

ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

The True Mirror of A & N Islands

September 4, 2025

Students Explore Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity at ICAR-CIARI Garacharma Research Complex

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Sri Vijaya Puram, Sep 03: On September 3, 2025, a group of 58 students from Govt. Sr. Secondary School, Mannarghat, and RGT Public Vidyalaya, along with six teachers, visited the Garacharma Research Complex of ICAR-CIARI located in Sri Vijaya Puram. Dr. I. Jaisankar, Principal Scientist, showcased the benefits of Integrated Farming Systems that combine trees, crops, and animals to boost farm productivity. He also emphasized the significance of organic farming practices and the need to diversify the island's agricultural system by incorporating various vegetables, spices, and fruits alongside animal and fish components to enhance farmers' income and create job opportunities. Miss Shivani Kumari, a technician, introduced the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Medicinal Garden, which features a diverse range of therapeutic plants aimed at raising awareness about the region's biodiversity. She also provided an overview of the freshwater ornamental fish unit and the benefits of fish spas.

Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar, Senior Scientist, discussed the fisheries museum, focusing on the marine life found in the Andaman Islands and the fish biodiversity present in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mr. Bikash Ch. Mondal shared insights into the butterfly biodiversity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Prior to the start of the activities, Mr. D. Karunakaran, a scientist, welcomed the group and presented an overview of the institute's research initiatives. The visit was coordinated by Mr. D. Karunakaran, Scientist, in partnership with Mrs. Asma Bibi, Senior Technical Assistant, Mr. Ali Akbar, Technician, and Mr. C. P. Vijayan, Young Professional-1 from the Agricultural Knowledge Management Unit, all under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.