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DIRECTOR'S DESK

Organic carbon plays a vital role in environmental health. It is important to utilise organic carbon in the day-to-day farming activities, in turn to earn more "carbon credits".

Organic biomass contains 6% carbon on average, and its quantity varies dynamically in relation to the other natural resources—such as light, water, and nitrogen—in the environment.

In connection with this, the movement of 'balanced fertilizers' mooted by the Union Government plays a direct role. The availability of nutrient elements in the soil, especially during conducive weather conditions, promotes vigorous plant growth and leads to the production of potential yields, which directly benefits farmers by enabling them to cultivate various economic crops.

In today's competitive global markets, commercially viable enterprises determine the

success of these advancements, which cautions the farmers very often and diverts them to other economic enterprises, be it Agri-enterprises or any other business. Understanding this, before the Kharif season, the government started the awareness mass movement 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'. ICAR-CPCRI, along with other sister institutes and KVKs, has taken leadership in various districts (61 MGMG villages), connecting more than 5000 and a multitude of stakeholders under this movement.

These movements, hand in hand with PM-Kisan Samman, PM-FBY, MIDH, etc., motivate the farmers and keep them on track to take up seasonal activities to gain the most out of agriculture and the environment.

Food security, healthy living, developmentally supportive renewable energy, and financial growth are important for not only local development but also for enhanced GDP. As far as the plantation sector is concerned, all these factors appear to be highly encouraging. These trends reflect upon the market price, which continues without much fluctuation for the past few months. This also welcomes the youth to agriculture, giving good hope for sustainable future.

K. Balachandra Hebbar
Director

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SPOTLIGHT

Variety registration

Two coconut varieties, Kalpa Suvarna and Kalpa Shatabdi, have been registered with PPV&FRA, under the extant category.



High yielding Kalpa Shatabdi coconut hybrid from ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

Variety recommended by CVRC

Coconut variety, Kalpa Nakshatra, a high yielding semi tall D x T hybrid suitable for copra, tender nut and inflorescence sap production, released for cultivation in the state of Kerala, was recommended for notification in the 33rd meeting of the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Agricultural Crops and Horticultural Crops.

Variety release

Three cocoa varieties were released during 35 Annual General Meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops on 17 June 2026. Hybrids VTLCH 3 and VTLCH 4, high yielding and tolerant

to water deficit stress were recommended for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. VTLCC 1, high yielding, self and cross compatible, N and Zn use efficient clone was recommended for Assam and West Bengal.



High yielding VTLCC1 coconut hybrid from ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Vittal



TIPS AND READY RECKONER FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Practices to attain balanced nutrition

Soil-test-based fertilizer application: Apply fertilizers according to soil fertility status, crop requirement and deficiency symptoms. Avoid blanket or imbalanced fertilizer use.

Soil amendment based on soil pH: In acidic soils, dolomite or agricultural lime @ 1kg per palm for coconut and 250–500g per plant for arecanut and cocoa should be applied 15–30 days before chemical fertilizer application. In alkaline soils (pH > 7.5), apply gypsum as recommended by soil test results to ameliorate soil conditions.

Split application of fertilizers: Under rainfed conditions, the recommended fertilizer dose can be applied in two equal splits during May and September. Under irrigated conditions, fertilizers can be applied in four equal splits during September–October, December, February–March, and May.

Fertigation for higher efficiency: Use fertigation where irrigation is available which can reduce chemical fertilizer requirement by about 25–

50% while maintaining productivity. On-farm biomass recycling and vermicomposting: Recycle fallen leaves, palm wastes, husk, coir pith and other biomass through mulching or vermicomposting. Vermicompost and vermiwash support soil health and plant growth.

Biofertilizer and bio-inoculants application: Use suitable biofertilizers such as Azospirillum, Phosphobacterium and bio-inoculants such as Kera Probio, Cocoa Probio and AMF-based KerAM to improve root growth, microbial activity and nutrient mobilization.

Soil moisture conservation measures with available in-situ biomass: Open trenches in between coconut palms and put coconut fronds, husks, pruned materials, coir pith and other on-farm residues and as mulch in the basins for conserving soil moisture, regulating soil temperature, reducing erosion and improving nutrient recycling during decomposition.

Organic matter recycling in arecanut–cocoa system

Organic matter recycling is a

sustainable practice that improves soil health, enhances nutrient availability, and reduces dependence on external fertilizers in arecanut–cocoa plantations. Fallen leaves, arecanut husks, cocoa pod husks, pruned biomass, and other farm residues should be recycled through composting or vermicomposting and returned to the field as organic manure. Regular application of compost improves soil organic carbon, moisture retention, microbial activity, and nutrient-use efficiency, leading to better palm and tree health. Integrating organic matter recycling with balanced fertilizer application and green manuring helps sustain soil fertility, improve productivity, and promote climate-resilient plantation farming.

Protection of arecanut/cocoa from fungal diseases

Fruit rot disease (caused by *Phytophthora meadii*) is one of the most destructive diseases of arecanut during the monsoon season and can result in severe yield losses, if preventive measures are not adopted in time. Leaf spot disease (caused by *Colletotrichum* spp.) also spreads rapidly under prolonged

rainfall and high humidity, causing premature leaf damage and reduced palm vigour. In cocoa, black pod disease (caused by *Phytophthora palmivora*) is a major monsoon disease that adversely affects both pod quality and yield. Regular field surveillance and timely implementation of recommended plant protection measures are essential to minimize disease incidence and sustain crop productivity.

