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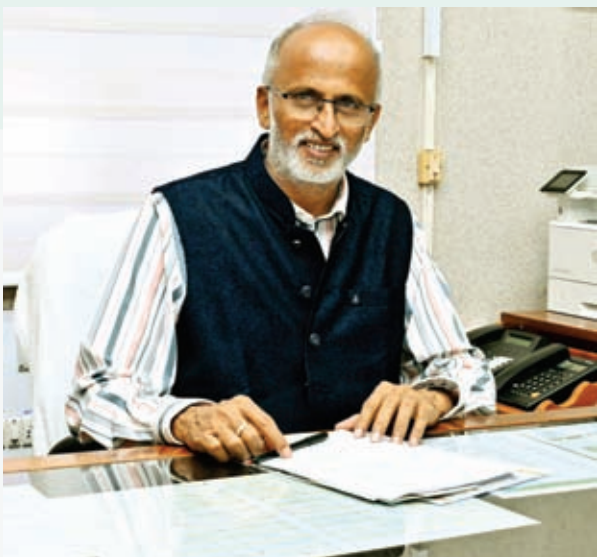
January- March, 2026



ICAR-CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Kasaragod, Kerala - 671 124

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute



DIRECTOR'S DESK

This issue of the ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR–CPCRI) Newsletter highlights the Institute's research, technology development, outreach and collaborative initiatives undertaken during the first quarter of 2026. A major highlight was the successful organisation of PLACROSYM XXVI, which brought together researchers, policymakers, industry representatives and farmers to develop a future-ready roadmap for the plantation sector with a vision towards 2047. The quarter also witnessed strategic deliberations during the XXVIII Research Advisory Committee meeting, a national workshop on food safety standards in the coconut value chain, and a brainstorming meeting under the All India Coordinated

Research Project on Plantation Crops, reflecting the Institute's commitment to addressing emerging research and development priorities.

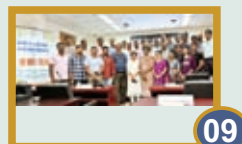
The newsletter also showcases advances in crop improvement, natural resource management, plant protection, post-harvest technology, value addition, capacity building and technology dissemination.

I congratulate all contributors to this newsletter and express my sincere appreciation to our stakeholders for their continued support and partnership for the advancement in the plantation sector.

K. Balachandra Hebbar
Director

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SPOTLIGHT

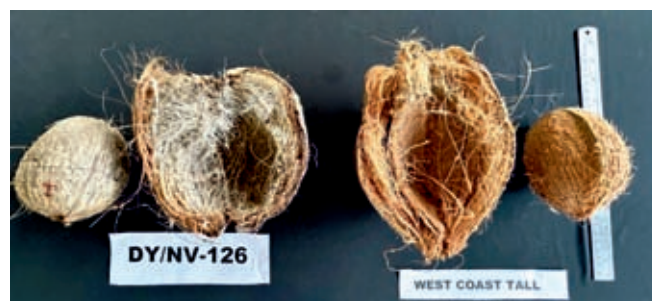
- A sweet husked coconut germplasm was collected from farmer's field in Karnataka. The mesocarp of tender fruits of this

palm was sweet and without bitterness, unlike normal coconuts. The mesocarp had a higher Brix value of 8.5. Further,

the husk of the mature fruits were found to be turn blacker unlike the brown husk colour in normal fruits.



Appearance of Mesocarp



Upon maturity husk and shell turns blackish

- Three coconut accessions were collected by the AICRP on Plantation Crops, Veppankulam Centre, for further conservation and evaluation. These include a selection from Manora Tall characterized by orange-brown coloured fruits, a kernel

thickness of 1.2 cm, and free from eriophyid mite incidence, along with two selections from Madukkur.

- Apart from cocoa seed pods, seedlings, grafts and budded plants, CPCRI, Regional Station, Vittal will supply scion sticks

(Rs. 15/-) and bud woods (Rs. 30/-) also for ease of long distance transportation for establishment of mother gardens in non-traditional states including NE states.



TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainable management of root-knot nematode infestation in turmeric intercropped in coconut system using antagonistic fungi

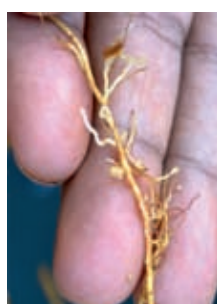
Coconut-based mixed cropping systems were widely practised in India, integrating perennial and seasonal crops such as banana, black pepper, betel vine, ginger, turmeric, and papaya within the

same plot. This system of different crop durations enhances land-use efficiency and farmers' income. However, plant parasitic nematodes pose a serious challenge, leading to reduced farm productivity and economic losses. Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.), is a common intercrop but is highly affected by root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*), leading to

yield loss. The field evaluation of soil application of talc-based formulations of fungal bio-agents, *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Pochonia chlamydosporia* @ 50 g mixed with 2 kg of farmyard manure per 2 m² beds at planting and again 45 days effectively reduced nematode population by 60–74%, offering a sustainable and eco-friendly management option.



Turmeric intercropped coconut and 2nd stage juvenile of *M. incognita*



Galls on roots caused by *M. incognita*



Disease-free turmeric harvest resulting in well developed rhizomes

GLOBAL ISSUES (SECTORAL, TRADE, EX-IMP, MSP, Etc.)

