed by the institute. These efforts align with ICAR-CIARI's mission to integrate agriculture with tourism while fostering education and ecological conservation.

The Presidents and representatives from various associations shared constructive feedback on enhancing the tourist experience. Suggestions included interactive activities such as live demonstrations of farming techniques, workshops on medicinal plants, and guided tours focusing on local biodiversity. These inputs will help ICAR-CIARI refine its agro-eco tourism model to better serve visitors while promoting sustainable tourism practices.

The upcoming Agro-Eco Tourism initiative is expected to attract both domestic and international tourists, offering them a unique opportunity to experience the rich agricultural heritage and natural beauty of the Andaman Islands. As part of this initiative, visitors will have the chance to explore the Nakshatra Garden, which showcases celestial-themed plant species; the Horticulture Plant Propagation Unit, where they can learn about advanced plant multiplication techniques; and the Dweep Medicinal Garden, featuring a diverse collection of therapeutic plants. Additionally, tourists can visit the Ornamental Fish Breeding Unit, which promotes conservation of exotic fish species; the Fancy Birds section, displaying a variety of avian species; and the World Coconut Germplasm Centre, which preserves diverse coconut genetic resources. For those interested in spice cultivation, the Plantation-Based Organic Spice Garden offers insights into traditional and organic spice farming. Furthermore, nature enthusiasts can enjoy guided nature trekking through Sippighat Farm, while a dedicated sale counter will provide tourists with the opportunity to purchase fresh organic farm produce and locally grown spices.

By integrating these unique attractions, ICAR-CIARI aims to enhance eco-tourism experiences while promoting sustainable agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, and organic farming in the Andaman Islands.