Recommendation

Spray 1% Bordeaux mixture uniformly on the bunches and foliage of arecanut and on the pods and canopy of cocoa at the recommended stages, particularly before and during the monsoon

season. Ensure thorough coverage of the entire canopy, developing bunches, and pods for maximum protection.

Benefit

Timely prophylactic spraying with 1% Bordeaux mixture effectively reduces the incidence of fruit rot, leaf spot, and black pod diseases, thereby protecting crop health, improving yield, and maintaining the quality of arecanut and cocoa during the rainy season.

Treatment of arecanut and cocoa seedlings for enhanced plant vigour

Treat arecanut and cocoa seedlings with the beneficial biocontrol agent *Trichoderma asperellum*

CPCRIAT172, isolated from the palm-based ecosystem, before planting. This native beneficial fungus promotes healthy root growth, enhances seedling establishment, improves plant vigour and biomass accumulation, and suppresses several soil-borne pathogens. Seedling treatment with *T. asperellum* CPCRIAT172 also enhances nutrient uptake and increases tolerance to environmental stresses, resulting in healthier and more resilient plants. Its application contributes to improved crop establishment, sustainable disease management, and enhanced productivity in arecanut- and cocoa-based production systems.



IMPORTANT EVENTS

QRT visits arecanut Leaf Spot Disease Demonstration plots at Guthigar, Sullia Taluk, Dakshina Kannada

The first meeting of the QRT was held at ICAR, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Deputy General (Horticultural Science) on 13 April 2026. During the meeting the Deputy Director of DDHs has provided the focal points.

The following is the list of QRT members:

- Dr. T. Janakiram - Chairman
- Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat - Member (Crop Production)
- Dr. Swaroop Singh - Member (Crop Protection)

- Dr. John Zacharia - Member (PB&PHT)
- Dr. P. Ramasundaram - Member (Social Science)
- Dr. Murali Gopal - Member Secretary

QRT had its in meeting on 27-29 April 2026 at the Headquarters, Kasaragod and also visited the Regional Station, Vittal.

The Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) of ICAR-CPCRI visited the large-scale demonstration plots on integrated management of leaf spot disease in arecanut on 29 April 2026 at Guthigar to assess the impact of the institute's research and technology dissemination efforts. The programme was attended by Captain Brijesh



Glimpses of QRT Meeting

Chowta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Dakshina Kannada; Dr. T. Janakiram, Chairman, QRT; Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI; QRT members, scientists, cooperative leaders, and progressive farmers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. M. K. Rajesh, Dr. Bhavishya and Dr. R. Thava Prakasa Pandian.

The team observed a significant reduction in leaf spot disease severity in the demonstration plots, validating the effectiveness of the community-based integrated disease management practices



Group photo of a QRT member and scientist

recommended by ICAR-CPCRI. The visit was followed by a stakeholders meeting. Addressing the gathering, Captain Brijesh Chowta emphasized the need for a district-level action plan based on the successful demonstration model, while encouraging farmers to adopt science-based technologies for sustainable arecanut cultivation. The visit highlighted the importance of community participation in disease management and reinforced the role of ICAR-CPCRI in promoting sustainable crop protection technologies.

Interim Review Meeting on Arecanut and Human Health Project

An interim review meeting of the multi-institutional project, 'Evidence-Based Research on Arecanut and Human Health,' was held at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, on 1 April 2026. The meeting was chaired by Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI and Principal Investigator. Prof. Paturu Kondaiah, Former Professor and Chair, Department of Developmental Biology and Genetics, Indian Institute of Science, and Honorary Advisor, Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Bengaluru, attended as an external expert to review the progress achieved under the project. The meeting was attended by Dr. Homey Cherian, Director, DASD; Prof. Dr. K. Sathyamoorthy, Director (Research), Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara University, Dharwad; and researchers from the other participating organizations.



A review meeting of Arecanut and Human Health

National Seminar on Biosecurity Risks Convened at Kayamkulam

A national seminar on 'Biosecurity risks and mitigation strategies in horticultural crops' was held at the ICAR-CPCRI Regional Station during 22–24 April 2026 to address biosecurity risks in horticultural crops and promote innovative technological solutions aligned with the "One Health" approach.

The seminar was inaugurated virtually by Dr. S.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticulture Science), ICAR. In his address, he highlighted the growing threats of bio invasions to horticultural crops, noting their significant economic impact and potential risks to national livelihood security. He called for detailed deliberations and the development of actionable strategies, including a white paper on sustainable biological solutions to combat biosecurity threats. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, emphasizing the interconnected nature of abiotic and biotic stress factors. He cited examples such as the rugose spiralling whitefly and coconut eriophyid mite infestations, along with leaf spot disease in arecanut, which have caused severe economic losses. He noted that area-wide, farmer-participatory management strategies are being implemented for effective outreach.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. T.P. Rajendran, former ADG (PP). He stressed that in India implementation of quarantine law is slow. He advocated for the creation of a Biosecurity Risk Atlas and stronger policy measures to prevent the entry of invasive pests.

Dr. K.P.V. Menon Memorial Lecture Award 2026, delivered by Dr. George V. Thomas, former Director of ICAR-CPCRI discussed future research directions on innovative solutions to root (wilt) disease management in coconut. Felicitations were offered by Dr. R.

Selvarajan, Director, ICAR-NRC Banana, Tiruchirapalli, and Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, Director, ICAR-DCR, Puttur.