Agriculture and rural transformation- national cashew and cocoa development programme towards self reliance and global brand leadership by 2030 by Govt. of India.

To reduce India's dependency on high-value crops like cocoa, the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, during her 2026-27 budget speech, announced a dedicated program for Indian cocoa.

The aim is to make India self-reliant in cocoa production and processing, enhance export competitiveness, and transform Indian cocoa into

premium global brands by 2030. This program will be launched in partnership with states and other stakeholders.

An appropriate institutional mechanism is being formulated to ensure effective implementation and the participation of farmer producer organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, and industries.

During the post-budget webinar, discussions were held on the identification of production clusters, existing infrastructure gaps, priority interventions, and opportunities to converge with ongoing schemes, including the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and related value chain initiatives.



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Foundation day of CPCRI @110 and inauguration of PLACROSYM XXVI

ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, celebrated its 110th Foundation day on 05 January 2026, inaugurated by Prof. Siddu P. Algur, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala. Prof. Algur highlighted challenges in the plantation sector such as climate risks and labour shortages, emphasizing research, technology, and data-driven farming for future resilience.

The event featured the 26th Plantation Crops Symposium (PLACROSYM XXVI) from 5-7 January 2026 themed 'Future proofing plantation sector for wellbeing and welfare,' with over 200 delegates including scientists, policymakers, and farmers. Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director of CPCRI, outlined focus areas like climate adaptation, pest management, mechanization, and farmer income enhancement, also sharing recent institute achievements.

Key guests included Dr. P. Rethinam, Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, and other prominent directors from leading research institutes. Dr. K.U.K. Nampoothiri delivered a Dr. K.V.A. Bavappa memorial lecture on 'Hunger Elimination.'

New coconut-based products were

launched, and MoUs signed with entrepreneurs for innovative varieties and products. Awards recognized outstanding scientific teams, staff, and progressive farmers.

The programme, attended by around 400 participants, concluded successfully with scientific presentations and acknowledgments, celebrating ICAR-CPCRI's rich legacy and future vision in plantation agriculture



Glimpses of Foundation Day and PLACROSYM XXVI at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

Strategic priorities emerged from the symposium for plantation sector

- Evolving varieties with tolerance to drought, heat, flood, salinity, and emerging pests and diseases using advanced breeding tools including marker-assisted selection.
- Establishment of nucleus seed gardens in public and private sectors for assured supply of quality planting material of improved varieties, supported by in vitro propagation and molecular approaches.
- Policy support for diversified cropping systems to enhance productivity, resilience, and farmers' income.
- Promotion of AI, sensors, site-specific nutrient management, sensor-based irrigation, and real-time diagnostics using biosensors and AI-based image analytics.
- Strengthening research on carbon capture potential of plantation ecosystems and exploring carbon credit opportunities for farmers.
- Fostering collaborations for development of tools and

machinery to reduce drudgery in plantation operations.

- Organizing Annual Plantation Crops Festival to create awareness about plantation crops, their value-added products, and their contribution to health and wellness.
- Exploring opportunities for high-value products from both primary produce and by-products across plantation crops.
- Development of attractive packaging, branding, and awareness campaigns highlighting the health, wellness, and medicinal properties of plantation products.

The symposium emphasized that achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires transforming plantation crops into highly productive, technology-driven, market-oriented, and environmentally sustainable systems that enhance farmers' income while contributing to nutrition, health, and export growth. The deliberations clearly brought out that the future of the plantation sector must be anchored in climate resilience, quality planting material, digital and precision technologies, carbon-smart production systems, mechanisation, value addition, and strong policy convergence.

Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The XXVIII Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of the ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, was held on 24-25 February 2026. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Balraj Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, SKNAU, Jobner, Rajasthan, and Chairman of the RAC. The other members of the RAC include: Dr. K.V. Bhat, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi; Dr. P. Devasenapathy, Retired Professor, TNAU, Coimbatore,

Tamil Nadu; Dr. Chinmay Biswas, Principal Scientist, Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, West Bengal; Dr. V. Palanimuthu, Director, National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Prem Chand, CACP, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi; Dr. Prem Chand, CACP; Dr. Tejaswi G. Gowda, Jeevan Jyothi Estate, Mudigere (IMC member); Dr. V.B. Patel, Assistant Director General (HS-I), ICAR, KAB-II, New Delhi; K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod and Dr. V. Niral, Pr. Scientist and Head, Division of Crop Improvement, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod (Member Secretary). All members of the RAC participated in the deliberations, with Dr. Prem Chand joining online.

The RAC meeting was attended by Heads of divisions, Heads of Regional Stations, thematic programme leaders and scientific staff from Headquarters, Regional Station, Vittal and Research Centre, Kidu. The meeting commenced with an introductory presentation by the Director, K. B. Hebbar, outlining the overall organizational structure, mandate, achievements, and strategic directions of the Institute. This was followed by the presentation of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the recommendations of the XXVII RAC, by the Member Secretary Dr. V. Niral. Subsequently, the Programme Leaders of the eight thematic areas, presented the activities undertaken during the review period, highlighting key achievements and outlining future research directions under their respective projects.

The RAC members visited the fields and laboratories of the Institute and obtained information on the current facilities. The Committee, after reviewing the progress of research at the Institute, gave recommendations for fine-tuning

the research activities. These will be incorporated into the institute research projects for implementation, in the forthcoming Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting.



