



KALPA

CPCRI Newsletter

Volume 44

No. 2 April-June 2025



ICAR-CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Kasaragod, Kerala - 671 124

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute



Dr. M.L. Jat is the new Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi

By the time this goes to print, ICAR has a new leadership of Dr. M.L. Jat. He is an eminent scientist of international calibre. Earlier, he was at ICRISAT, Patancheru. His research accomplishments are wide and frontier. He has more than 350 research publications, several books, and has been international in roles with prominent organizations like FAO and ISPA. Director, ICAR-CPCRI and its staff compliment him for this converted position and assure to work on national priorities to uphold the ICAR vision.



DIRECTOR'S DESK

In recent years, the effects of climate change have become increasingly evident through extreme heatwaves and more intense weather events such as prolonged droughts and sudden floods. The year 2025 has been particularly challenging for India, witnessing unprecedented weather conditions – including the warmest March on record and record-breaking rainfall during May. These anomalies have had severe repercussions on the growth and productivity of plantation crops.

High temperatures and low humidity, especially during critical growth stages, are causing significant damage worldwide. In crops like coconut, these conditions have led to wilting, reduced fruit set and size, and ultimately, substantial yield losses. Furthermore, the early onset of incessant rains this year disrupted timely prophylactic spraying in arecanut, creating favourable conditions for the outbreak of pests and diseases, thereby further threatening production.

In response, ICAR-CPCRI is actively coordinating with agricultural and horticultural departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, and other developmental

agencies to implement effective climate adaptation strategies. Emphasis is being placed on sustainable farming practices such as integrated pest management (IPM), maintaining soil health, and efficient water use to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of these scientific technologies, large-scale field demonstrations are being planned across various regions. These initiatives aim to show how pest and disease pressures can be managed more efficiently with timely interventions and modern practices.

However, overcoming the mounting challenges posed by climate change will require continued research and innovation. Developing more climate-resilient crop varieties and enhancing sustainable agricultural practices are critical priorities. To this end, the institute is strengthening collaborations with government bodies, industries, FPOs, and cooperatives to bolster research and ensure the long-term sustainability of plantation crop production..

K. Balachandra Hebbar

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Technology Highlights

Assessment of genome size variation in palm species using flow cytometry

Evaluated inter and intra specific variation in nuclear DNA content among palm species including *Cocos nucifera*, *Areca catechu*, and wild relatives (*A. triandra*, *A. concinna*) and two related genera *Normanbya normanbyi*, *Actinorhynchus calapparia*, as well as *Borassus flabellifer*. Nuclear DNA content was estimated using flow cytometry, with *Pisum sativum* cv. Citrad (2C = 9.09 pg) as the reference standard. The study revealed substantial variation in 2C DNA content, ranging from

5.56 pg in *Actinorhynchus calapparia* to 12.70 pg in *Borassus flabellifer*, corresponding to 1C genome sizes of 2722.23 Mb to 6210.30 Mb, respectively. Notable intraspecific variation was also observed for 2C DNA content among coconut (5.66 pg to 6.16 pg) and arecanut varieties (6.32 pg to 6.60 pg). The observed genome size differences suggest its potential application as a reliable marker for species identification and evolutionary research.

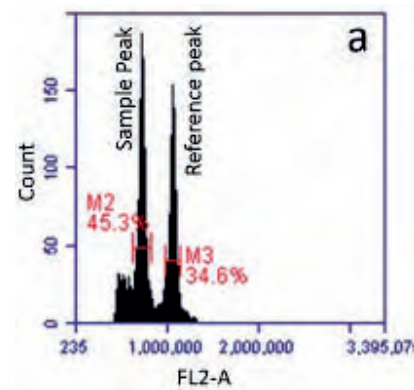


Fig 1: Flow cytometry histogram of *Cocos nucifera* accession (Chowghat Orange Dwarf)



Important Events

Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The 27th Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was held at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, on 8 April 2025 in hybrid mode. Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Chairman (Former Director, ICAR-IISR, Calicut), Dr. George V. Thomas (Former Director, ICAR-CPCRI), Dr. H.B. Singh (Former Professor and Head, Plant Pathology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi), Dr. R.N. Padaria (Joint Director, Extension, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi), Dr. Pradeep Singh Negi (Chief Scientist, Fruit & Vegetable Technology, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore), Mr. H.M. Krishna Kumar (Former MD, CAMPCO, Mangalore), Dr. P.C. Tripathi (Principal Scientist, Horticulture Science, SMD, KAB-2, New Delhi), Dr. Tejaswi G. Gowda (Ph.D., Agricultural Entomology, Mudigere), Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar (Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod), and Dr. Vinayaka Hegde (Head, Division of Crop Protection, and Member Secretary) were present in the meeting. Dr. Nirmal Babu (Former Director, ICAR-IISR, Calicut) and Dr.