Shri. I. Samsutheen, a progressive farmer from Tenkasi received the Kalpa Vajra Best Coconut Farmer Award-2026 for his innovative integrated farming model.

Three technologies were released during the seminar:

- Kalpa *Steinernema keralense* capsules for bio suppression of red palm weevil.
- Kalpa *Anastatus* egg cards for managing nut crinkling coreid bug.
- Kalpa Vridhi a PGPR (*Pseudomonas migulae*) formulation for soil-health amelioration in coconut plantations.

Two technical bulletins – 'Coconut health management' and 'Invasive pests of coconut: biosecurity risks and mitigation strategies' and a technical folder on coconut cultivation practices were released.



Glimpses of national workshop on Biosecurity Risks Convened at Kayamkulam

Brief recommendations of the seminar were:

Strengthen the national biosecurity framework,

- ♦ Establish robust quarantine and surveillance systems,
- ♦ Adopt advanced diagnostic and AI-enabled technologies for early detection,
- ♦ Promote sustainable biological and agro-ecological management strategies, and
- ♦ Enhance collaboration and public awareness for effective biosecurity risk mitigation.

World Intellectual Property Day

ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2026 on 5 May 2026 with a special lecture on 'promotion of entrepreneurship through effective deployment of IP products in plantation sector.' The programme was organized by the Institute Technology Management Unit (ITMU) to create awareness on the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in innovation, technology commercialization and entrepreneurship.

Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head, Division of Social Science, welcomed the gathering and introduced the resource person, Dr. Dinesh Jain, Associate Professor, IIPM, Bengaluru. Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, highlighted the importance of intellectual property management in strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship in plantation agriculture.

Dr. Dinesh Jain delivered an insightful lecture covering various forms of IPR, including patents, plant variety protection, trademarks, geographical indications and copyrights. He also discussed technology licensing, commercialization strategies and entrepreneurship opportunities through effective deployment of intellectual property in the plantation sector, supported by practical case studies.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion on IPR and technology commercialization, followed by a vote of thanks by Dr. M. R. Manikantan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI. Scientists, technical staff and research scholars actively participated in the event.

Institute Research Committee Meeting

ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CPCRI) organized the 54th Institute Research Committee (IRC) Meeting during 11–15 May 2026 at Kasaragod under the chairmanship of Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director.

The five-day scientific review meeting brought together scientists of ICAR-CPCRI, to evaluate the progress of ongoing research activities of the Institute. A total of 76 research projects were reviewed during the meeting, including 42 Institute projects, 30 externally funded competitive grant projects, and 4 contract research projects spanning across seven thrust areas.

Each technical sessions had in-depth discussions and critical evaluation of projects aimed at strengthening ongoing research initiatives and shaping future scientific strategies to advance agricultural innovation and sustainable plantation crop research. The deliberations focused on improving research quality, enhancing field-level applicability, and promoting collaborative scientific efforts to address stakeholder needs.

The meeting concluded with a Plenary Session held on 15 May 2026. All the programme leaders presented the salient achievements of the mega projects along with future lines of work during the Session. The session was graced by Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) as Chief Guest and Dr. S.N. Vasudeva, Dean of Alva's Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Moodabidri as Guest of Honour.

The event also witnessed the participation of several distinguished scientists, officials, and stakeholders including Dr. T.J. Ramesh, Head, KVK Mangalore, Mr. Praveen, SDAH Mangalore, Dr. Tejaswi G. Gowda, Member IMC, Mr. Narasimha Hegde, Director, TSS and Shri Girish Hegde, CEO- TSS, Deputy Director Agriculture and Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala and Shri Chandrashekhar Gatty, Progressive farmer.



Dr. Vasudeva, addressing the delegates

Major decisions taken during the IRC were:

- ♦ Tissue culture-derived areca



Participants of the World Intellectual Property Day at Kasaragod

plantlets are to be planted in Sullia, Karnataka and ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Vittal, following appropriate crop management practices.

- ♦ Kalpa Q-bitz value added edible product from coconut and Kalpa Vriddhi, PGPR talc based formulation for nursery, may be commercially released.
- ♦ The overall scenario on current status of pest and disease of mandate crops may be discussed during the AICRP group meeting and work out strategies for the major growing areas, with the help of state department officials.

XXXV Annual Group Meeting

The XXXV Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops was organized in hybrid mode at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod during 17-19 June 2026. A total of 72 participants, including scientists from ICAR-CPCRI and AICRP (PC) centres across the country attended the Annual Group Meeting in both offline and online modes. Dr. P Subramanian, Head (Crop Production Div.), & SIC, AICRP on PC centre, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod welcomed the gathering.

Dr. S. K. Singh, DDG, ICAR, was the Chief Guest of the meeting. Dr. V. B. Patel, ADG, ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr. K. Suresh, Director, IIOPR, Pedavegi, were the Guests of Honours for the inaugural session. Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Executive

Director, ICC(APCC), Jakarta, Dr. S. Arulraj, Former Director, ICAR-IIOPR., Dr. Anitha Karun, Former Acting Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Dr. George V. Thomas, Former Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod were the ICAR nominated experts for the AGM.