A glimpse of RAC meeting at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

National Science Day 2026 and industry meet

National Science Day 2026 was celebrated at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod on 27 February 2026, along with an Industry Meet.

Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, delivered the presidential address. He highlighted the institute's achievements and noted that impactful outcomes depend on stakeholder demand. He also emphasized dissemination of CPCRI technologies at nominal cost and the importance of soil health for sustaining agricultural productivity. The Industry Meet was inaugurated during the programme. Around 250 participants attended, and products developed by entrepreneurs were displayed.

A technical session followed, comprising expert talks on various themes:

1. Dr. T.S. Manojkumar, Head, KVK - Farm research opportunities in Kasaragod.
2. Dr. S. Jayasekhar - Overview of CPCRI technology portfolio, including varieties and non-food technologies.
3. Dr. Hima John - Coconut-based food products and innovations.
4. Mr. Alfin Santhosh (APEDA, Kochi) - Export facilitation and APEDA support.

1. Ms. Aparna K. (Canara Bank) – Credit support for agri-based enterprises and start-ups.
2. 6. Mr. Sajith Kumar (DIC Kasaragod) – Government schemes and support for entrepreneurs.
3. Dr. Yogendra N.D. (CSIR-CIMAP, Bengaluru) – Scope for medicinal and aromatic plants in entrepreneurship.

MoUs were exchanged for technologies including Kalpa Vardhini (with ICAR-KVK Kozhikode and South Malabar Enterprises) and carbonated tender coconut water (with KVK Taliparamba).

An experience-sharing session was conducted by Smt. T.K. Annamma (M/s Bless Farm Flave Enterprises). A technology clinic was also organized by District Industries Centre (DIC), Kasaragod, focusing on industrial and technical aspects.



A view of National Science Day

National workshop on 'issues and challenges of food safety standards in the coconut value chain'

A one-day national workshop on 'issues and challenges of food safety standards in the coconut value chain' was organised at the ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, on 11 March 2026 under the ICAR-NASF project on

global value chain analysis of plantation crops of India with special emphasis on food safety standards.

The workshop brought together experts, policymakers, researchers, exporters, and industry representatives to discuss the importance of food safety standards and quality compliance in enhancing the global competitiveness of coconut and coconut-based products. Participants included representatives from the food safety and standards authority of India, Coconut Development Board, Export Inspection Agency, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, and industry representatives such as Marico Ltd. and KLF Nirmal Pvt. Ltd., along with scientists and researchers of ICAR-CPCRI.

Discussions highlighted the need for compliance with international food safety regulations, improved testing and certification infrastructure, adoption of GAP, GMP, and HACCP-based systems, and stronger traceability mechanisms across the coconut value chain. Key issues such as product adulteration, contamination risks, high certification costs, and supply chain challenges were also discussed. During the technical deliberations, constraints faced by stakeholders in complying with international food safety standards, limited awareness of evolving international standards, challenges faced by small-scale producers and processors in meeting compliance requirements, and gaps in quality infrastructure, including the need for improved testing and certification facilities were highlighted.

The workshop was presided over by K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI. Dr. Sanu Jacob, Director, NFL-FSSAI was the Chief Guest.

The programme was

coordinated by Dr. S. Jayasekhar, Pr. Scientist and PI of NASF project and Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head, ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam. Discussions were moderated by Dr. C. Thamban, Sr. Fellow, MSSRF and Dr. Murali Gopal, Head, PB & PHT, ICAR-CPCRI.

The workshop concluded with recommendations to strengthen quality infrastructure, harmonise standards with international norms, and enhance stakeholder awareness to support India's coconut export sector. After the workshop, a press meet was conducted at the media house Kayamkulam, and the outcome of the workshop was conveyed to the media.



Participants of national workshop on 'issues and challenges of food safety standards in the coconut value chain'

Online brainstorming meeting on oil-yielding and neera tapping palms

The AICRP on Plantation Crops organized an online brainstorming meeting on 'Oil-yielding and neera-tapping palms' on 17 March 2026 at CPCRI, Kasaragod. The meeting was chaired by Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.

Dr. B. Augustine Jerard, Project Coordinator, AICRP on Plantation Crops and Convener, delivered his introductory remarks, followed by remarks from the Chairman. The technical session featured oil-yielding and sap-producing palms across India, beyond coconut and oil palm. Topics included, genetic resources conserved in field gene

banks, potential alternative oil-yielding species, and the status of sap-yielding palms such as wild date palm, palmyrah, caryota, nypa, and raffia.

Regional insights on neera production and utilization from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh, along with technologies developed for neera collection and processing, were

also discussed. The emphasis was on identifying potential in underutilized palms and commercialization.

The panel discussed on, future research, technology development, and policy interventions to promote sustainable utilization of these palm resources. Overall, the event highlighted the untapped potential of lesser-known palms

and set the stage for strengthening research collaboration and value addition in the plantation sector.



Brainstorming meeting on oil-yielding and neera tapping palms



PUBLICATION

Research articles

Daliyamol, Prathibha, V.H., Kamal Kumar, Samsudeen, K., Arun S. Kumar, Sabana, A.A. and Hegde, V. 2026. New insights into *exserohilum rostratum*: a rising cause of black spot disease in coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.). *Australasian Plant Pathology*, **55** (13). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13313-026-01097-y>. NAAS Rating: 7.10.

