



NEWSLETTER



ICAR-CENTRAL ISLAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE Sri Vijaya Puram Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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हर कदम, हर उगर
किसानों का हस्ताक्षर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

Agr#search with a human touch

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From the Director's Desk

Empowering Island Farmers through Agrometeorological Advisory Services

Weather plays a decisive role in crop growth and agricultural productivity. Unlike inputs and agronomic practices which can be managed, weather remains beyond control. However, its adverse impacts on crops and livestock can be significantly mitigated through timely and well-interpreted weather information. The Agrometeorological Advisory Service (AAS), therefore, stands as one of the most vital support systems for the farming community, aiming to reduce risks and improve decision-making in day-to-day agricultural operations.

As a part of this vision, the Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)—a flagship initiative of the Government of India, jointly implemented by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)—provides district- and block-level agro-meteorological advisories across the country. These advisories integrate short- to medium-range weather forecasts with real-time crop, soil, and climate data, helping farmers optimize resource use and prepare for adverse weather events, thereby contributing to enhanced crop productivity and food security.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where agriculture is predominantly rainfed and susceptible to climate variability, GKMS services are particularly significant. The Agrometeorological Field Unit (AMFU) at ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Port Blair, plays a key role in delivering these services to island farmers.

Every Tuesday and Friday, value-added weather forecasts are received from the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Kolkata by 12:00 hrs. This is followed by a technical advisory meeting at 12:30 hrs involving experts and scientists from various divisions—Natural Resource Management, Horticulture, Fishery Sciences, and Animal Sciences—to assess forecast implications on different farming sectors. By 15:00 hrs, the Agromet Advisory Bulletin and targeted SMS messages are prepared for different districts, incorporating forecast data, crop conditions, and relevant farm operations.

Dissemination of these advisories is carried out through a range of communication channels including All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan, WhatsApp groups, and print media to ensure wide and effective outreach. In the event of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, cyclones, or dry spells, special bulletins are issued to help farmers take prompt precautionary actions.

In addition to regular advisories, village-level awareness and outreach programmes are organized to educate farmers on interpreting and using the advisory content effectively. These efforts bridge the last-mile gap and promote climate-informed agricultural practices at the grassroots level.



Research Highlights

Improved varieties of horticultural crops recommended for release by SVRC

Pooja Bohra and Ajit Arun Waman

Two varieties of Malabar tamarind- Dweep Agrim and Dweep Vishal and one variety of tejpat- Dweep Tej-1 were recommended for release by the State Seed Sub-committee for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Variety Dweep Agrim is a regular bearing variety with early beginning of harvesting in a season (late April onwards), mean yield of 115.14 kg fresh fruits/ tree/ year i.e. 1617.5 fruits/ tree per

year. Further, the thin rind makes the manual processing of the variety easier. Variety Dweep Vishal is a high yielding variety with mean yield of 171 kg fresh fruits/ tree/ year i.e. 1,782 fruits/ tree per year, bears bold fruits of about 152 g each and has thick rind. Dweep Tej-1 has mean leaf weight of 0.90 to 0.99 g, essential oil content of 0.46%, better retention of colour on drying, high dry recovery and dry leaf yield of 0.961 kg/m of harvested stem.

Assessment of high value vegetable crops

Raj Narayan

High value crops namely capsicum cv. VL shimla mirch – 3, cherry tomato var. pusa cherry tomato -1 and VL cherry tomato – 1; kale genotypes viz., dragon kale, curly kale; purple knolkhol; dill, parthenocarpic cucumber var.

pusa parthenocarpic cucumber – 6; winged bean, etc. were introduced and planted for preliminary evaluation at the Institute Research Farm at Garacharma.