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions, covering variety release proposals, genetic resources and crop improvement, crop production, crop protection, post-harvest technology in palmyrah, transfer of technology, and the plenary session. Scientists from all the AICRP on Plantation Crops centres presented the progress of ongoing projects, followed by detailed deliberations. The technical programme for 2026-27 was finalized during the AGM

Brief recommendations of the meeting were:

- ♦ Coconut variety ALR 4 was recommended and notified by the Central Variety Release Committee (CVRC).
- ♦ Three promising cocoa varieties developed at ICAR-CPCRI, Vittal, namely VTLCH 3 (Vittal Cocoa Hybrid 3), VTLCH 4 (Vittal Cocoa Hybrid 4) and VTLCC 1 (Vittal Cocoa Clone 1), were recommended for release during the XXXV Annual Group Meeting. VTLCH 3 was recommended for cultivation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, while VTLCH 4 was recommended for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. VTLCC 1 was recommended for Assam and West Bengal.
- ♦ Under the multi-location

evaluation, NRCOP 38 performed well at Pattukkottai, recording a mean fresh fruit bunch yield of 29.67 t ha⁻¹ and an oil yield of 6.70 t ha⁻¹, while NRCOP 31 performed well at Mulde, recording a mean fresh fruit bunch yield of 27.11 t ha⁻¹ and an oil yield of 6.46 t ha⁻¹. Based on their superior performance, NRCOP 38 and NRCOP 31 were identified as promising genotypes for consideration for release. Descriptor for palmyrah palm characterization has been developed and released for adoption in ongoing trials and new collection.

- ♦ Six elite accessions were identified from conserved germplasm of Palmyrah for early flowering, larger fruits size and yield for MLT.

Workshop cum Training on Coconut and Arecanut Technologies

ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod in association with the Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka, conducted a workshop cum training on 'Technologies for sustainable production in coconut and arecanut' at the Veterinary College, Hassan on 12 June 2026. Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, presided over the programme. Dr. B. Augustine Jerard, Project Coordinator (Plantation Crops), Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, HoD, Crop Protection, Dr. Ravi Bhat, Principal Scientist, have participated as experts along with the Horticultural officers, GoK. More than 100 participants including Govt. officials, farmers, lecturers and students attended the programme.



Group photo at the 35th Annual General Meeting with scientists



Glimpses of Workshop cum Training on Coconut and Arecanut Technologies



PUBLICATION

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E-Publication

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ International Conference on Agri-Tech and Plantation 5.0, as a partner with Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bengaluru which is scheduled on July 3-4, 2026 at IIPM Bengaluru.
- ◆ World Coconut Day on 2 September 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.
- ◆ Launching of SHITIJ 2.0, a pre-incubation programme in July 2026 on vegetable and fruit value chain in hub and spoke model at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.



TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

Intellectual Property

A patent, 'A portable electric palm sap concentrator (Patent No. 591074),' granted on 03.06.2026, and also a design, 'Tender coconut dehushing machine (Reg. No. 448036-001,' registered on 16.04.2026.

During the period from April- June 2026, 24 technologies were commercialized and an amount of Rs. 10,58,000/- was collected as technology transfer fees.



National Priority Programmes

Balanced Nutrition

Title of the Programme	Date and Place	No. of farmers
Balanced Nutrition in Plantation Crops	18 May 2026 Meenja, Paivalike and Badiadka local bodies	10
	19 May 2026 Chenakode village of Madhur Panchayat	29
	15 June 2026 Palthady, Kadaba Taluk, Dakshina Kannada	58
Soil health management and balanced fertilizer use'	22 April to 21 May 2026 Bilinele Village, ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Kidu, Goonadka Village, and Sudlu Village under Bilinele Gram Panchayats; Kadaba Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka	432
Balanced fertilizer use in coconut and arecanut	24 June 2026 Kuttikkol Gram Panchayat, Kasaragod	103
Balanced fertilizer use and use of biocontrol agents in plantation crops'	02 June 2026 Chembu Village, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District and Guttigaru Village & Markanja village, Sullia Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District	25
Importance of awareness on 'Balanced Nutrition in Plantation Crops', to DAESI under KVK Alappuzha (25 Nos.)	April-May, 2026	600
Total		1300



Awareness for SC farmers and Farmer-Scientist Interaction programme

Release of the 23rd Installment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi

Glimpses of PM Kisan Utsav Divas and Farmers Conclave

The Government of India released the 23rd installment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi on 13 June 2026, benefiting farmers across the country. In connection with this nationwide programme, various awareness and outreach activities were organized by ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kasaragod, to disseminate information on the scheme and other farmer-centric initiatives. As part of the

programme, interactions with farmers were conducted, highlighting the importance of direct income support under PM-KISAN, along with discussions on ongoing agricultural development programmes, sustainable farming practices, and government support schemes. Institute organize a farmers scientist interface programme at CPCRI, Kasaragod.

On 20 June 2026 a farmers' conclave was organized jointly by ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Alappuzha, and the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala. The programme was inaugurated by Shri C. S. Basha, Councillor, Kayamkulam Municipality. Farmers

participating in various KVK programmes were provided with dwarf banana seedlings, cocoa seedlings, a milking machine, and poultry chicks. Kalpa Vardhini (micronutrient mixture) and cowpea seeds were distributed to all the farmers. Around 150 farmers and agricultural officers from different parts of the district participated in the programme.