Kireeti, A., Ramanandam, G., Rao, V.G., Neeraja, B., Rao, N.B.V., Apshara, S.E., Sumitha, S. and Jerard, B.A. 2026. Stability analysis of cocoa clones for yield in the humid tropics of India. *Frontiers in Plant Science Plant Breeding* **17**, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2026.1767516>.

Mog, B., Harsha, S.G., Sharma, L., Adiga, J.D., Rangappa, K., Mangalassery, S., Ramesh, S.V., Narayanappa, M.G., Mohana, G.S., Lakshmana, V.G. and Bhagya, H.P. 2026. Integrated physiological, biochemical and hormonal traits determine drought tolerance and yield stability in cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.). *Scientific Reports* **16**: 10179, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-39321-w>.

Neema, M., Aparna, V., Sudha, R., Chandran, K.P., Zaeema, F., Sugatha, P. and Ramesh, S.V.

2026. Effect of charcoal-impregnated calcium alginate spherules in mitigating polyphenolic interference in coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) suspension cultures. *In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology - Plant*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11627-025-10616-3>. NAAS Rating: 7.90.

Pandiselvam, R., Sunny, D., Manikantan, M.R., Subramanian, P., Ramesh, S.V., Jacob, A., Surekha, R. and Alka Gupta 2026. Impact of organic and inorganic farming practices on physicochemical properties and antioxidant potential of coconut oil. *Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-026-04242-9>. NAAS Rating: 9.30.

Pandiselvam, R., Mohan, S., Manikantan, M.R., Jacob, A., Ramesh, S.V., Shameena Beegum, P.P. and Sumitha, S., 2026. Development and characterization of palmyra pulp jelly: evaluating the impact of coconut sugar concentration on nutritional, antioxidant, and sensory properties. *Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization*, **20**: 2949–2958. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-025-03873-8>. NAAS Rating: 9.30.

Rajeswari, K., Poojary, R., Shruptha, P., Rajesh, M.K., Satyamoorthy, K. and Paul, B. 2026. Genome mining algorithm for identifying identical repeat sequences to enhance DNA-based diagnostic assays. *Genome*, **69**(1): 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1139/gen-2025-0027>. NAAS Rating: 7.70.

Sabana, A.A., Rajesh, M.K., Habeeb, J., Sujithra, M. and Josephraj Kumar, A. 2026. Validation of suitable reference genes for gene expression studies in rugose spiraling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin) under various experimental conditions. *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42690-026-01826-2>. NAAS Rating: 7.20.

Singh, L.S., Niral, V., Acharya, G.C., Chaithra, M., Alpna Das and Jyoti Roy 2026. Performance of local coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) germplasm under Assam conditions of the North East region of India. *Plant Science Today*, **13**(1): 1-5. NAAS Rating: 6.00.

Shameena Beegum, P.P., Suresha, K.B., Alka Gupta, Akhina, A., Pandiselvam, R., Ramesh, S.V., Manikantan, M.R. and Murali Gopal 2026. Physicochemical, sensory, and shelf-life characterization of a sustainable ready-to-drink coconut

beverage from defatted coconut flour as an alternative to dairy-based flavored milk. *Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-026-04066-7>. NAAS Rating: 9.30.

Sudha, R., Neema, M., Niral, V., Samsudeen, K., Veluru, Chandran, K.P., Sivakumar, V. and Ananthan, M. R. 2026. Pollen-based screening of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) varieties for tolerance to high temperature and drought stress. *Plant Science Today Online*, 1-9.

Popular articles

Anithakumari, P. 2026. Legumes along with coconut: nutrition for soil and humans (In Malayalam). *Indian Naleeka Journal* **18**(1):12-15.

Jerard, B.A., Jaisankar, I., Damodaran, V. and Sumitha, S. 2026. Home scale virgin coconut oil production. *Indian Coconut Journal*, **68** (7): 26-28.

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value addition of coconut pulp (In Malayalam). *Indian Naleekera Journal* **18**(3):11-13.

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Ponnusamy, K., Manikantan, M.R., Beegum, S.P.P. and Sona, S. 2026. Coconut frozen delicacy - reimagining ice cream for health-conscious consumers. *Indian Coconut Journal* **68**(8):5-9.

Ponnusamy, K. and Malathi, G. 2026. Turning coconut shell waste into wealth through art and craft innovation. *Indian Coconut Journal* **68**(9): 29-31.

Rajkumar, Surekha, R., Ramesh, T.J. and Hebbar, K.B. 2026. A participatory stakeholder convergence approach to empower farmers in coconut cultivation. *Indian Coconut Journal* **68**(8): 26-27.

Rajkumar, Bhat, R. and Surekha, R. 2026. Potential for coconut cultivation in Bidar district of Karnataka. *Indian Coconut Journal* **68** (9): 18-19.

Sivakumar, T. 2026. Insect pests during summer season. *Karshakasree* **34**(02):32-33.

Books

Bhat, R., Prathibha, V.H. and Jayasekhar, S. 2026. Book of

Abstracts - PLACROSYM XXVI. Future Proofing Plantation Sector for Wellbeing and Welfare. ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala, 188p.

Bhat, R., Prathibha, V.H. and Jayasekhar, S. 2026. Souvenir - PLACROSYM XXVI, 5-7 January 2026, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala, 58p.