Pusa cherry tomato - 1



VL cherry tomato - 1



Curly kale



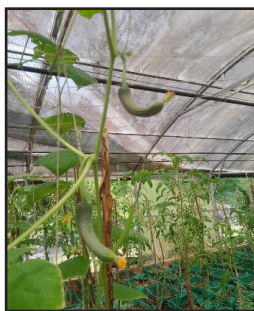
Dragon kale



VL shimla mirch-3



Pusa parthenocarpic cucumber-6



Winged bean



Dill

Plate 1. Assessment of high value vegetable crops

Ivy gourd Evaluation

P. Prabhu

A total of 24 ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) accessions conserved in the field gene bank were characterized for key fruit traits, among which three genotypes exhibited superior performance in terms of fruit length and weight. Accession PP/PK/SS/IG-24-01 showed the highest average fruit length of 99.89 mm and average weight of 28.73 g. It produces long, non-bitter fruits, making it suitable for fresh consumption and use in salads. PP/PK/SS/IG-24-03 followed with

a fruit length of 81.76 mm and weight of 21.64 g, indicating desirable commercial traits. Accession PP/PK/SS/IG-24-06 also performed well, with a fruit length of 58.13 mm and weight of 13.85 g, showing moderate but promising qualities for future selection.



Plate 2. Different accession of ivy gourd

Snap melon Evaluation

P. Prabhu

Nine snap melon accessions evaluated for dual purpose *ie.* Salad and dessert purpose. In terms of fruit length, the average was 48.07 cm, with PP-15 recording the shortest length (31.8 cm) and PP-20 the longest (65.2 cm). The mean fruit weight was 2.68 kg, with

weights ranging from 2.0 kg (PP-11) to a maximum of 3.9 kg (PP-14). PP-14 and PP-12 average salad weighs 251.8g and 246.8gm respectively. These two accessions highly preferred for salad purpose due to delicate skin and crisp flesh.

Mango germplasm collection

P. Prabhu

Twelve local mango germplasm accessions were identified, including one wild type belonging to *Mangifera camptosperma*. Primary fruit

characteristics such as size, shape, color, and weight were recorded for all accessions.



Plate 3. Different accession of mango

Identified unique high tuber yielding Greater Yam

I. Jaisankar

One high tuber yielding Greater Yam (*Dioscorea alata*) IC 648571 selection with medium to large sized tubers, very good cooking quality, purple peel and flesh, attractive pink colour. The selection recorded

significantly higher mean total tuber yield (2.24 kg/plant) under Island condition than other collections evaluated.

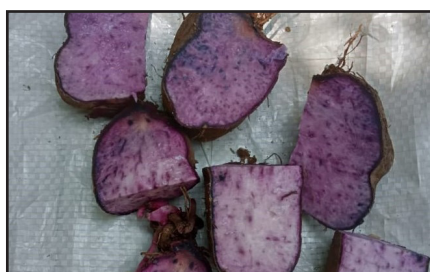


Plate 4. Greater yam

Phytoconstituents analysis of medicinal plants

I. Jaisankar

The methanol extracts of *Morinda citrifolia* pulp were analysed in the gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). A total of 28 classes of phytoconstituents were found. Out of which two compounds namely (2-Methyloxiranyl)methanol, 2-Propanamine, N-methyl-N-nitroso-, 4-Nitrobenzoic acid, tetradecyl ester, N-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)isothiazol-5-yl]-1-methylpiperidin-2-imine and N(6)-(5-(1,2-Dithiolan-3-yl)valeryl)-l-lysine have been detected for the first time.

- To know the phytoconstituents present in the *Macaranga nicobarica* leaf methanol extracts which was endemic to the Nicobar Islands in the GCMS. A total of 23 classes of phytoconstituents were found. The highest probability found in components such as Mome Inositol (16.40 %),

1,3,4,5-Tetrahydroxy-Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid(12.40 %), Vitamin E(4.40 %). Thus the extract of leaf sample from *Macaranga nicobarica* possesses various therapeutic properties as well as commercial uses and shall be potential candidate for inflammatory related disorders.

- The methanol extract of Leaf from noni (*Morinda citrifolia*) plant showed many phytocomponents. A total of 23 classes of compounds were found. The highest probability found in components such as (14.99%) 3-Deoxy-d-mannonic lactone, (10.87%) Phytol, and (7.22%) GUANOSINE. Thus the methanol Leaf extract shows that the major probability phytochemical possesses Antioxidant and Antimicrobial activities and is mostly preferred for various therapeutic purposes.

Genetic diversity of the Pandanus species

I. Jaisankar and P. Prabhu

Genetic diversity analysis was conducted on four Pandanus species, namely *Pandanus lerram*, *P. odorifer*, *P. tectorius*, and *P. amaryllifolius*, with a total of 24 samples, each species comprising six samples. The analysis utilized 10 SSR markers, PFSSR-5 exhibited

the highest PIC value of 0.77, indicating its strong polymorphic nature. The dendrogram revealed that the studied Pandanus species were distinctly grouped into separate clusters, effectively demonstrating their genetic differentiation.