Vishwa Bandhu Patel (ADG, Fruits and Plantation Crops, ICAR, New Delhi) attended the meeting online.

Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, made a brief presentation on the research achievements of the Institute during 2024-25. The RAC recommendations shall be incorporated in the Technical Programme 2025-26 of the Institute.





RAC Members with the scientists of the Institute

World Intellectual Property Day

ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod organised a seminar on 'Legal Implications of IP in Agriculture' on 05 May 2025 as part of the celebration of World Intellectual Property Day. Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head, Division of Social Science, was the coordinator of the event. Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI invited the attention to the blooming of India's agricultural sector with innovation and technology and relevance of IPs. Dr. P. K. Patil, Principal Scientist and I/c, ITMU, ICAR-CIBA, Chennai delivered an online lecture on 'Legal implications of IP in agriculture'. Around 150 participants attended the programme.



Participants of the World Intellectual Property Day at Kasaragod

XXXIV Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops

The XXXIV Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Plantation Crops was organized at AC & RI, Madurai, (TNAU), Tamil Nadu during 7-9 May 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. Irene Vethamoni, Dean (Hort.), TNAU welcomed the gathering. Dr. V.B. Patel, ADG (F& PC), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, Dr. K. Suresh, Director, IIPOR, Pedavegi and Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, IIOR, Hyderabad, Dr. P. P. Mahendran, Dean (Agri.), TNAU were the Guests of honour for the inaugural session. Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Executive Director, ICC

(APCC), Jakarta and Dr. R.V. Nair, Formerly Head, Div. of Crop Improvement, ICAR-CPCRI were the expert nominees of ICAR for the AGM.

Technical programme for 2025-26 was finalized in the AGM. One coconut variety ALR-4 and one Oil palm hybrid NRCOP-37 were recommended for release during the AGM. Over 15 publications including three books and 3 technical bulletins were released during the AGM. Pandirimamidi Centre was adjudged as the best performing centre and Navasari centre was adjudged as the best resource generating centre for the year 2024-25.



Dr. S. K. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi, delivering the inaugural speech and releasing the publications

Major recommendations from the XXXIV AGM

- A coconut variety ALR- 4 has been recommended for release for cultivation in Tamil Nadu. The variety is a selection from the local tall accessions collected and evaluated under AICRP on PC centre, Aliyarnagar.
- Location specific crosses at Bhubaneswar, the hybrid SKL x GBDG recorded higher nut yield (137 nuts/palm/year) and high quantity of tender nut water (455 ml/nut) with total Soluble Solids content of 5.28. The hybrid nut recorded copra content of 192.35 g/nut with an oil content 66.28% (with an increased nut yield of 24.75 % and higher copra content (34.63%) over the ruling variety Sakthigopal Local.
- Oil palm hybrid, NRCOP 9 evaluated under AICRP on PC centre, Pattukottai has been recommended for release and cultivation in Coastal region of Tamil Nadu under irrigated conditions. The hybrid gives an impressive oil yield of 6.58 tonnes/ha/annum.
- Oil palm hybrid, NRCOP-37 evaluated under AICRP on PC centre, Vijayarai has been recommended for release for cultivation in Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. The hybrid recorded oil content of 18.45% and oil yield of 5.48 tonnes/ha/annum.
- Patent application filed for Process technology on fresh natural palmyrah jaggery and jaggery powder protocol by AICRP centre Pandirimamidi.
- Freeze drying of fresh neera with maltodextrin with 10 % or more resulted in a sap powder with good stability at room temperature and excellent solubility. Sap powder shows an easy rehydration by water addition to its original characteristic of the process. The sap powder obtained meets the current legislation standards for fruits and vegetable products, with moisture value of less than 5.0. %.