Book Chapter

Khanashyam, A.C., Roy, S., Schnurr, Manikantan, M.R. and Pandiselvam, R. 2026. Chapter 11 - Coconut milk-based dairy analogues: Flavored coconut milk, ice cream, paneer, and yogurt. *Coconut-Based Beverages and Products*: 247-262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-443-26532-7.00002-2>.

Technical advisory

Muralidharan, P., Rajeev, M.S., Sivakumar, T., Lekha, G., Sajjanath, K. and Krishnapriya, K.S. 2026. Crop calendar for Poovan Banana varieties. KVK-Alappuzha.

E- Publication

Surekha, Rajkumar and Chandran, K.P. 2026. Video on SCSP trainee's skill activities on improved coconut production, cinnamon bark processing, bio-agents production, precision farming, value addition technologies etc. ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Deputation abroad

Name & designation	Programme Title	Place & date
Dr. Niral, V., Principal Scientist & Head, Crop Improvement	4 th International Conference of Tropical Plants (ICTP 2026) to be organized by International Coconut Community	Sign Hotel, Chonburi, Thailand

Rashtriya Karmayogi training programme

Training programme on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva training was conducted by Dr. S. Jayasekhar, Principal Scientist and Shri R.N. Subramanian SAO for the employees of ICAR-CPCRI and neighbouring Institutes.

Training for the staff of ICAR-CPCRI, headquarters was held on 20, 21 and 29 January 2026. The same was organized for ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Vittal on 23 January 2026, and on 28 January 2026 for ICAR-CPCRI, Kayamkulam. All the regular staff participated in the training programme.



Rashtriya Karmayogi Training Programme at Kasaragod

Awards and Recognition

- Dr. Niral V., Head, Crop Improvement received Fellow

of Indian Society for Plantation Crops (ISPC) award for outstanding contribution to plantation crops on the occasion of PLACROSYM held during 05-07 January 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.

- Dr. Rajkumar, Senior Scientist (Nematology) received the Best Coconut Scientist Award for the biennium 2024-2025 from the ISPC at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. The award was conferred during the PLACROSYM-XXVI Award Ceremony held on 06 January 2026, in recognition of their outstanding cont

Best Oral Presentation Award

Dr. Chandran K.P., Dr. Jayasekhar S., Dr. Subramanian P., Dr. Sandip Shil and Dr. Ponnusamy K. received

Dr. D. Jaganathan award for best oral presentation for the research paper on Term Sheet for Restructured Weather based Crop Insurance in Coconut during PLACROSYM XXVI held at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod from 05-07

January 2026. Dr. Shameena Beegum, P.P. and Dr. M.R. Manikantan received the best oral presentation award during PLACROSYM.

Recognition

Dr. Daliyamol and Dr. Hima John, scientists, received excellence awards for flash talk presentations at the International Conference of ICC and CPCRI.

Dr. Diwakar, Y., Sr. Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Kidu, has been awarded the Fellow of the Society for Horticultural Research and Development (SHRD) Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. P. Anithakumari and her contributions to coconut team received the Best Scientific Team award for impactful farmer participatory technology transfer.

Institute Awards

Dr. B.J. Nirmal Kumar and Shri Mohammed Haneefa were honoured as the best technical and administrative staff members.



TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

SCSP ACTIVITIES

Valedictory of SCSP (2025-26 batch) Skill Development Training Programme

The valedictory function of six-month skill development training programme for the scheduled caste trainees under the SCSP was organized at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod on 22 January 2026. Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, addressed the trainees and distributed certificates on the occasion.

A total 24 trainees were successfully completed the skill training

programme on improved coconut production technologies, production of *Trichoderma* & bio-control agents, computer application in plantation crops, precision farming and soil sample analysis and coconut value added products from 22 July 2025 to 22 January 2026. It was coordinated by Rajkumar, Surekha and Chandran K.P.



Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director handing over certificates to the trainees



Group photo of SCSP trainee and Staffs ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod

Field day-cum-training on coconut climbing to SC youth

A field day-cum-training programme on coconut climbing was organized on 27 January 2026 under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) at the premises of KVK, Kasaragod, in collaboration with KVK Kasaragod and Krishi Bhavan, Badiadka. The programme aimed to motivate unemployed youth to take

up skill-oriented fieldwork such as coconut harvesting, crown cleaning, and plant protection measures, thereby enhancing their income opportunities. A total of 16 Scheduled Caste youths from the Kasaragod district benefited from the training. The participants were also provided with coconut-climbing devices to support their field activities and livelihood. Dr. Benjamin Mathew, Surekha and Rajkumar coordinated the programme.



Distribution of coconut climbing devices for SC farmers

Field day for SCSP trainees to ICG-SME, Kidu

A field day programme was organized for the trainees of the SCSP skill development training programme on 19 January 2026 to the International Coconut Gene bank for South Asia and the Middle East (ICG-SME) at ICAR-CPCRI, Kidu. During the visit, trainees were made aware of various coconut mother palm blocks comprising

different hybrids, varieties, and germplasm lines. They demonstrated the process of coconut hybridization techniques, integrated nutrient, water, and pest and disease management, and nut collection for raising quality planting material in the nursery, and the programme was coordinated by Rajkumar, Diwakar Y., and Surekha. Also visited ICAR-CPCRI, Vittal, where they were demonstrated crop



Field Day for SCSP Trainees to ICG-SME, Kidu

management practices of arecanut and cocoa plantations.