Khet Bachao Abhiyan

Title of the Programme	Date and Place	No. of farmers
Khet Bachao Abhiyan	1-30 June 2026 Various locations covering Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal and Assam	2207
	23 June 2026 EMS Hall, Kollada, Kaattippoyil, Kasaragod	100
	05 June 2026 Kalasa, Koppa and Sringeri taluks in Chikmangaluru District	20
	05 June 2026 Kavalamuduru village of Bantwal Taluk	50
	15-16 June 2026 at Hunsur, Kasuvinahalli, Varakodu, and Chennarayapatna in Mysuru district; Kechanahalli, Manjenahalli kavalu, and Doddenahalli in Hassan district.	20
	25 June 2026 at Kadirudyavara local in Dakshina Kannada District.	60
Village – level awareness interaction programme	11 June 2026 Badiadka Panchayat	51
	15 June 2026 Periya village Pullur-Periya Grama Panchayat	
	1-30 June 2026 Chingoli, Mulakuzha	2017
Khet Bachao Abhiyan and World environment day	05 June 2026 Daspara, Sadar block, Jalpaiguri	50
	19 June 2026 Rupasi Sardarpara, Baludhip, Sadar Block, Jalpaiguri	100
	26 June 2026 Harisabha, Lataguri, Jalpaiguri	100
ATMA inter-state training programme	09 June 2026 ICAR-CPCRI Regional Station, Kayamkulam	20
KVK Alappuzha daily campaigns (56 Nos.)	1-30 June 2026 in Alappuzha district	3185
	Total	7980



The campaign gained wider visibility through radio talks, social media outreach, newspapers, KVK YouTube channel and KVK electronic portal, with an overall

outreach of more than 10,000 people. Overall, Khet Bachao Abhiyaan in Kasaragod served as a strong farmer-centric initiative linking soil health, balanced

nutrition, natural farming and community participation for sustainable and resilient agriculture.



Interaction and promoting Soil Health and Sustainable Farming under Kheti Bachao Abhiyan



Awareness programme on Khet Bachao Abhiyan by the KVK Alappuzha



Awareness programme with distribution of *Trichoderma*-enriched vermicompost in Jalpaiguri

SCSP ACTIVITIES

Programme under SCSP

Title of the Programme	Date and Place	No. of Participants
Six-Month Skill Development Training	15 June 2026 to 15 December 2026	33 youth
A training programme on backyard poultry rearing ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod	18 and 26 May 2026	17 farmers



Interaction with farmers

National Stakeholder Meeting on Cocoa Production

ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, organised a national stakeholder meeting in hybrid mode on 'Developing Strategies for Cocoa Production Enhancement' to deliberate on measures for strengthening India's cocoa sector on 16 April 2026. 75 members from research institutes, state agri/ horti universities, state horti departments and industries participated from different states.

Dr. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, highlighted the growing demand for cocoa and emphasised the importance of quality planting materials, climate-resilient varieties, canopy management, and expansion of cocoa cultivation. Experts from the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD), ICAR-CPCRI, Kerala Agricultural University, Mondelez, and other organisations discussed

strategies, including strengthening polyclonal gardens, nursery certification, traceability systems, public-private partnerships, and research collaborations to enhance cocoa productivity and sustainability.

The stakeholders' meeting provided a comprehensive platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities in cocoa production in India. The deliberations pointed out the need for a coordinated and integrated approach involving area expansion, improved planting material production, enhanced productivity, climate resilience, and strengthened processing and value addition systems. The meeting emphasised that achieving the targeted increase in cocoa production from 30,000 to 60,000 tonnes will require strong collaboration among ICAR institutes, AICRPP centres, state horticultural/agricultural universities, government departments, and industry stakeholders. The successful

implementation of the recommended strategies will play a crucial role in ensuring sustainable growth and global competitiveness of the Indian cocoa sector.

Stakeholders Meet

Stakeholders Meeting at Guthigar, Dakshina Kannada was organised on 29 April 2026. First, visit was made to arecanut farmers field where CPCRI recommended Leaf Spot Disease (LSD) Management Demo undertaken. Later, Stakeholder meet was organised in which Capt. Brijesh Chowta, MP, DK was the Chief Guest. Dr. T. Janakiram Former VC, DR. YSRHU, AP and Chairperson, QRT and other members of QRT took part and gave their impressions.

Exposure visit of Chavakkad FPO shareholders to ICAR-CIFT for fish liquid fertilizer production training

An exposure visit was organized for the shareholders of the Chavakkad Block Farmers

Producing & Marketing Cooperative Society to ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi, on 21 May, 2026 to study the technology for the production of fish-based liquid fertilizer from fish waste as part of Formation and Promotion of 10K FPOs. Since Chavakkad is a coastal region availability establishing a domestic fish liquid fertilizer production unit to convert fish waste into a value-added agricultural input. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Asha Latha, Principal Scientist, Smt. Muthulakshmi T., Scientist, Microbiology, CIFT, Kochi participated.

Sensitization Programme on SHITIJ 2.0 Start-up Initiative

ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, organised an online sensitisation programme on the SHITIJ 2.0 start-up incubation initiatives on 24 June 2026, bringing together the hub (ICAR-CPCRI) and six spoke institutes associated with the programme under the vegetable and fruit value chain. The meeting was aimed at discussing the roadmap for implementing SHITIJ 2.0 and strengthening the agricultural start-up ecosystem.

Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, Assistant Director General (IP&TM), ICAR, provided detailed guidelines for the implementation of SHITIJ 2.0. She highlighted that the programme would commence with a 21-day nationwide outreach campaign from the second week of July 2026 through digital platforms, institutional networks, and awareness programmes to attract aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs. The meeting also emphasised co-incubation among ICAR institutes, rigorous screening of applications, structured pre-incubation training and collaboration across institutions to support technology-driven start-ups. Participants discussed strategies

to engage students, entrepreneurs, IT professionals, and start-up aspirants, particularly in areas such as engineering solutions, digital technologies, food processing, and value-added agricultural enterprises. The meeting concluded with action points including the formation of a dedicated coordination platform, wider publicity through institutional websites and newspapers, and collaborative outreach activities to ensure broad participation in SHITIJ 2.0.