Institute Research Committee meeting

The 53rd Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting of ICAR-CPCRI was held at Kasaragod during 26-30 May 2025 chaired by Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director. A total of 69 ongoing research projects, including 40 institute projects, 29 externally funded competitive grant projects and 4 contract research projects under seven different programmes, were reviewed during the 5-day-long IRC meeting.

A plenary session of the meeting was held on 30 May 2025. Sri Araga Jnanendra, MLA Thirthahalli and the President, Arecanut Marketing Cooperatives Mahamandala, was the chief guest and Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD),

Kozhikode, was the Guest of Honour for the Plenary Session. A brainstorming meeting on arecanut issues was held along with the Plenary Session, which was attended by the stakeholders, including farmers, medical doctors and co-operative marketing organisations as well as developmental agencies.

All the programme leaders presented the salient achievements of the mega projects along with future lines of work. Dr. M.R. Manikantan, Principal Scientist, AS&P Engg., presented a new research project on the determination of optimum moisture content for the storage of arecanut which was prepared with the request of CAMPCO. Dr. Prasanna Mitra presented the activities being

conducted under the arecanut and health project.

Participants from CAMPCO, Mangalore, TSS, Sirsi, MAMCOS, Shivamogga, Arecanut Marketing Cooperatives Mahamandala, Shivamogga, NABARD, Medical doctors from KMC, Mangalore and Nitte Medical Institute, Officers of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu Department of Horticulture/ Agriculture and farmer member of IMC, offered their comments and suggestions on

the research activities of the Institute.

While taking account on the expert recommendations and the recommendations of the 27th RAC and in accordance with the national priorities activities were planned. A total of 15 new projects were approved. The technical programme for 2025-26 shall be refined and reformulated based on the project-wise recommendations and the observations made by the dignitaries.



Sri Araga Jnanendra, MLA, Thirthahalli and the President, Arecanut Marketing Cooperatives Mahamandala, addressing the delegates



Release of Publication by Sri Araga Jnanendra, MLA, Karnataka



Publications

Research Articles

Radhakrishnan, Kalidoss, Baban Bayan, Swadesh Prakash, Ananthan, P. S., Anu Susan Sam, Sandip Shil, Arpita Sharma, Srichandan Das, and Kota Karuna Sri 2025. Optimizing technical efficiency in whiteleg shrimp aquaculture: a double-bootstrap data envelopment analysis. *Aquaculture International* **33** (5): 1-23. NAAS Rating-8.20.

Radhakrishnan, Kalidoss, Prakash, S., Ananthan, P. S., Arpita Sharma, Anu Susan Sam, Sandip Shil, and Shyam Datta Waghmare 2025. "Climatic Determinants of Shrimp Yields in Tamil Nadu, India: A Transfer Function Analysis." *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology* **43** (1): 143-153. NAAS Rating-4.73.

Ranjini, T.N., Niral, V., Samsudeen, K., Neema, M., Aparna, V. and Jagadeesha, R.C. 2025. Exploring variability in pollen viability,

germination, and microstructure among 20 coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) varieties for phenotypic identification, *Grana*, **64** (1): 26-43. DOI: 10.1080/00173134.2025.2495262. NAAS Rating: 6.90.

Ranjini, T.N., Niral, V., Jerard, B.A., Samsudeen, K. and Gayatri, U.K. 2025. Analysis of morphological and biochemical features in pink-husked coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.), *Journal of Applied Horticulture*, **27**(3): 355-358. DOI: 10.37855/jah.2025.v27i03.65. NAAS Rating - 5.43.

Thomas, R.J., Josephraj Kumar, A., Mohan, B., Shil, S. and Shareefa, M. 2025. Relative abundance and diversity of insect foragers associated with inflorescence in dwarf varieties of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.). *Current Science*. **128**(4) 404-414. NAAS rating- 7.10.

Popular Articles

Mayalekshmi, Shareefa, M. and Abdul Haris, A. 2025. Thengukrishiyum carbon sambharanavum. *Indian Naleekera Journal*. 17(4): 24-27.

Book Chapters

Deeksha, M. G., Jadhav, M. M., Guleria, N., Harish, M. N., Chaithra, M. and Barman, M. 2025. Legal Framework for the Development and Application of Bio pesticides Worldwide. *In Bio-control Agents for Sustainable Agriculture: Diversity, Mechanisms and Applications* pp. 479-510. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore.