TSP training

The training programme on handicraft using coconut shells was conducted at CPCRI from 16- 17 February 2026 for 33 tribal youth of Kasaragod district under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project. Majority of participants belonged to women. The programme aims to promote waste-to-wealth initiatives, enhance livelihood opportunities, and develop entrepreneurial skills among tribal youths through value-added coconut-based crafts.

On campus training programmes

Three trainings on 'Good agricultural practices on plantation crops' were organized for stakeholders-120 numbers (Input dealers under DAESI-KVK, Jalpaiguri and ATC-Cooch Behar) at RC, Mohitnagar on 14 January 2026, 3 February 2026 and 2 March 2026.

One training programme on 'Good agricultural practices of plantation crops' was organized for the farmers

(26 numbers) of Kishanganj, Bihar at RC, Mohitnagar on 20 March 2026.

One training cum input distribution (arecanut) programme on scientific cultivation of arecanut and crop diversification within the system for better livelihood for tribal farmers (50 numbers) under TSP at RC, Mohitnagar.

An orientation programme on Technologies on plantation crops for better livelihood was organized for the 40 UG students (Botany, Zoology and Physiology) of AC College, Jalpaiguri on 15 January 2026.

Two numbers of training cum input distribution (arecanut seedlings for 31 farmers and vegetable seeds for 50 farm family) for the farmers belongs to SC community under SCSP was organized at RC, Mohitnagar on 16- 17 February 2026.

Off campus training programmes

ICAR-CPCRI has participated in a capacity building training programme under TSP organised by the Horticultural Research Station (HRS) in Yercaud, Salem district, under TNAU on 27 January 2026. Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head of the Social Science Division of CPCRI, presided over the function. An exhibition featuring value-added handicrafts made from coconut shells was highlighted as the potential secondary income. Coconut seedlings of CPCRI were distributed to over 150 tribal farmers from surrounding villages in Yercaud region of Salem district.

PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi

Release of the 22nd instalment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi on 13 March 2026. The Government of India released the 22nd instalment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi on 13 March 2026. In connection with this

nationwide programme, various awareness and outreach activities were organized by ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, and KVK, Kasaragod.

As part of the programme, interactions with farmers were conducted, highlighting the importance. Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head, Social Sciences, ICAR-CPCRI, participated in the programme held at Kanathur village in Parappa Block of Kasaragod district, Kerala.

Coverage of CPCRI activities and achievements by DD Kisan

Two member crew from DD Kisan, CPC Doordarshan, Khel Gaon, New

Delhi, documented various segments showcasing the innovations, technologies, successful farming practices, salient achievements, and success stories of ICAR-CPCRI at its Headquarters, Kasaragod, as well as at the fields of farmers/entrepreneurs who have benefitted from the institute.

The shooting was carried out from 21 to 25 January 2026. It is telecast on 12 February 2026. The scientists and staff of the institute facilitated the identification of suitable locations for the recordings and assisted in framing key talking points. The content presented was kept brief

and easily understandable for the viewers.

Radio Programmes

1. Jissy George, Live phone-in programme on 'Agro based enterprises', Kuttanad FM 90.0 on 12 February 2026.
2. Dr. P. Muralidharan, Live programme on 'Integrated nutrient management for enhanced crop production', Kuttanad FM 90.0, on 19 February 2026.
3. Dr. S. Ravi, Live programme on 'Summer stress management in livestock', Kuttanad FM 90.0, on 24 March 2026.



ICAR-KRSHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod

Workshop on Sustainable Lifestyle

A two-day workshop titled Sustainable Lifestyle was organized by ICAR KVK Kasaragod for 200 School students of Kasaragod district under National Green Corps (25-26 of

February 2026). The students were oriented towards various agriculture and allied topics by the resource persons from ICAR-CPCRI and ICAR KVK, Kasaragod.

A two-day Skill development training programme titled wealth from waste – handicrafts making

from coconut shell was organized by ICAR KVK, Kasaragod under Tribal Sub Plan activity (16-17 of February 2026).

The participants were given practical training in handicrafts making from coconut shell, coconut spindle leaves and other parts.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Alappuzha

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the KVK

24th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the KVK was conducted on 05 February 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. Twenty two invited members including Dr.

Sreevalsan J. Menon (ADE, KAU), Smt. Reshmi, C.R. (PD, ATMA), Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas (Head, CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam), Smt. Sindhu (District Manager, VFPC), Officers representing the Dept. of Agri., Animal Husbandry, Industries, ORARS (KAU), FPO leaders, and farmer entrepreneurs participated. KVK Newsletter Vol.

23 Issue 4 (October-December 2025), BananaCalendar, and two new value added products of banana were released on the occasion.

Earlier, the dignitaries inaugurated portable incubator unit, nutrient mixtures packing unit, and insect trap production unit at the KVK.



A view of SAC meeting and release of newsletter



TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

During the period from January-March 2026, 16 technologies were commercialized and an amount of Rs 6,53,250/- was collected as technology transfer fees.

