

240 KV Students Visit ICAR–CIARI to Learn About Agricultural Research and Innovation

Tarun Karthick [Save it](#)

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As part of a student exposure programme on agricultural research and innovation, a total of 240 students from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Sri Vijaya Puram, visited the ICAR–Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR–CIARI) on October 5 and 7, 2025.

During the visit, scientists from ICAR–CIARI conducted a series of interactive and informative sessions to familiarise students with modern agricultural practices, fisheries management, horticulture, and sustainable farming systems relevant to island ecosystems.

Dr. M. Muruganandam, Principal Scientist and Head, Fisheries Science Division, briefed the students on pond ecosystem dynamics. He explained the role of photosynthesis and various ecosystem components in maintaining dissolved oxygen levels above 5 ppm, which is crucial for fish health and productivity. He also highlighted key water quality parameters, the functioning and importance of aerators during oxygen depletion, and the adverse impact of low oxygen levels on fish production. The session included active interaction, with students raising questions on practical fisheries management.

Dr. Raj Narayan, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Horticulture and Crop Protection, introduced students to year-round vegetable production systems. He outlined methods that ensure a continuous supply of vegetables and elaborated on the nutritional importance of green leafy vegetables, emphasising their role in providing essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. The health benefits of regular consumption of such vegetables were also discussed.

Dr. Guru Nanath Reddy, Scientist, explained the concept and benefits of the Integrated Farming System. He described how different farm components function in synergy to optimise resource utilisation, reduce input costs through recycling of farm waste, and enhance overall farm productivity. The system was presented as a sustainable approach offering improved returns to farmers.

Ms. Sonia, Young Professional–I, delivered a presentation on aquarium development and its income-generating potential for island farmers. She highlighted important aquarium species, including exotic and endemic varieties from the Andaman region, and discussed their suitability for promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Mr. Vijayan, Young Professional–I, provided an overview of the Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Medicinal Garden, which houses a diverse collection of medicinal and therapeutic plants. He also showcased the use of IoT-based soil sensors for automated irrigation, demonstrating the application of smart technologies for efficient water management.

Earlier, Mr. D. Karunakaran, Scientist, welcomed the students and briefed them on the institute's role in advancing agricultural research and development in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exposure visit was coordinated by Shri D. Karunakaran in collaboration with Shri Ali Akbar, Technician, and Mr. C. P. Vijayan, Young Professional–I, of the Agricultural Knowledge Management Unit, under the overall guidance of Dr. Jai Sunder, Director, ICAR–CIARI, Port Blair.