

AICRP on Plantation Crops and ICAR-CIARI Celebrates World Coconut Day 2026



Sri Vijaya Puram | September 3, 2026

The All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Plantation Crops, in association with the ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, celebrated **World Coconut Day 2026** at the Horticulture Research Farm, Sippighat, with the theme *"Coconut in times of uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy and Livelihoods."*

World Coconut Day is observed annually on September 2 to highlight the importance of coconut in nutrition, the economy and culture. The day was instituted in 2009 by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), Jakarta, an intergovernmental organisation of coconut-producing countries, and has since been observed across its member countries.

As part of the celebrations, an exposure visit was organised for 48 farmers, farmwomen and Krishi Sakhis from North and Middle Andaman, along with representatives from ATMA and KVK, South Andaman.

During the visit, **Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, AICRP on Plantation Crops**, showcased the diversity of coconut varieties conserved at the World Coconut Germplasm Centre. He also briefed the participants on improved coconut varieties developed at ICAR-CIARI for commercial-scale cultivation.

Emphasising the importance of crop diversification, Dr. Waman explained the potential of integrating a range of intercrops into coconut plantations to enhance farm profitability. Participants were introduced to the cultivation of spices including **cinnamon, clove, black pepper, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and mango ginger**, besides banana, pineapple and local fruit crops demonstrated at the research farm.

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The programme also focused on the need for **mechanisation in coconut cultivation**, particularly in harvesting and post-harvest operations, in view of the limited availability of agricultural manpower in the islands. Practical demonstrations were conducted on the use of **coconut climbing devices and a coconut dehusking machine**. A demonstration of cinnamon harvesting using **Dweep CinnRub** was also organised for the participants.

Several participants actively took part in the practical demonstrations, including hands-on use of the coconut climbing device and cinnamon harvesting equipment, providing them with new learning experiences.

The visiting farmers and stakeholders interacted with the scientists and raised queries on various aspects of horticultural production. The participants expressed interest in adopting some of the technologies and crop diversification practices showcased during the exposure visit at their respective farms.

The programme was organised under the guidance of **Dr. Jai Sunder, Director (A), ICAR-CIARI**, who emphasised the relevance of organising such exposure visits for farmers from North and Middle Andaman, an important production belt for horticultural crops in the islands.