Sl. No.	Name of Technology Commercialized	Date of MoU	Value of (INR)	To Whom Commercialized
01	Technical know-how of Production of Virgin Coconut Oil	05.01.2026	32000	Mrs. T.M. Annamma M/S Bless farm Flave Paarakkatta, Kasaod-671121
02	Frozen Coconut Delicacy	05.01.2026	20000	
03	Kalpasuvarna	05.01.2026	100000	Mr. Binoy P. C., Managing Director, Chully Farm Service Pvt. Ltd, Vellarikund- 671534, Keralam
04	Technical Knowhow of production of Coconut Chips	12.01.2026	25000	Mrs. Anusuya M/S Shivani Manufacture and Trading, Bengaluru Rural Dist.- 562135, Karnataka
05	Matured coconut water based value added products	12.01.2026	Complementary with chips	
06	Knowhow for production of bean to bite chocolate	03.02.2026	25000	Mrs. Pallavi Ved, M/s Velvet Fine chocolate, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088, Maharashtra
07	Preservation protocol for trimmed tender coconut	06.02.2026	25000	Dr. Suman S., Sri Vaademaalleshwara Nilaya, Bangalore South Dist., Karnataka- 562117
08	Kalpa Vardhini	24.02.2026	25000	ICAR-KrishiVigyan Kendra, Kozhikod- 673528 Keralam
09	Kalpa Vardhini	24.02.2026	25000	South Malabar Organic Fertilizers, Vaikkathur, Valanchery, Malappuram Dist., Keralam
10	Preservation of carbonated tender coconut water	27.02.2026	25000	Mrs. Sushama K.V. Manappattutharah Kannur Dist - 679142, Keralam
11	Trichoderma cake (Technology renewal)	06.03.2026	6250	Sreelatha T. K., Sreekrishna Agrofert, Ananthapuram DP Kasaragod, Keralam
12	Coconut chips	24.03.2026	25000	Prathik A.S., Vajrakaya Foods, Kanchaghatta, Tiptur- 572201
13	Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)	26.03.2026	40000	Mohammad R.W., F Block, Kottavalap Road Eriyal Akkare, PO Kudlu -671124- Kasaragod
14	VTLCS 1 (Vittal Cocoa Selection 1)	30.03.2026	80000	Mohan Kumar Velicheti, Nellore Kere farm, Mysore dist- 571121
15	VTLCS 2 (Vittal Cocoa Selection 2)	30.03.2026	80000	
16	VTLCH 5	30.03.2026	120000	
		Total	6,53,250/-	

VISIT OF DIGNATORIES

Dr. M.L. Jat, Hon'ble DG, ICAR, New Delhi visits ICAR-CPCRI, (RC) Kahikuchi

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE, and Director General, ICAR, visited ICAR-CPCRI, Research

Centre, Kahikuchi, Assam, on 19 January 2026. He was accompanied by Dr. A.K. Nayak, DDG (NRM), ICAR, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat; Director (Research), AAU, Jorhat; Dr. V.K. Gupta, Director, NRC on Pig and Dr.

S. Hazarika, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya. During his visit to the centre, the Hon'ble DG also visited the exhibits, farm, and nursery.



Visit of Hon'ble Secretary DARE and DG ICAR to Kahikuchi centre on 19 January 2026



NEW PROJECT INITIATED

A project titled 'Biochemical characterisation of arecanut (*Areca catechu* L.) for BIS quality standardization and size classification' with a financial outlay of Rs. 12.37 lakhs funded by the Totgars' Co-operative Sale Society (TSS) for two years from January 2026. Ramesh S.V., Senior Scientist (Biotechnology), ICAR-

CPCRI, Kasaragod is the Principal Investigator of the project.

A project on 'Empowering custodian farmers for agrobiodiversity conservation', has been funded by Kerala State Biodiversity Board the with an allocation of Rs. 7.64 lakhs to Dr. Benjamin Mathew, SMS, KVK,

Kasaragod as PI, for one year from February 2026.

The project titled 'Establishment of New Cocoa Nursery' has been initiated at ICAR - CPCRI, Mohitnagar, with a financial outlay of Rs. 10.00 lakhs from DCCD.

FACILITIES CREATED

- An ultracentrifuge (high-speed refrigerated centrifuge) used to separate, purify, and analyze small particles, such as proteins, nucleic acids, and cell organelles, has been installed in the Division of PB&PHT.
- An area of 2500 sq. m at CPCRI,

Kasaragod, was reclaimed with adaptive field management and made suitable for a palmyrah experimentation plot.



CELEBRATION

Republic day

ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, celebrated the 77th Republic Day on 26 January 2026. Dr. K.B. Hebbar, delivered the Republic Day message. Republic Day was also celebrated in all the Regional Stations and Research Centres of ICAR-CPCRI with national fervour.



Director hoisting the flag and delivering Republic Day message





WOMEN CELL ACTIVITIES

Awareness Programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at workplace

An awareness programme on the 'Prevention of sexual harassment at

workplace' was organized at ICAR-CPCRI Research Centre, Kidu on 05 March 2026 and ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod on 13 March 2026 for the staff. Total 63 participants, including around 22 women and 41

men participated in the programme at Kidu.

At Kasaragod total 77 women participated in the awareness programme.



Awareness Programme on the Prevention of sexual harassment at ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Kidu



Sensitization programme on creating safe work place for women

International Women's Day Kasaragod

International Women's Day was celebrated at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, on 09 March 2026 with Smt. Advocate Saritha S.N., as the Chief Guest. Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, presided over the programme. Dr. Alka Gupta, Principal Scientist and chairperson of the Women's Cell, spoke on gender equality and the vital role of women in building a progressive society.