Inuagration of SHITIJ 2.0.

Horticulture Fair

Horticulture Fair and Cocoa Promotion program under Khet Bachao Abhiyan funded by DCCD was conducted on 30 June 2026 at Manchi Village, Bantwal Tk., Dakshina Kannada Dt., Karnataka. 84 men and 31 women participated from >10 villages.



Horticulture Fair and Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Manchi Distribution of areca and cocoa planting materials and *Trichoderma*

Training and capacity building On campus training

A total of 8 training programme was conducted in RC, Mohitnagar

during this quarter for the farmers, stakeholders, students and input dealers. A total of 466 (387 male and 79 women) beneficiaries were benefited in these training programmes.

Capacity building programme of Officers on 'Export oriented banana cultivation'

KVK-Alappuzha in association with Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Keralam (VFPCCK), organized a capacity-building programme to officers of Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare and VFPCCK on 'Export oriented banana cultivation' on 12 June 2026. The programme sponsored by State Horticulture Mission covered Good agricultural practices on various aspects like scientific crop management, integrated nutrient, pest and disease management, processing and value addition with emphasis on export potential of banana and the practices to be specifically followed. Dr. P. Muralidharan, PS and Head, Shri M.S. Rajeev, Dr. K. Sajnanath, Dr. T. Sivakumar and Smt. Jissy George, Subject Matter Specialists of KVK handled different sessions. Shri Sajimon Joseph, Deputy Manager coordinated the training programme from VFPCCK side. Forty officers from Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare and VFPCCK participated in the programme. Pre and post training evaluation showed considerable increase in knowledge of the participants.

Capacity Building Training Programme under STC (TSP)

As part of the activities envisaged under the Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) / Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for the financial year 2026-27, a Capacity Building Training Programme for 10 tribal youths commenced at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod on 15 June 2026.

The training programme is being conducted with the objective of enhancing the technical knowledge, practical skills, and entrepreneurial capabilities of tribal youth in coconut-based farming systems and allied agricultural activities. The programme includes both theoretical and hands-on training in selected subject areas relevant to the Institute's mandate.

During the training period, participants are being imparted practical exposure and skill development in the following subject areas:

- ♦ Coconut nursery management and quality planting material production.
- ♦ Scientific cultivation and management of coconut and arecanut.
- ♦ Integrated nutrient management and soil health management.
- ♦ Integrated pest and disease management.
- ♦ Value addition and processing of coconut and other plantation crops.
- ♦ Production and application of bio-inputs and organic farming practices.
- ♦ Entrepreneurship development, marketing, and agri-business management.
- ♦ Exposure visits and practical demonstrations on improved technologies.

The programme aims to improve the employability and self-employment opportunities of tribal youth through capacity building and technology

dissemination, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihood development in tribal areas. This training programme is being implemented under the Institute STC Fund during FY 2026-27 and is scheduled to conclude on 15 December 2026.

Outdoor visit

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malappuram (KVK), operating out of the Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (KCAEFT) in Tavanur, conducted an awareness and community outreach campaign as part of the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan on June 27, 2026. Dr. K. Ponnusamy, HoD, Social Sciences participated in the programme. The initiative was part of a larger, month-long national drive emphasizing:

Soil Health

The judicious use of fertilizers and the promotion of soil-test-based nutrient management.

Sustainable Practices

Encouraging natural farming, integrated farming, and climate-resilient agricultural methods.

Impact

Discussing strategies to safeguard crops against irregular weather patterns.

Radio Programmes

- ♦ Lekha G, Live phone-in programme on 'Mushroom production technologies', Kuttanad FM 90.0, on 16 April 2026.
- ♦ Rajeev M. S., Live phone-in programme on 'Ginger, Turmeric and tuber crop cultivation, Kuttanad FM 90.0 on 25 May 2026.
- ♦ Dr. Arun Kumar Sit attended a radio programme on 'Government schemes for the benefit of farming community' for recording on 17 June 2026 and broadcasted on 18 June 2026 by AIR, Siliguri.
- ♦ Dr. K. Sajnanath, Live phone-in programme on 'Balanced nutrition for healthy soil', Kuttanad FM 90.0, on 22 June 2026.
- ♦ Eight scientists provided technical talk to a community Radio station, situated at Radio 4 You 89.6 FM Padannakkad in Kasaragod district on their respective professional topics which were recorded on 24 June 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI.



Glimpses of awareness and community outreach campaign



NEW PROJECTS INITIATED

A project titled 'Establishment of a central tissue culture lab facility for upscaling production of tissue culture coconut seedlings' with a financial outlay Rs. 7.35 lakhs under RKVY for three years. Dr. Regi Jacob

Thomas, Head, RS, Kayamkulam is the Principal Investigator of the project.

A project titled 'Screening of arecanut and cocoa germplasm/

genotypes for moisture stress tolerance' with a financial outlay of Rs.1.30 Crores under RKVY for two years. Dr. N.R. Nagaraja, Senior Scientist, RS, Vittal is the Principal Investigator of the project.

CELEBRATIONS

World Environment Day

Kasaragod

ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, celebrated World Environment Day on 05 June 2026 with the theme 'Inspired by Nature—For Climate —For Our Future'. The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness on environmental protection and promoting eco-friendly practices among staff, students, farmers, and the general public.