Determining suitable cropping window and varieties in rice based cropping system under Island ecosystem

Abhilash Singh

A field experiment at Bloomsdale Farm during Rabi 2024 is evaluating suitable sowing windows and moong varieties in a rice-based system under island conditions. Preliminary findings indicate the first incidence of green semi looper infestation in CARI Moong 1, 3, and 4 during the last week of January in the earliest sowing date (D1; 07.01.2025).



Plate 5. CIARI Moong 1, 3 & 4

Optimizing silver nanoparticle synthesis using panchamrit extract

Harshangkumar T.

As part of the project “Development of Panchamrit Mediated Silver Nanoparticles and Its Antimicrobial Activities”, researchers employed Central Composite Design based on Response Surface Methodology to fine-tune the synthesis conditions of silver nanoparticles. The optimization considered four key variables—temperature, extract concentration, time, and pH—at three levels each. A combined response model, giving 70% weight to UV absorbance and

30% to nanoparticle stability, was applied across 30 experimental runs. The statistical model demonstrated high reliability, explaining 92.2% of the variability in UV absorbance and showing significant results ($p < 0.05$). The optimal synthesis conditions identified were: 85.28% extract concentration, 27 hours' incubation, pH 6.7, and a temperature of 40.84 °C can be achieving maximum UV absorbance at 430 nm with good nanoparticle stability.



Nutrient content in natural farming inputs

Harshangkumar T.

Natural farming promotes the use of locally available ingredients to create eco-friendly agricultural inputs. As part of the project “Feasibility of Natural Farming under Tropical Island Ecosystem,” the Soil Testing Laboratory of the Natural Resource Management division has analysed key natural inputs—*Beejamrit*,

Jeevamrit, and *Ghanjeevamrit* for their nutrient content.

The study revealed the presence of essential plant nutrients Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K) in these inputs, supporting their role in sustainable soil fertility management.

Best Sowing Time for Rice Crop in the Island Ecosystem

Abhilash, I. Jaisankar and Talaviya Harshangkumar

Timely sowing is crucial for optimizing rice yield under the unique climatic conditions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. To address this, ICAR-CIARI is conducting an experiment at Bloomsdale Farm to determine suitable sowing windows and rice varieties. Three varieties—CARI Dhan 5, CARI Dhan 6, and Gayatri—were transplanted in Kharif 2024 across four sowing dates: 1st June, 15th June, 1st July, and 15th July. Initial results show that early sowing (1st June) produced the highest grain yield (4.15 t/ha), with CARI Dhan 6 emerging as the most productive variety. Delayed sowing beyond mid-June led to yield decline due to pest pressure, waterlogging, and rainfall at the time of harvest. Farmers are advised to sow between 1st and 15th June using improved varieties like

CARI Dhan 6 for better productivity. With monsoon onset, farmers should procure quality seeds from ICAR-CIARI and begin nursery preparation. For updates, follow ICAR-CIARI advisories or contact The Director, ICAR-CIARI.



Plate 6. Rice Crop in the Island Ecosystem

Exploration of fishery, biology and market potential of tuna resources of Minicoy

Y. Gladston and S.M. Ajina

The catch statistics of tuna Fish Aggregating Device were recorded and non-FAD operated boats data also collected. From FAD area the major catch was contributed by skip jack tuna followed by yellow fin, rainbow runner and dolphin fishes, from non-FAD areas the catch contributes mixed catch with low composition of wahoo, yellow fin, carangids, Lutjanids, lethrins and serranids. Eighteen fin fish species documented *Acanthurus trigatus*, *A. stellatus*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Wattasia*, *selar* sp, *Sagocentron* sp, *Gymnothorax* sp, *Epinephelus tikula*, *E. morra*,