Chaithra, M., Shivakumar, K.V., Mahesha, H.S., Nayak, A.M. 2025. Phytophthora. *In: Amaresan, N., Kumar, K. (eds). Compendium of Phytopathogenic Microbes in Agro-Ecology*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-81770-0_25.

Training manuals

Elain Apshara, S. 2025. Climate Resilient Cocoa

Farming: Strategies to Mitigate Weather Risks. *In: Training manual on cocoa, 12-14 May 2025*, Eds. Dadasaheb Desayi and Minimol J.S. p. 44-56.

Elain Apshara, S. and Jayasekhar, S. 2025. Economics of Cocoa Cultivation from Farm Costs to Market Returns. *In: Training manual on cocoa, 12-14 May 2025*, Eds. Dadasaheb Desayi and Minimol J.S. p. 80-83.

E- Publications

Rajkumar 2025. Video on coconut insect pests diagnosis, IPM practices and EPN. (<https://youtu.be/SfpUB9S1qG0?si=jGBaK MwTKrETM8yF>). (In Kannada language).

Surekha 2025. Video on cinnamon production technology in coconut system. (<https://youtu.be/SfpUB9S1qG0?si=jGBaK MwTKrETM8yF>). (In Kannada language).

Pratibha V. H. and Santhosh Kumar P. 2025. Video on coconut disease diagnosis and its integrated management practices. (<https://youtu.be/XaR6Q9kvhGY?si=rPXp-IBFf4EBsKBq>). (In Kannada language).



Human Resource Development

Deputation Abroad

ICC's Side Event at the 81st UNESCAP Session

Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI has participated in the International Coconut Community (ICC) hosted Side Event titled "Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future". The event, held on 25 April 2025, at Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, was part of the 81st session of the UNESCAP Commission. Presented a paper on Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Credit -Coconut's Role in Climate Resilience. Also an expert on Consultative Meeting on Low-Yielding Aromatic Coconut Plantations in Thailand from 26 to 28 April 2025.



Delegates of the ICC Consultative Meeting at Bangkok



Training attended

Name & designation	Programme Title	Place & date
Dr. Neelofar Illiaskutty, SMS	4 Days National Training Program on 'Building Sustainable Agribusinesses for Women'	MANAGE, Hyderabad, from 17-20 June 2025.

Awards and Recognition

- Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, has been nominated as the Chair to coordinate the 61st Steering Committee of the International Coconut Community, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head, Social Science was bestowed with award by Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) during Animal Welfare Conference-2025 on 03 May 2025 in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu in recognition of his exceptional dedication and contribution to the welfare and protection of animals.



Transfer of Technology

Other training programmes

- Two training programmes were organized under the DAESI programme—one on 02 April and 26 June 2025 at KVK, Jalpaiguri for 38 input dealers on plantation crops and good agricultural practices, and another on 08 May 2025 at UBKV, Regional Station, Kharibari for 35 input dealers on crop diversification in plantation gardens with spices and other annual crops.
- Training cum distribution of planting materials (arecanut, acid lime, black pepper and vegetable seeds) was organized at ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Mohitnagar on 25 April 2025 and 08 May 2025 under SCSP for 100 numbers of farmers belonging to scheduled caste community. A total of 350 numbers of arecanut seedlings, 66 numbers of acid lime, 66 numbers of black pepper cuttings and 10.25 kg Bhindi seeds cv, RSF-1153 and 4.2 kg bitter gourd seed cv. Renu was distributed.
- A training cum seedling distribution for 205 farm family belongs to scheduled caste community on 29 June 2025 in presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament Dr. Jayanta Roy. A total of 2050 numbers of arecanut seedlings were distributed.

Training-cum-awareness meetings conducted in the North Eastern Region

Stakeholders meeting cum training programme on 'Sustainable coconut and arecanut cultivation' sponsored by ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, was organized in collaboration with College of Agriculture, Agarthala, Tripura on 29 April 2025. The North Eastern Hill (NEH) states of India possess significant potential for cultivation of plantation crops. Around 135 participants including farmers, SMS from ICAR-KVK, officer from NABARD, officer from CDB, students etc. During the inaugural session Dr. Th. Irenaeus KS, Assistant Professor, CoA, Tripura, delivered opening remarks. Dr. P. Subramanian, Principal

Scientist & Head (Crop Production), ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod inaugurated the programme and given a brief remark about the genesis and ideology of conducting this meeting.