The function was presided over by Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, who delivered an insightful address emphasizing the critical impact of climate change on plantation crops. The chief guests of the programme were Mr Kumar Sathyanarayana and Mr Melvin Arun, CEOs of Sakrt, Envirly Innovations, Mangalore, demonstrated their compostable 'Envirly' products.

As part of the observance, a tree-planting programme was organized in the Institute campus.



World Environment Day Celebrated in ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

Kayamkulam

At ICAR-CPCRI Regional Station, Kayamkulam Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head, ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam, presided over the

programme. The Environment Day speech was delivered by Dr. A. Abdul Haris, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), who elaborated on the origin and significance of World Environment Day. The keynote address was delivered by the Dr. P. Muralidharan, Head, ICAR-KVK, Alappuzha As part of the celebrations, Gliricidia sticks were planted along the boundary of the institute.



World Environment Day programme at ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam



ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod

Promoting Jackfruit-Based Enterprises through Capacity Building and Skill Development

ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod organised four capacity-building and skill development programmes on jackfruit processing and value addition during April-May 2026, with a total participation of 40 beneficiaries. A two-day capacity-building programme on value addition of jackfruit was conducted on 22 and 23 April 2026 for 10 women members of Agri Processing and Service Centre, Periya, covering technologies for processing jackfruit bulbs and seeds into dehydrated products and powders. Another two-day skill training programme on jackfruit processing

was conducted on 12 and 13 May 2026 for 10 members of Manjeshwar FED Farmers Producer Company, focusing on value-added products from jackfruit bulb, seed and tender jackfruit. Further, skill training on jackfruit processing was imparted to 6 entrepreneurs of Bless Farm Flave, Parakatta, on 20 May 2026. On 29 May 2026, a skill training programme on the use of user-friendly fibre frames for jackfruit pappad production as an income-generating activity was conducted for 14 SC women members, and fibre frames were also provided to them for the same. Trained entrepreneurs also utilised the KVK incubation facilities for producing jackfruit value-added products such as jackfruit pappad,

seed powder and dehydrated jackfruit bulb.



Skill training programme on jackfruit processing



Processing of making jackfruit based products

Participation of KVK-trained Entrepreneurs in Radio Talks

Sixteen KVK-trained entrepreneurs engaged in millet value addition, seasonal fruit processing, jackfruit processing, jasmine cultivation, coconut climbing, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and related enterprises participated in radio talks under the Kisan Vani

programme, facilitated by ICAR-KVK, CPCRI, Kasaragod through AIR, Kannur. In addition, two Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) on supplementary foods and processing of spices and condiments were conducted for two entrepreneur units from Mugu and Bedadka on 16 June 2026 and 29 June 2026, respectively.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Alappuzha

Krishi Vigyan Sadas

As part of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a Krishi Vigyan Sadas was organized jointly by ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam and KVK-Alappuzha on 19 June 2026 for the members of Kisan Morcha from different parts of the district.



Glimpses of Krishi Vigyana Sadas

PIMC meeting of 'Value Chain in Banana' project

Fifth meeting of the Project Monitoring and Implementation Committee (PIMC) of the 'Value Chain in Banana' project was conducted on 21 May 2025 at the KVK Alappuzha. The project funded by NABARD under the Farming Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF) is implemented in Bharanikkavu block of Alappuzha district since 2025 involving 180 partner farmers. Smt. Minu Anwer, DDM, NABARD, Shri, Arun M., Dist. Lead Bank Manager and 9 members attended. The PIMC decided to intensify the activities for branding

and marketing the processed products from banana for the benefit of farmers.



Interaction of PIMC meeting

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Training attended

Dr. Ajith M., Scientist has successfully completed the 03

months FOCARS training, one month orientation training and three months' professional attachment training at 114th

FOCARS, ICAR-NAARM, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana on 07 July to 16 October 2025.

Name & designation	Programme Title	Place & date
Dr. Hima John, Scientist, Div. of PB & PHT	Five days training programme on Strengthening Agriculture research with gender perspective for sustainable agri-food systems	ICAR-CIWA, Bhuvanewar 18-22 May 2026.
Shilpa S. Selvan, Scientist	Training programme on "Applied AI & ML for Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology	IIT, Kharagpur 18-22 May 2026.

Awards and Recognition

Best Oral Presentation Award

The best oral presentation award was presented to Dr. R. Thava Prakasa Pandian for the paper on 'Emerging arecanut diseases: a bio-security perspectives on necrotic

ringspot and leaf spot disease' authored by R. Thava Prakasa Pandian, Bhavishya, M. K. Rajesh, Kavi Siddhathan, Merinbabu, Rajasekhara H., Nirmalkumar B.J., Deepashri T., Nayana H. and

Vinayaka Hegde at National Seminar on Biosecurity Risks and Mitigation Strategies in Horticultural Crops Organized at ICAR-CPCRI RS, Kayamkulam from 22-24 April 2026.