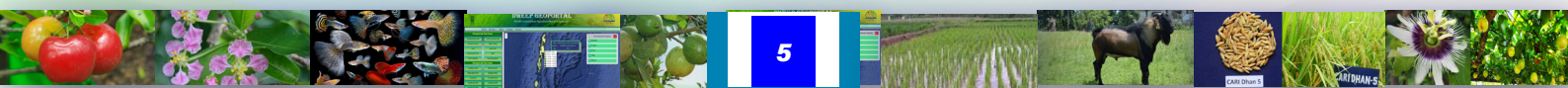
Cephalopholis miniata, *Plectropomus* sp. *Decapeterus macraleus*, *Lutjanus decussatus*, *Sagocentron* sp, *Chapsodon* sp, *Carcharias limbatus*, *C. longimaus*, *G. cuveri*, *C. sorrah*. A positive sign of acceptance of the alternative bait by tuna observed in the site. A total of 74 fishes were dissected for the biological studies during the period. It was found that the fish were the major food item followed by squid, Acetes shrimps, megalopa, baits are the major food item during the period.

Integrated Farming Systems for enhancing sustainable livelihood of rural tribal community of Minicoy

S.M. Ajina and Y. Gladston

One acre IFS model Coconut based Cattle, Goat-Duck/Chicken/quail- Fish- Vegetable-fruits, Fodder IFS model developed in the demonstration farm of ICAR-CIARI Regional station Minicoy. We have introduced Kairali poultry first time in Lakshadweep. The Malabar spinach introduced near duck shed as

vegetable crop. The periphery fodder plots were covered in the IFS system. The soil test was done by KAU-RRS Vytilla Kochi, and inferred that the soil is deficient in organic carbon, potassium, nitrogen, deficient in manganese, Boron, Iron and high in Calcium and Phosphorous comparatively high in IFS system



than non-IFS areas but less in micronutrients. The enhancement of soil nutrient condition to be evaluated in future to analyses the soil quality change after the setup of IFS system. Quantification of animal waste

generated were recorded and used for agriculture and fisheries. The sensitization programs on IFS system conducted and trained the scientific agricultural practices to the people of Minicoy Islands.

Schedule Tribe Component

Programme	Number	No of Beneficiaries (M+F=T)
Trainings	6	228+171=399
Demonstration	2	35+27=62
Input distribution	103	154+193=347

Important Events Held

ICAR-CIARI Conducts Annual Sports - 2024

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI) concluded its Annual Sports 2024 with a vibrant prize distribution ceremony on 3rd January 2025. Held from 10th December 2024 to 3rd January 2025, the event saw enthusiastic participation from staff, project personnel, contractual staff, and their families in around 71 indoor, outdoor, and athletic events. The Overall Championship Trophy was clinched by Swaraj Lions House, while Shri. Shyam Sundar Rao and Smt. Nutan Roy were named Best Athletes in the men's and women's categories, respectively. Director Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar lauded the participants' spirit and encouraged a healthy lifestyle.



Plate 7. Annual Sports Day 2024

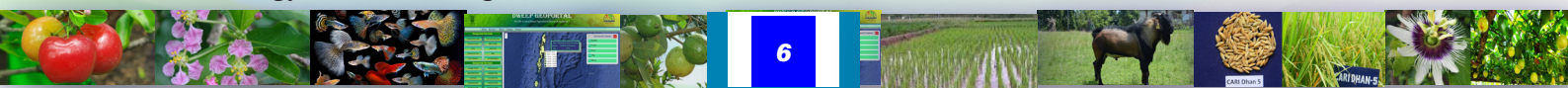
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry; Food Processing visited ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry Food Processing visited ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, from January 19-21, 2024, as part of a study tour to review the ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair. The visit also included a performance review of the "National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology" The meeting was held under the



Plate 8. Visit of parliamentary standing committee

chairmanship of Shri. Charanjit Singh Channi, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, along with 13 other Members of Parliament, namely: Shri. Ramji Lal Suman, Shri .Bhauasheb Rajaram Wakchaure, Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde, Shri. Sudhakar Singh, Smt. Krishna Devi Shivshankar Patel, Smt. Ramila ben Bechar bhai Bara, Shri. Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Shri. Banshilal Gurjar, Shri. Nitin Laxmanrao Jadhav Patil, Shri. P. P. Suneer, Shri. Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai, Smt. Anita Nagarsingh Chouhan, and Smt. GenibenNagaji Thakor. The delegation was led by Shri. Khakhai Zou, Secretary to the Delegation, alongwith other officials. Dr. S.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences), and Dr. V.B. Patel, Assistant Director General (Fruits & Plantation Crops), from the ICAR headquarters, attended the meeting. Officials from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, including Shri. Samuel Praveen Kumar (Joint Secretary, Extension), Dr. Venu Prasad (Joint Director, Extension), Shri. Anil Kumar Meena (Under Secretary), and Ajai Kumar Yadav (Director, Regional Fodder Station, Chennai), were also present.