Shri. Diganta Kumar Das, DGM, NABARD given the guest address, and Prof. Dehashish Sen, Principal, CoA, Tripura given the chairman remarks. Later, Dr. Dipak Das, Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Tripura spoke about the importance of arecanut and coconut cultivation in Tripura and the ways to improve the production and productivity with the help of technical

knowledge of scientists. Dr. P. B. Jamatia, Director, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of Tripura has given the Chief guest address and highlighted the importance of prevailing pest and disease conditions in arecanut cultivation.

A technical session was conducted on varietal wealth, quality planting material production, sustainable coconut cultivation, crop production aspects of coconut, integrated pest/disease/nutrient management, value addition in arecanut cultivation. CDB official presented the ongoing schemes to





Stakeholders Workshop on Building a Sustainable Coconut and Arecanut Sector

Stakeholders meeting including Meghalaya farmers was held on 2 May 2025, organised in collaboration with Govt. of Meghalaya. Various packages of practices and plant protection strategies for Meghalaya were derived by experts from the institute.

Stakeholders' Meet on Arecanut and Cocoa Cultivation at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh

A Stakeholders meet on scientific management practices of arecanut and promotion of cocoa cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh was jointly organized by ICAR-CPCRI, College of Horticulture and Forestry (COHF) and Department of Horticulture at

KVK, COHF, Pasighat on 14 May 2025. The programme imparted the basic, advanced and scientific cultivation practices of arecanut and cocoa. Around 100 participants, including progressive farmers, officers from state agri/ hort

departments, KVK officials from across the state, professors, attended the meeting. An interactive session was held and farm advisory was given on various problems faced by the farmers in arecanut plantations of the region.



Stakeholders meet



Cocoa plot at Arunachal

Training programme on 'agro-techniques for enhanced productivity of arecanut and cocoa' organized at community hall, Lengpui, Mizoram

A training programme on 'Agro-techniques for enhanced productivity of arecanut and cocoa' sponsored by ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, was organized in collaboration with KVK, Mamit, Mizoram at Community Hall, Lengpui, Mizoram on 24 April 2025. The North Eastern Hill (NEH) states of India possess significant potential for cultivation of plantation crops. Around 134 participants including scientists from ICAR-RC,

NEH Region, Mizoram Centre, SMS from KVK, Hailakandi, Assam, officer from NABARD, officer from Dept. of Soil and Water Conservation, Lengpui, Mizoram, office bearers of Arecanut Growers Association, representative from Mondelez India etc.

During the inaugural session Dr. Rebecca Lalmuanpuii, Head (i/c). KVK, Mamit, delivered

opening remarks. Dr. Niral V., Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Crop Improvement, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, inaugurated the programme and delivered inaugural address. A technical session was conducted on varietal wealth, quality planting material production and advances in production technologies of arecanut and cocoa, arecanut based multispecies cropping system, integrated pest and disease management in arecanut and cocoa etc. Mr. J.D. Traite, from

NABARD, presented on NABARD schemes to farmers, Dr. Sunil Doley, Head (i/c), ICAR RC NEH Region, Mizoram Centre, interacted with participants on activities of their research centre and Mr. P.C. Vannghaka, presented to participants about activities/ schemes of Dept. of Soil and Water Conservation, Lengpui, Mizoram. Planting materials of arecanut and cocoa were distributed to participants of the training programme.

Large-Scale Demonstration on Management of Leaf Spot Disease in Arecanut

As part of the MIDH initiative, the project titled “Large-Scale Demonstration on Management of Leaf Spot Disease in Arecanut” has commenced, covering the districts of Shivamogga, Chikkamangaluru, Dakshina Kannada, and Uttara Kannada, starting April 1, 2025. The project, overseen by ICAR-CPCRI, is taking place in four taluks: Sullia, Belthanagadi, Sirsi, and Sidapur. These clusters were chosen from villages experiencing a high prevalence of Leaf Spot Disease (LSD). Initial baseline data on disease incidence have been collected, and designated project staff have been hired to actively monitor the fields,

tracking LSD occurrences in the chosen gardens. Among the participating small farmers, a management schedule has been established, which includes phytosanitation and the application of a 1% Bordeaux mixture spray on the arecanut palms from June to August. The project's first review meeting took place on June 13, 2025, at CPCRI Kasaragod, chaired by Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI, in the presence of Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director of DASD, and Dr. Dushyantkumar, Director of Research, along with scientists from CPCRI associated with the project. Furthermore, periodic on-field reviews should be conducted to

ensure timely assessment of field-level interventions. In addition to monitoring disease incidence, severity, and spatial spread, it was advised to concurrently record biometric observations to create comprehensive datasets that support the effectiveness of interventions.