Competitions were organized as part of the celebration, fostering creativity and participation among staff. Awards and certificates were distributed to winners and trainees. Dr. Neelofar Illias Kutty, Chief Technical Officer (Programme Assistant) (Home Science), honoured the recipient of the Best Award

KVK Alappuzha

International Women's Day was celebrated by the KVK highlighting

the primary global theme 'Give to Gain' and the UN focal theme 'Rights-Justice-Action. For all women and girls'. Three successful women Agri-preneurs, Smt. Ani S. Madhu, Smt. Sharika and Smt. Chanchala, trained and mentored by the KVK were honoured on the occasion. About 60 persons including women farmers, students and staff members participated in the meeting and listened to the experiences shared by the honoured farmers.



Smt. Advocate Saritha S. N., Chief Guest, addressing the gathering



Honouring of woman entrepreneur on International Women's Day

NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SEMINARS/ SYPOsia ATTENDED

Name and Designation	Title	Place and Date
Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, Dr. B.A. Jerad, Project Coordinator, AICRP (PC), Dr. Vinayaka Hegde, Dr. P. Subramanian, Dr. Murali Gopal, Dr. V. Niral, Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Dr. M. K. Rajesh and Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Heads, Dr. H.P. Maheswarappa, Dr. Ravi Bhat, Dr. Alka Gupta, Dr. S. Elain Apshara, Dr. Joseph Rajkumar, Dr. M.R. Manikantan and Dr. Selvamani, Pr. Scientists, Dr. S. Paulraj, Dr. S.V. Ramesh, Dr. V.H. Prathibha, Dr. Rajkumar, Dr. P.S. Prathibha, and Dr. N.R. Nagaraja, Sr. Scientists, Dr. B. Mahendran, Dr. Daliyamol, Dr. Hima John, Dr. Minnu Sasi, Dr. Thava Prakasa Pandian, Dr. Bhavishya, Dr. T.N. Madhu, Dr. Jilu V. Sajan and Dr. Ajith Kumar, Scientists, Smt. E.P. Ashamol, Sr. Technician and Dr. M. P. Jayashree, ACTO	PLACROSYM XXVI Future Proofing Plantation Sector for Wellbeing and Welfare	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod 05-07 January 2026
Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar Director and Dr. Ravi Bhat, Pr. Scientist	National Seminar on 'Pepper: an intercrop in arecanut for prosperity'	KSNUAHS, Shivamogga Karnataka 28 January 2026
Dr. Y. Diwakar, Scientist	4 th Indian Horticulture Summit International Conference	Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh 28-30 January 2026
Dr. K. Nihad and Dr. K.M. Anes Senior Scientists	38 th Kerala Science Congress National Science Meet (NSM)	St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam 30 January 2026
Dr. M.R. Manikantan, Principal Scientist	41 st Annual Workshop of AICRP on PHET	RARS, ANGRAU Vishakapatnam 24-26 February 2026
Dr. S.V. Ramesh, Sr. Scientist	National Conference Biochemistry Connect: Exploring Frontiers in Research and Innovation	St. Aloysius (Deemed to be University), Mangalore 09 March 2026
Smt. Jissy George, CTO and Smt. P.V Bijila, ACTO	Amrit Summit and FAMEX 2026 - Exhibition and Seminar	Amrita Viswa Vidyapeetham, Vallikkavu 13-14 March 2026
Dr. B. Augustine Jerard, Project Coordinator AICRP (PC)	National Conference on One Health Synergy: Integrating Human, Animal, Plant and Aquatic life for a sustainable future and chaired a session on Safeguarding Plant and Environmental Health : Addressing Biosecuring Risks, Microbial Threats, and Ecosystem Monitoring through Integrated one Health approaches (PEH)	ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair 26-27 March 2026



PERSONALIA

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the staff	Designation	Place	w.e.f.
Shri Anish Kumar	Assistant	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	06.02.2026

PROMOTION

Name of the staff	From (Designation)	To (Designation)	w.e.f.
Shri S. Sunil	Technical Assistant (Electrical engg.)	Senior Technical Assistant (Electrical engg.)	04.03.2026
Shri Bhavani Shankar Naik	Technical Assistant	Senior Technical Assistant	04.03.2026

TRANSFER

Name of the staff	From (Place)	To (Place)	w.e.f.
Dr. Madhu T.N., Scientist	ICAR- CPCRI, RS, Vittal	ICAR- NBAIR, Bengaluru	09.01.2026
Dr. Shilpa S. Selvan, Scientist	ICAR-CIPHET, RS, Abohar	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod	19.01.2026
Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, Senior Technical Officer	ICAR-CPCRI, KVK Kasaragod	ICAR-KVK, CAZRI, Jodhpur	27.03.2026

RETIREMENT

Name of the staff	From (Designation)	To (Designation)	w.e.f.
Shri P. Krishna Kumar	Administrative Officer	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	27.02.2026
Shri Sunny Thomas	Technical Officer	ICAR- CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam	28.02.2026
Smt. Komalangi	Skilled Support Staff	ICAR- CPCRI, Research Centre, Kidu	28.02.2026
Shri P. M. Thomas	Assistant	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.03.2026
Shri Bhavani Shankar Naik	Senior Technical Assistant	ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod	31.03.2026



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

Agriseach with a human touch

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