Representing the A&N Administration were Dr. Apurva Sharma (Director, Agriculture) and Dr. K.A. Naveen (Director, Animal Husbandry). Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director of ICAR-CIARI, briefed the committee on the institute significant achievements and ongoing development and extension activities undertaken in collaboration with its KVKs (Krishi Vigyan Kendras) and regional stations to benefit the island farmers. The committee visited various facilities, including the spice-based plantation system and the World Coconut Germplasm Centre at Sippighat Farm. They also toured the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in South Andaman, the agro-ecotourism farm, herbal garden, ornamental fish breeding unit, Nakshatra Garden, horticulture plant propagation unit, modern dairy and goat units, duck unit, and fodder plots. During the visit, the committee planted tree saplings of improved coconut varieties. Additionally, the committee explored exhibits showcasing technologies, varieties, value-added products, and unique germplasm conserved by the institute. They also interacted with successful entrepreneurs and progressive farmers, including Smti. K. Chellamel (Padma Shri awardee), Shri. Chintaharan Biswas (first farmer to register his mango variety, 'Chinta Mango'; from the islands), Smti. Rajeswari and Smti. Meenakshi (poultry farmers), tribal farmers from the Nicobar Islands, and Smti. Nitu Sindhu, a mushroom entrepreneur, among others.

ICAR-CIARI conducted 21-Day Summer School on “Livestock Reproduction Management Under Climate Change”

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram conducted a 21-day ICAR-sponsored Summer School on “Livestock Reproduction Management Under Impending Climate Change,” scheduled from February 12 to March 4, 2025. The training aims to equip participants with a multidisciplinary approach, integrating reproductive management strategies with advanced biotechnology techniques to develop mitigation strategies for enhancing livestock reproduction. A total of 20 participants from various states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam, have joined the program, comprising 14 male and 6 female trainees. Dr. R.C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest during the valedictory function. In his address, Dr. Agrawal congratulated both the

participants and the organizers on the successful completion of the summer school. He emphasized the importance of the training theme, particularly the critical role of climate change adaptation in livestock reproduction management for achieving higher productivity. He encouraged participants to explore collaborative research opportunities with the institute. Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the training and distributed certificates. Dr. Jai Sunder, Head of the Animal Science Division, welcomed the chief guest and participants, emphasizing the significance of the training program. The program was coordinated by Dr. P. Perumal and Dr. R.R. Alyethodi, Senior Scientists at ICAR-CIARI.



Plate 9. 21-Day Summer School on “Livestock Reproduction Management Under Climate Change”

ICAR-CIARI Hosts various Travel and Tour Associations; Representative for Agro-Tourism Initiative

The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI) conducted a meeting with representatives from the Andaman Association of Tour Operators, Andaman Travel Agent Association, and Andaman Nicobar Tour Operators Association at its Sippighat and Garacharma farms. The visit was



Plate 10. ICAR-CIARI Hosts various Travel and Tour Associations



part of ICAR-CIARI's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable agro-eco tourism in the region. During the visit, Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, and Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Incharge of Sippighat Farm, provided an in-depth tour of the farms, showcasing innovative agricultural practices, indigenous crops, and eco-friendly farming technologies developed by the institute. These efforts align with ICAR-CIARI's mission to integrate agriculture with tourism while fostering education and ecological conservation. The Presidents and representatives from various associations shared constructive feedback on enhancing the tourist experience. Suggestions included interactive activities such as live demonstrations of farming techniques, workshops on medicinal plants, and guided tours focusing on local biodiversity.