Review meeting of the MIDH Scheme

SCSP & TSP Training-cum-Arecanut saplings distribution programme

As part of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) initiative, the ICAR-CPCRI, Research Centre, Kidu, organized a training-cum-distribution programme for arecanut saplings in collaboration with Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) for Scheduled

Caste (SC) farmers during June, 2025. A total of 100 Scheduled Caste farmers were selected as beneficiaries, each receiving 100 arecanut saplings, free of cost. In total 10,000 saplings of arecanut varieties were distributed during the event.



Distribution of coconut seedlings to SCSP beneficiaries at ICAR-CPCRI, Kidu

Another training-cum-seedling distribution programme was organized at Jhar Matiali, Matiali Block, Jalpaiguri district, on 29 June 2025, in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Member of

Parliament, Jalpaiguri, Dr. Jayanta Roy. A total of 2,040 arecanut seedlings were distributed among 204 beneficiaries.



Training and seedling distribution under SCSP organized by ICAR-CPCRI, Mohitnagar at Jalpaiguri

Exposure Visits

- Joint Director, Directorate of Horticulture, Nagaland: The Government of Nagaland, Directorate of Horticulture, Kohima, conducted a three-day training and exposure visit from 28- 30 April 2025 to Regional Station, Vittal.

Radio/ TV Programme

- Dr. Ravi Bhat, Principal Scientist participated in a session by the Namma Kudla, Mangalore TV Channel on the subject 'Summer advisory for coconut farmers' on 02 April 2025.

Exhibition

- Institute pavilion was arranged during the Silver Jubilee celebration of ICAR -KVK, Shivamogga under Tipani Nayaka Krishna Math University of National Science, Shivamogga from 26 - 28 April, 2025.



ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendras

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan in Kasaragod: Science-Driven Outreach for Sustainable Farming

As part of the nationwide Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan (VKSA 2025), ICAR-KVK Kasaragod, in collaboration with ICAR-CPCRI and other ICAR institutes, organized an impactful grassroots

campaign with the theme 'Science to the Field' from May 29 May 2025 to 12 June 2025. The teams could reach over 11,500 stakeholders across 119 villages in 38 Grama Panchayats. Focused trainings were imparted across coastal, midland, and highland agro-ecosystems.



Sri E. Chandrasekharan, MLA Kanhangad inaugurated Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan activities



Director addressing the gathering



Farmers Training and Farmer-Scientist Interaction Session

On Farm Trials (OFT)

The KVK, Kasaragod has initiated 2 OFTs, 8 frontline demonstrations, SCSP, TSP and various extension activities during the period. Assessment of high yielding of rice varieties (Sahyadri Panchamukhi, Shayadhri Brahma, KAU Mithila, and assessment of new tapioca varieties in Kasaragod were conducted in the 10 farmers' fields of Kasaragod and

Manjeshwar block of Kasaragod Dist.

Frontline Demonstrations (FLD)

The KVK, Kasaragod has initiated 8 frontline demonstrations on coconut farming, intercropping, tuber crops, integrated arecanut disease control, integrated nutrient management and dairy farming.

Capacity development programs

The KVK, Kasaragod organized five skill development and thematic training programmes. A total of 121 farmers and rural youth, comprising 72 women and 49 men, participated and benefitted from these capacity-building initiatives.

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Alappuzha**Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) from 29 May to 12 June, 2025**

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Alappuzha organized the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan campaign for 15 days from 29 May to 12 June, 25 in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture, ICAR

institutes, and Kerala Agrl. University covering all the 78 LSG units in the district reaching more than 26000 farmers. Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-CTCRI attended the VKSA programme on 31 May 2025.



