



## ICAR–CIARI Conducts Training Programme on Scientific Approaches to Crop Protection and Nutrient Management

By Denis Gilles / December 17, 2025



**Sri Vijaya Puram, Dec. 17:** A training programme on “Scientific Approaches to Crop Protection and Nutrient Management in Natural Farming, Organic Farming and Integrated Farming Systems” was successfully conducted at ICAR–Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) from 11th to 17th December 2025.

The programme was organised with the objective of enhancing the knowledge and practical skills of technical staff and participants on chemical-free, sustainable and scientifically validated farming practices, particularly suited to the agro-ecological conditions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The training covered important aspects of natural farming, organic farming and integrated farming systems, with emphasis on scientific pest and disease management, nutrient management, and on-farm resource recycling. Participants were trained on preparation and application of Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Ghan Jeevamrit, vermicompost, botanical extracts, use of microbial bioagents such as Trichoderma and Pseudomonas, and other eco-friendly crop protection practices.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR–CIARI, who highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices for island agriculture. Dr. R. Kiruba Sankar, Nodal Officer (HRD), emphasised the role of capacity building and skill development in strengthening ICAR human resources. The training programme was coordinated by Dr. I. Jaisankar, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Dr. Abhilash and Dr. Prabhu, serving as Course Directors, who jointly guided the planning and execution of the programme. During the programme, Dr. I. Jaisankar highlighted the objectives and relevance of the training in strengthening scientific approaches to natural and organic farming, while Dr. Y. Ramakrishna explained the course structure and training modules in line with field requirements. The entire programme was conducted with the support of resource persons from the Division of Natural Resource Management and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sippighat, South Andaman.

Pre- and post-evaluation results showed a significant improvement in participants' knowledge levels, indicating the effectiveness of the training programme. The training concluded with positive feedback from participants, who appreciated the hands-on demonstrations and field-oriented approach. A training manual was released and provided to participants as a field-level reference for future application. The programme contributed towards promoting sustainable, low-cost and eco-friendly agricultural practices and strengthening the capacity of technical staff to support farmers in adopting natural and organic farming systems.