State-Level Seminar on Agripreneurship Opportunities for Island Youth and Women

A three-day State Level Seminar on 'Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Island Youth and Women in Spices, Arecanut, and Medicinal Plants Sector' was held from March 5–7, 2025, at ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram. The event was organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Kozhikode, and AICRP on Plantation Crops, Kasaragod. Inaugurated by Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Agri.), A&N Administration, the seminar highlighted the potential of value addition, packaging, waste utilization, and aggregation of produce to boost agri-based entrepreneurship in the islands. Experts from ICAR, CSIR, and allied institutions addressed key topics, while practical sessions and field visits showcased spice-based agro-ecotourism and value chain development. Over 70 participants from various islands, along with officials from Agriculture and Rural Development Departments, actively engaged in the event.



Plate 11. State Level Seminar

Participants received scientifically processed spices and planting material as souvenirs.

Workshop on “Harnessing the Potential of Agro-Ecotourism in the A & N Islands”

ICAR-CIARI, in collaboration with the Andaman Science Association, organized a one-day workshop on “Harnessing the Potential of Agro-Ecotourism in the A & N Islands” on March 27, 2025, at its Garacharma campus. The event was graced by Dr. Chandrakasan Sivaperuman from ZSI as Chief Guest and chaired by Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director of ICAR-CIARI. It brought together 96 participants, including officials, tour operators, hoteliers, progressive farmers, and scientists. Technical sessions highlighted various agro-ecotourism models, with presentations from Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, and Dr. Jai Sunder. The plenary session featured valuable insights from key stakeholders, followed by an Agro-Eco Walk at Garacharma and Sippighat farms to demonstrate on-ground initiatives.



Plate 12. Workshop on “Harnessing the Potential of Agro-Ecotourism in the A & N Islands”

Inauguration of Agro Eco Walk and Kisan Mela

The *Dweep Agro-Eco Walk*, an agro-eco-tourism initiative by ICAR-CIARI was inaugurated by Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, at the Horticulture Farm in Sippighat on March 18, 2025. The inauguration was attended by Ms. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture & Animal Husbandry). The Chief Secretary also inaugurated the two-day Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at the Garacharma Farm Mela Ground, organised within the Garacharma Research Complex. As part of the event, both dignitaries planted coffee saplings at the Sippighat Farm. In his inaugural address, Dr. Kumar praised the *Dweep Agro-Eco Walk* initiative at Sippighat and stressed the importance of branding high-quality organic produce to enhance market acceptance and boost agro-tourism. He also commended ICAR-CIARI's pivotal role in

advancing technological innovations and facilitating their transfer in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and fisheries. The valedictory function of Kisan Mela 2025 was held in ICAR-CIARI on 19 March, 2025. Over 400 farmers from various clusters across South, Middle, and North Andaman & Nicobar participated in the event. Dr. S.K. Chaudhary, Director General of the Fertilizer Association of India and former Deputy Director General of Natural Resource Management at ICAR, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest. In his address, he expressed his satisfaction with the positive feedback from numerous farmers eager to acquire new knowledge and skills for their agricultural practices. He emphasized that all scientists at the Institute and KVK are committed to transferring innovative technologies and methodologies to the farming community.



Plate 13. Inauguration of Agro Eco Walk and Kisan Mela

Training cum Exhibition on “Integrated Farming System (IFS) at Car Nicobar

The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), CIARI, Nicobar successfully organized a Training cum-Exhibition Program on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for Sustainable Livelihoods at the Community Hall, Tapoiming Village, Car Nicobar. The event aimed to enhance awareness and adoption of the IFS model for improving the socio-economic



Plate 14. Training cum Exhibition on “Integrated Farming System (IFS) at Car Nicobar

resilience of farmers in the Nicobar Islands. The program was graced by Shri. Amit Kale, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar, as the Chief Guest; Shri. Lionald Nicomed, Chief Captain, as the Guest of Honour; and Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, as the Key Speaker. Representatives from the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry Departments, along with the First headman, Shri. Lawrence Mathew and Second Headmen. Shri. Simon William of Tapoiming Village, were also present during the inaugural session. The exhibition was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest followed by a visit to the various stalls setup by KVK, Nicobar, Agriculture, Fisheries, and local community showcasing agricultural technologies, tools, and local Nicobar products. A total of 70 farmers, including 27 male farmers and 43 farm women, actively participated in the program.

