

ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

The True Mirror of A & N Islands

January 8, 2026

Student Exposure Visit on Agricultural Research and Innovation at ICAR–CIARI

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Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan 07: On October 5th and 7th, 2025, a total of 240 students from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, located in Sri Vijaya Puram, made a visit to ICAR–CIARI on January 5, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

Dr. M. Muruganandam, Principal Scientist and Head, Fisheries Science Division, delivered an informative session to students on pond ecosystem dynamics. He explained the process of photosynthesis and ecosystem components in ponds and their role in maintaining dissolved oxygen levels above 5 ppm and critical water quality parameters that benefit fish production. The functioning and importance of aerators during periods of oxygen depletion discussed in detail. He also highlighted the consequences of low oxygen levels on fish health and pond productivity. The session emphasized practical management practices in fisheries. Dr. Muruganandam actively interacted with students and addressed their questions.

Dr. Raj Narayan, Principal Scientist and Head of the Division of Horticulture and Crop Protection, provided an explanation of the year-round vegetable production system to the students. He underscored various methods and practices that guarantee a continuous supply of vegetables throughout the year. Additionally, Dr. Narayan elaborated on the nutritional benefits of green leafy vegetables in detail. He stressed their significance in supplying essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. The health advantages of regularly consuming green leafy vegetables were also discussed. This session enabled students to comprehend the importance of vegetables in nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Guru Nanath Reddy, Scientist, elucidated the concept of the Integrated Farming System and its advantages to the students. He outlined the different components of the system and how they work together efficiently. The session emphasized how integrated farming facilitates the optimal utilization of farm resources. He highlighted its role in minimizing input costs through the recycling of farm waste. Furthermore, Dr. Reddy explained how this system enhances overall farm productivity. The approach was presented as a sustainable method that yields greater returns for farmers.

Ms. Sonia, Young Professional–I, provided a comprehensive presentation on the development of aquariums and their potential as a source of income for island farmers. She also informed the attendees about significant aquarium species, including both exotic and endemic varieties from the Andaman region, emphasizing their potential and appropriateness for fostering sustainable livelihoods.

Mr. Vijayan, Young Professional–I, offered an overview of the Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Medicinal Garden, which features a wide array of medicinal and therapeutic plant species. This initiative seeks to raise awareness regarding regional biodiversity and to encourage scientific agricultural methods. He also underscored the automation of irrigation through IoT-based soil sensors, showcasing the incorporation of smart technologies for effective water management.

Prior to the initiation of the activities, Shri D. Karunakaran, a scientist, extended a warm welcome to the group and presented an overview of the institute's contributions to the advancement of agriculture in the islands. This visit was coordinated by Shri D. Karunakaran, Scientist, in partnership with Shri 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. Jai Sunder, Director of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.