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SEMINARS/ SYMPOSIA ATTENDED

Name and Designation	Title	Place and Date
Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Dr. M. K. Rajesh and P. Muralidharan, Heads, Dr. P. Anithakumari, Dr. A. Abdul Haris, Dr. P.S. Prathibha, Dr. V.H. Prathibha, Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Dr. M. Shareefa, Dr. S. Elain Apshara, Principal Scientists, Dr. K. Nihad, Dr. Merin Babu, Dr. K. M. Anes, Dr. S. Indhuja, and Dr. N.R. Nagaraja, Senior Scientists, Dr. R. Thava Prakasa Pandian, Dr. Daliyamol and Dr. B. Mahendran Scientists and Dr. Mayalekshmi, Technical Officer, Dr. V. Kamalkumar, Sr. Technical Assistant, Dr. T. Sivakumar, Chief Technical Officer (SMS - Agril. Entomology), Smt. G. Lekha, Chief Technical Officer (SMS - Home Science)	National Seminar on 'Biosecurity Risks and Mitigation Strategies in Horticultural Crops'.	ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam 22-24 April 2026
Dr. P. Muralidharan, Head, KVK Alappuzha and Smt. Jissy George, Chief Technical Officer (SMS - Home Science)	Zonal Workshop 2026 on Harnessing potential of farm women to strengthen technology application programmes.	ICAR- KVK - Kottayam 26-28 April 2026
Dr. Ajith M, Scientist	National Conference on 'Recent Advancements in Food Analytical Chemistry (RAFAC 2026)'	CDB Cochin University of Science and Technology 29-30 April 2026
Dr. S. Jayasekhar, Principal Scientist	National Conference on 'Issues and challenges in coconut products standards	CDB Kochi 29-30 April 2026
Dr. V. Niral, Crop Improvement, Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Crop Protection, Dr. Subramanian, Crop Production, Dr. Murali Gopal, PB & PHT, Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Social Science, Heads, Dr. Ravi Bhat, Dr. S. Jayasekhar, Dr. S. Elain Apshara, Dr. M.R. Manikantan, Pr. Scientists, Dr. Bhavishya, Dr. Hima John and Dr. Shilpa S. Selvan, Scientists.	35 Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod 17-19 June 2026.
Dr. Diwakar, Scientist	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Conclave	ICAR-NIANP, Bengaluru 23 June 2026
Smt. Jissy George, SMS KVK-Alappuzha	State level seminar on health benefits of green jack	Thiruvananthapuram 23 June 2026



TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

Standard operating procedures for the UAV based aerial sprays in arecanut plantations

The influence of key UAV operational parameters—flight speed, flight height, and spray volume—on droplet characteristics

and spray performance in arecanut plantations was evaluated to standardize operating protocols for UAV-based aerial spraying. The optimum operating conditions were a flight height of 2.5 m above the canopy, a flight speed of 3 m s^{-1} , and a spray volume of 75 L ha^{-1} . These settings produced coarser

droplets (VMD > $430 \mu\text{m}$ at the canopy periphery), the highest droplet density ($\sim 95 \text{ droplets cm}^{-2}$), superior canopy penetration ($\sim 42\%$), and greater spray uniformity ($\sim 82\%$), although they also resulted in comparatively higher ground deposition ($\sim 51 \text{ droplets cm}^{-2}$).



FACILITIES CREATED

Established a comprehensive screening facility at ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Vittal, consisting of two rainout shelters, a climate-controlled polyhouse, and a walk-in growth chamber to facilitate research

on abiotic and biotic stress screening. Established a state of art molecular diagnostic laboratory consisting of digital PCR, real-time PCR, ELISA reader, Thermal cycler, Refrigerated centrifuge, 2-D Gel electrophoresis

etc. for the development of rapid detection of viral diseases in arecanut. Established a bee park and mushroom production unit for the production and demonstration of honey and mushrooms.



VISIT OF DIGNITORIES

NITI Ayog entrusted team visited KVK

A team entrusted by NITI Ayog,

Govt. of India for 'Assessing the impact of weather advisories to farmers and fishermen and ways to improve the efficiency' visited KVK on 8 June 2026. The team interacted

with KVK officials and fishermen at Arattupuzha panchayath regarding the availability and usefulness of weather forecasts given by IMD and other agencies.



PERSONALIA

TRANSFERS

Name of the staff	From (Place)	To (Place)	w.e.f.
Dr. Priya U.K., Scientist	ICAR- CPCRI, RS, Vittal	ICAR- CTCRI, Thiruvanthapuram	22.05.2026
Dr. A. Mounika, Senior Technical Officer (SMS)	ICAR- CAZRI, Jodhpur	ICAR- CPCRI, KVK, Kasaragod	06.04.2026
Dr. T.S. Manojkumar Principal Scientist & Head	ICAR-CPCRI, KVK Kasaragod	ICAR-CIFT, Kochi	15.05.2026
Shri Aneesh E.M., Skilled Support Staff	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode	15.06.2026
Shri Bhaskaran N. Skilled Support Staff	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode	15.06.2026

RETIREMENTS

Name of the staff	Designation	Place	Superannuated on
Dr. Anithakumari P.	Principal Scientist	ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	31.05.2026
Dr. Neelofar Illias Kutty	Chief Technical Officer	ICAR-CPCRI, KVK, Kasaragod	31.05.2026
Shri N. Dinesh Kumar	Technical Assistant	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.05.2026
Dr. Vinayaka Hegde	Principal Scientist & Head(Division of Crop Protection)	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	30.06.2026
Dr. Bikash Chowdhury	Chief Technical Officer	ICAR- CPCRI, RC, Kahikuchi	30.06.2026

OBITUARY



The Director and staff mourn the untimely passing of Shri Kripesh Kumar, Skilled Support Staff, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, who departed on 31 May 2026. We pray for peace for his departed soul and extend our deepest condolences.



हर कदम, हर उभार
किसानों का हमसाथ
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

Agrisearch with a human touch



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