Research Advisory Council meeting

The 3rd Meeting of the 10th Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, was held on 22nd April 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. A.K. Singh, Former DDG (NRM), ICAR, and Former Vice-Chancellor of RVSKVV, Gwalior. HoDs presented divisional achievements, highlighting key research outcomes and ongoing initiatives. The meeting saw active participation from all scientists and fruitful discussions on the institute's progress and future plans. The meeting was attended by RAC members including Dr. R.R.B. Singh, Dr. V.B. Patel, Dr. S.K. Singh, Dr. J. Rema, Dr. N.P. Sahu, Shri Ankit Kumar Mridha, Shri Varadharajan, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar (Director, ICAR-CIARI), and Dr. P.K. Singh (Member Secretary).



Plate 15. Research Advisory Council meeting

XVIII Institute Research Council meeting

The 18th Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, was held from



24 to 25 April, 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI. All the scientists of the institute participated in the meeting and presented the progress of their ongoing projects. A total of 29 institute-funded projects were reviewed, out of which 4 projects were closed, and 26 were recommended for continuation. Additionally, one new project was recommended for initiation by the council.



Plate 16. XVIII Institute Research Council meeting

Awards/ Honours/Recognition

Name	Achievement/Recognition
Jai Sunder	Fellow of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), India
I. Jaisankar Abhilash T. Harshang Kumar	Appreciation certificate from Chairperson Tribal Council, Kamorta
Ajit Arun Waman	Served as a reviewer for Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, Springer-Nature
Pooja Bohra	Served as a reviewer for National Academy Science Letters, Springer-Nature
	Served as a reviewer for Applied Fruit Science, Springer-Nature
	Served as a reviewer for Frontiers in Horticulture, Switzerland

❖ Mr. C. Arjun, an ornamental fish culture entrepreneur who was trained and nominated by ICAR-CIARI through NFDB, Hyderabad got selected for merit recognition by the Hon'ble President of India during the Republic Day event on 16 Jan 2025 for successful entrepreneurship development in ornamental fish culture.

Trainings/ Meetings/Campaign

Name of the training/meeting/campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing committee/coordinators
Quality seed production techniques in Urd and Mung bean	ICAR-KVK, Nimbudera	01/01/2025	12/0/12	P.K. Singh Prabhu P.
	Diglipur	03/01/2025	17/3/20	V. Damodaran; Rakesh Dawar Shyam Sundar Rao
Awareness on IFS technology to school students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya	Minicoy	05/01/2025	12/35/47	Gladston Y. Ajina S.M. Shareefudden Hassan
Sustainable fisheries and importance of tuna FAD	Minicoy	10/01/2025	16/02/18	Arif M.I. R. Kiruba Sankar E.B. Chakurkar
Field day on "Organic Integrated Farming System"	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	31/01/2025	12/8/20	I. Jaisankar Y. Ramakrishna Abhilash T. Harshang Kumar

Name of the training/meeting/ campaign programme	Venue	Date	Participants (M/F/T)	Organizing committee/ coordinators
Customized hands-on training programme on nursery management in horticultural crops.	ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram	04/02/2025 to 06/02/2025	10/8/18	Ajit Arun Waman Pooja Bohra
		06/02/2025 to 08/02/2025	9/1/18	Ajit Arun Waman Pooja Bohra
Training programme on plantation crops-based cropping systems for tribal farmers	Harminder Bay, Little Andaman	22/02/2025	0/30/30	Ajit Arun Waman
Training programme on nutritional security through fruit cultivation.	Harminder Bay, Little Andaman		45/33/78	Pooja Bohra
Demonstrated technology on fish based poultry feed preparation at ICAR-CIARI,RS Minicoy	RS Minicoy	24/02/2025 & 05/03/2025	11/01/12	Gladston Y. Ajina S.M. Shareefudden Hassan Arif M.I. R. Kiruba Sankar T. Sujatha E.B. Chakurkar
Nutritious kitchen garden		04/03/2025	19/25/44	Gladston Y. Ajina S.M. Shareefudden Hassan Arif M.I. R. Kiruba Sankar E.B. Chakurkar
A twin programme was conducted on Integrated Farming System for livelihood improvement of tribal farmers and agro advisory services for livelihood improvement of the farmers	Kakana, Pilpillow, Chotta Enaka and Hitui	12/03/2025 to 13/03/2025	116/79/195	I. Jaisankar Abhilash T. Harshang Kumar Santosh Kumar
Farmer awareness programme on “Enhancing farmer awareness on Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) and integrated pest & disease management in vegetables during the pre-monsoon season.”	Krishna Nagar, Swaraj Dweep	20/03/2025 to 22/03/2025	45/09/54	Abhilash T. Harshang Kumar Mohit

