

## ICAR-CIARI Trains Nicobari Farmers on Organic Integrated Farming System

Denis Giles – 05 April 2025



**Car Nicobar, April 4:** A training programme on "Organic Integrated Farming System (IFS) for Livelihood Improvement" was conducted for farmers under the STC by AICRP on Integrated Farming System, in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Car Nicobar. As part of the programme, goats and piglets were distributed to farmers at the IFS experimental field, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, Car Nicobar Islands, on 2nd and 3rd April 2025.

During the programme, Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist (Agroforestry) and Principal Investigator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Integrated Farming System, explained the advantages and scope of the Integrated Farming System. He emphasized the incorporation of various components to improve farm income and elaborated on the Organic Integrated Farming System (OIFS) developed by the institute. He also presented outcomes from experimental trials involving different combinations of vegetables, tubers, spices, fodder, and fruit crops, along with the integration of goat, pig, poultry, and fish farming. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head, KVK, South Andaman, introduced farmers to regenerative agricultural practices and emphasized the significance of vegetable cultivation for nutritional security. He also highlighted CIARI technologies, organic waste management, and integrated pest and disease management within the system. Dr. Abhilash, Scientist (NRM), discussed the importance of weather forecasting in farm management and demonstrated how medium-range weather forecasts can help farmers plan their daily agricultural activities efficiently. He also introduced participants to various agrometeorological instruments used for weather monitoring. Mr. Talaviya Harshang Kumar, Scientist (NRM), provided valuable insights into the impact of pesticide use on agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. He highlighted the significance of organic farming and advocated for an integrated farming approach to enhance sustainability in the islands. Dr. Prabhu, Scientist (PGR), demonstrated high-value vegetable salads, showcasing species suitable for integration into IFS models to maximize productivity and profitability.

During the valedictory session, all the heads of divisions interacted with farmers, providing guidance, addressing their queries, and facilitating the integration of livestock into their farming systems to enhance productivity and sustainability. A total of 15 farmers from Car Nicobar Islands participated in this training programme. As part of the initiative, seven goats and 19 piglets were distributed among the participants. The entire programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.