Programmes in connection with the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan campaign

Workshop on entrepreneurship conducted

One day workshop on “Prospects of entrepreneurship in Agricultural sector and supporting Govt. schemes” was organized in KVK-Alappuzha for the members of Global Entrepreneurship Mission (GEM), an offshoot of

Kerala Government Contractors Association (KGCA) on 15 May 2025. About forty potential entrepreneurs also participated in the programme including field and unit visits.

**Technology Commercialization**

During the period from April-June 2025, 12 technologies were commercialized and an amount of Rs. 4,40,000/- was collected as technology transfer fees.



Other Information

World Environment Day

Kasaragod

The ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, celebrated World Environment Day jointly with the Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department on June 5, 2025. The theme of the day was 'Ending Plastic Pollution'. A tree plantation drive organized within the institute campus.

District Panchayat President, Smt. Baby Balakrishnan was the chief guest. The programme was chaired by Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI. The institute has been

recognized as a "Green Campus" by Haritha Mission, Government of Kerala.

The guest of honour of the event, Dr. Arun M. Isloor, Professor, HAG, NITK, Surathkal delivered a keynote address on the theme 'Beat plastic pollution'. The other distinguished speakers included Shri P. Biju, Deputy Conservator of Forest, and Shri Ananda, Project Director, ATMA, Kasaragod district.



World Environment Day Celebrated in ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

Kayamkulam

World Environment Day was celebrated at ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam on 5th June 2025. Students, farmers and staff of CPCRI and KVK, Alappuzha participated in the celebrations. Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head, presided over the function. Shri. C. Rajendran IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Rtd.) was the Chief Guest. Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Principal Scientist, delivered a lecture on the theme 'Beat plastic pollution'. An elocution competition was conducted for the students of Krishnapuram Government U. P. School. AI based collage competition was organised for the staff. Saplings were planted for the establishment of a butterfly park.



World Environment Day was celebrated in both Kayamkulam and KVK Alappuzha

KVK, Kasaragod

World Environment Day (June 5) was observed with programme on eco-friendly farming and water conservation. CPCRI's multistoried cropping systems and open-precision plots served as practical models for sustainable intensification.

Varieties Registration

Kalpa Ratna (IND-010S), Kalpa Sreshta (IND 446), Kalpa Haritha, Kerachandra, Kalpa Surya and Kalpa Jyothi coconut varieties were registered with PPVFRA, New Delhi.

National / International evel seminars/ symposia attended

Name and Designation	Title	Place and Date
Dr. V. Niral, Crop Improvement, Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Crop Protection, Dr. P. Subramanian, Crop Production, Dr. Murali Gopal, PB & PHT, Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Social Science and Dr. M. K. Rajesh, Heads, Dr. Augustine Jerad B. (PC Palms), Dr. H.P. Maheswarappa, Dr. M.R. Manikantan, Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Dr. K.P. Chandran, Pr. Scientists, Dr. M. Sujithra, Dr. V.H. Prathibha, Dr. N. R. Nagaraja, Dr. Surekha, Dr. Sandip Shil and Dr. Diwakar Y. Sr. Scientists, Dr. Daliyamol. Dr. Mahendran B., Scientists	AGM of AICRP on Plantation crops	AC&RI Madurai 7-9 May 2025
Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head, Social Sciences	Consultative workshop MANAGE, Hyderabad	26-27 June, 2025
Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director Dr. B. A. Jerad, Project Coordinator Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Pr. Scientist & Head (Crop Protection)	International Conference on Date Palm 2025	Bhuji, Gujarat during 29-30 June 2025.
Mr. Devaraj K., Technical Officer	International conference on Advancements in Power, Communication and Intelligent System (APCI 2025)	Government College of E Engineering Kannur 27 and 28 June 2025
Dr. Rajkumar, Sr. Scientist, Div. of Crop Protection	Attended 19 th Annual Review Workshop of Mission for Integrated Development of of Horticulture/ National Horticulture Mission programmes	VANMATI, College of Agriculture Nagpur Campus , Dr. PDKV Akola from 26 th – 27 th June 2025



Upcoming Events

The 26th Biennial Symposium on Plantation Crops (PLACROSYM) will be held at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod from 5 to 7 January 2026 on the theme “Future Proofing Plantation sector for wellbeing and welfare”. The symposium will have 6 technical sessions to explore the plantation sector.