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IPRs/Commercialization of Technology

Technology license agreement for Leaf Separator

Technology license agreement for Leaf Separator with Jai sankar Industries, Port Blair on 17.01.2025. The MoU signed in the presence of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh Deputy Director General (Horticultural Division), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. V.B. Patel Assistant Director General (Horticultural Division), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. E.B.Chakurkar, Director, ICAR- CIARI.



Plate 17. Technology license agreement for Leaf Separator

ICAR-CIARI Licenses Cinnamon Bark Rubbing Tool

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Sri Vijaya Puram and Mrs. R. Karthika Devi, a young entrepreneur from South Andaman, on March 4, 2025 in the presence of scientific staff of the institute. The process of harvesting cinnamon is highly skill



Plate 18. Technology license agreement for Cinnamon Bark Rubbing Tool

dependent and only a few people are aware about the technique of bark extraction in the areas of production, thereby adding to the cost of harvesting. Presently, no tools are available in the market for improving the efficiency of harvesting process. The team of researchers namely Dr. Ajit Arun Waman and

Dr. Pooja Bohra developed a cinnamon bark rubbing tool- Dweep CinnRub which is a user friendly, time and energy saving tool which could be a boon for existing cultivators of cinnamon in the coastal and island states of India apart from regions, wherein area expansion of cinnamon is taking place.

Participation in seminars/ symposia/ conferences/ workshop

Name	Programme	Details
Talaviya Harshangkumar	The training was organized by the Project Coordinating Cell of the Pesticide Residue Laboratory at New Delhi, India.	Hands-on training on Estimation of Pesticide Residues in Cereals and Vegetables was conducted from January 6 to 10, 2025.
Abhilash	Expert in technical committee meeting for “Selection of eligible beneficiaries for providing subsidy under development of micro-irrigation scheme”	On January 9, 2025, the event was held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram
Y. Gladston Ajina S.M.	Attended a winter school on Genetic and genomic tools for sustainable aquaculture and fisheries management	Program was conducted from January 15 to March 4, 2025, at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.
J. Praveenraj	Attended the meeting to discuss the matter regarding permission for collection of blood clams from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for export.	Department of Fisheries organized the event on January 30, 2025.
Raj Narayan	Chaired Technical Committee meeting of HVADA	Directorate of Agriculture, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram, conducted the program from January 29 to March 4, 2025.
R. Kiruba Sankar	State level committee meeting on Wetlands	The meeting held on February 14, 2025, was chaired by the Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
Raj Narayan	National Horticulture Fair 2025	The program was conducted from February 27 to March 1, 2025, at ICAR-IIHR, Hesarghatta, Bengaluru.
Prabhu P.	21 days winter school training program on ‘Genetic and genomic approaches for Improvement of stress Resilience and Nutritional Quality in Crops’	The program was held from February 28 to March 20, 2025, at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.
Abhilash	Expert in technical committee meeting	The events were held on March 25 and March 27, 2025, at the Directorate of Agriculture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram.

Distinguished visitors

- Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, inaugurated the Dweep during the opening of the Dweep Agro-Eco Walk on March 18, 2025.
- Shri. Asish Kumar Singh, Deputy Collector of Minicoy, visited the regional station of ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram, on April 11, 2025.
- Shri. Shamsudeen Annar, Member of ICZM, visited ICAR-CIARI RS MCY on March 30, 2025, to seek technical advice on CRZ rules.

Personnel

Appointment

- Shri. Vishal Saroha, Assistant joined on January 17, 2025
- Shri. Harsh Raj, Technician joined on February 17, 2025
- Shri. Chandan Kumar, Technician joined on March 4, 2025.

Transfer

- Dr. T. Subramani, Sr. Scientist transferred to ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore

Superannuation

- Shri. Simmachalam, Technician, superannuated on February 29, 2025.



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