

NICOBAR TIMES

Climate Action and Sustainable Farming Take Centre Stage at ICAR-CIARI's World Environment Day Observance



World Environment Day 2026 was observed with enthusiasm at the ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, along with its Regional Station at Minicoy in Lakshadweep and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across Nicobar, North and Middle Andaman, and South Andaman districts.

The observance, held under the global theme **"Climate Action,"** highlighted the importance of environmental conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and collective efforts to address climate change. The programme also aligned with the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, promoting environmental protection and sustainable agriculture.

As part of the celebrations, 50 saplings of lemon and other tree species were planted on the institute campus. The plantation drive was inaugurated by Prof. A.C. Varshney, former Vice-Chancellor of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mathura, who attended as the Chief Guest.

Addressing participants, Prof. Varshney emphasized the importance of tree plantation and biodiversity conservation in combating climate change and ensuring ecological sustainability. He noted that plantation initiatives contribute to environmental improvement while also supporting food and nutritional security and sustainable livelihoods.

The programme was attended by Dr. Nagesh Kumar Barik, Principal Scientist at ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, and Dr. M.K. Singh, Principal Scientist and Head of ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Goats (ICAR-CIRG), Mathura. Both scientists stressed the need to integrate environmental conservation with agricultural development to strengthen resilience against climate-related challenges.

The event witnessed participation from heads of divisions, scientists, administrative officers, technical staff, and employees of the institute. Around 120 farmers, village leaders, officials from various line departments, and other stakeholders also took part in the programme, reflecting broad community support for environmental conservation efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jai Sunder, Director of ICAR-CIARI, reaffirmed the institute's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and natural resource management in the fragile island ecosystem of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He highlighted the role of tree plantation in enhancing biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Sunder also encouraged staff members, farmers, and stakeholders to adopt environmentally responsible practices and actively contribute towards building a greener and more sustainable future.

The plantation drive was coordinated by Mr. Arvind Kumar Tripathi, Chief Technical Officer and Farm Superintendent. The programme concluded with participants taking a pledge to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and work collectively towards a healthier and more climate-resilient future.

The observance of World Environment Day at ICAR-CIARI reflected the institute's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and its support for global climate action through on-ground initiatives.