Facilities created

Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and accessories worth Rs 30.0 lakhs installed at Regional Station, Kayamkulam.



New Projects Initiated

- A project entitled 'Quality and Microbial Safety of Arecanut with Reference to Food Safety Guidelines of India' was sanctioned with a budget of ₹14,87,000 for a duration of one year from KRASS, Shivamogga. Dr. S. Paulraj, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Microbiology), ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, is the Principal Investigator of the project.
- A project entitled 'Diagnosis and Management of Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) of Arecanut (*Areca catechu* L.)' has been sanctioned under RKVY with an outlay of ₹13 lakh for 2025-26. Dr. Thava Prakasa Pandian, Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Vittal, is the Principal Investigator of the project.
- A project entitled 'Development of solar assisted snowball tender coconut machine' was sanctioned under the (AICRP on PHET) with a budget of Rs. 13 lakh for a duration one year. Dr. Manikantan M.R., Principal Scientist, Div of PB& PHT, ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod is the Principal Investigator of the project.
- A project entitled 'Development of process technology for the production of shelf stable coconut milk residue based selected cereal and millet flours (AICRP on PHET)' was sanctioned under the (AICRP on PHET) with a budget of Rs. 13 lakh for a duration one year. Dr. Hima John, Scientist, Div of PB & PHT, ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod is the PI of the project.
- A multi-institutional project titled "Evidence-Based Research on Arecanut and Human Health" has been launched under the funding of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The project commenced on April 1, 2025, with Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI, serving as the Principal Investigator



Personalia

APPOINTMENT

Name	Designation	Place	Date
Shri. Niraj Verma	Technician- T1	CPCRI, RS, Vittal	16.04.2025
Smt. Nalla Naveena	Asst. Finance & Accounts Officer	CPCRI, Kasaragod	09.06.2025

PROMOTIONS

Name of the staff	From (Designation)	To (Designation)	w.e.f.
Dr. K.M. Anes	Sr. Scientist	Sr. Scientist 13 (A)	03.05.2023
Dr. Anok Uchoi	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01.01.2024
Dr. Diwakar	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01.01.2024
Dr. Indhuja S.	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01.07.2023
Dr. Shameena Beegum P.P.	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01.01.2024
Shri Hareesh G.S.	Senior Technical Officer (T-6)	Asst. Chief Technical Officer (T-7-8)	29.07.2024
Shri K. Krishnan Nair	Technical Officer (Field /Farm)	Senior Technical Officer (T-6)	05.08.2024

TRANSFER

Name of the staff	From (Place)	To (Place)	w.e.f.
Shri Pradeepkumar Vasu	AAO, ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	Administrative Officer ICAR-DCR, Puttur	13.05.2025
Dr. Shameena, Beegum, P.P., Senior Scientist	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod	ICAR- IISR, Kozhikode	13.6.2025
Dr. Sujithra M., Senior Scientist	ICAR – CPCRI, Kasaragod	ICAR- NBAIR, Bengaluru	25.06.2025
Smt. Mary A.J., UDC	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod (On Deputation)	ICAR- CIFT, Kochi (On Deputation)	09.06.2025

RETIREMENT

Name	Designation	Place	Date
Dr. Aparna Veluru	Scientist	CPCRI, Kasaragod	Resignation on 30.4.25
Shri Dayanandan Unnithan	Technical Officer	CPCRI, KVK, Alappuzha	31.05.2025
Shri M. Krishnan	Technician	CPCRI, Kasaragod	30.04.2025
Shri K. Sukumaran	Technician	CPCRI, Kasaragod	30.04.2025
Shri K. Krishnan Nair	STO	CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.05.2025
Shri K.G. Suresh Babu	SSS	CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.05.2025
Smt. V. Thambai	SSS	CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.05.2025
Shri C. Sundaran	SSS	CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	31.05.2025
Smt. B. Meenakshi	SSS	CPCRI, RC, KIDU	31.05.2025
Smt. K. Jayashree	Assistant	KVK, Kasaragod	30.06.2025
Shri B. Anil Kumar	ACTO	CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	31.05.2025



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കർഷകൻ നാളെ
മാറ്റം വരുത്താൻ കഴിയും
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Published by: Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI
Compiled and edited by: Dr. Ravi Bhat and Shri H. Muralikrishna
Photo credits: Shri K. Shyama Prasad
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