KALPA

CPCRI Newsletter

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ICAR-CENTRAL PLANTATION CROPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Kasaragod, Keralam - 671 124
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute



DIRECTOR'S DESK

The July–September 2026 quarter has been marked by significant scientific achievements, technological advancements and institutional engagements for ICAR–CPCRI, Kasaragod. The initiatives and accomplishments during this period reflect the Institute's continued commitment to scientific excellence, innovation and the sustainable development of the plantation crops sector.

A significant milestone during the quarter was the notification of the coconut variety Kalpa Nakshatra in the Gazette of India for cultivation in the state of Keralam. The variety is particularly suited for tender nut and Kalparasa® production. The development of Kalpa Composite Flour formulations, incorporating coconut milk residue (CMR) blended with wheat flour, CMR combined with rice powder, and CMR blended with ragi and wheat flour, represents an important advancement in coconut-based value addition. The introduction of the Kalpa Smart Pole further demonstrates the Institute's efforts to translate scientific innovations into practical field solutions. This device facilitates the precise delivery of bioagents and agrochemical sachets to the spindle leaf region of palms for effective pest and disease management.

The launch of SHITIZ 2.0 marked another significant step towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, with special emphasis on strengthening value chains. The commercialization of various Institute technologies during the quarter further reaffirmed our commitment to taking research innovations beyond the laboratory and facilitating their wider adoption by entrepreneurs, industries and farming communities.

The quarter was also marked by important institutional celebrations and outreach activities, including the observance of ICAR Foundation Day and World Coconut Day. These occasions provided valuable opportunities to recognize the contributions of agricultural research, highlight the importance of coconut to livelihoods and the national economy, and strengthen linkages with farmers, stakeholders and development agencies.

The visit of the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Coconut Development Board (CDB), Smt. Deepa D. Nair, to ICAR–CPCRI headquarters at Kasaragod and the RS Vittal and RC Kidu was particularly significant. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the Institute's research infrastructure, ongoing programmes and technological achievements, while exploring avenues for strengthening institutional collaboration and accelerating technology dissemination. During the visit, she released the Palm Top Coco-Sap Concentrator, a patented device designed for concentrating coconut sap at the palm top.

These accomplishments are the outcome of the collective dedication and contributions of our scientists, technical and administrative staff, and the continued support of ICAR, the CDB, DASD, DCCD and our valued partners. I sincerely appreciate their commitment to advancing research and development in coconut, arecanut, cocoa, palmyrah and other plantation crops.

We hope the highlights presented in this quarterly newsletter will provide readers with an insight into our ongoing efforts to transform scientific knowledge into practical technologies, entrepreneurial opportunities and tangible benefits for farmers, ultimately contributing to a more productive, competitive and sustainable plantation sector.

K. Balachandra Hebbar
Director

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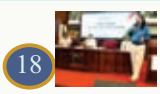
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SPOTLIGHT

Coconut variety Kalpa Nakshatra, a high yielding multi-purpose hybrid (207g/nut copra), suitable for copra, tender nut (432 ml tendernut water), and inflorescence sap production, recommended for cultivation in Keralam was notified in the Gazette of India. The variety has also been submitted to PPV&FRA for registration under the extant variety category. It is an early bearing (43 Months) high yielder of more than 26000 nuts per hectare, with fruit weight (1020 g) and husked fruit weight (643 g).



High yielding variety- Kalpa Nakshatra

TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS

Kalpa Smart Device for targeted delivery of bioagents and agro-chemicals

A ground-operated Kalpa Smart Device was developed for precise delivery of bioagents/ agrochemical sachets on to the spindle leaf region of palms for the management of pests and diseases. The system is equipped with a camera and tablet PC, enabling real-time visualization of the spindle leaf region. This device can accommodate *Trichoderma harzianum* (CPTD28) coir pith cakes or a few agrochemical sachets, enabling treatment of 5-8 coconut/ arecanut palms, in a single operation. The device was developed in collaboration with the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kollam, Keralam.



Kalpa smart device



Camera and tablet view of spindle leaf region and targeted delivery of bio-agent/agrochemical

Development of Kalpa Composite Flour

Kalpa Composite Flour is available in three variants: coconut milk residue (CMR) blended with wheat flour, CMR combined with rice powder, and CMR blended with ragi and wheat flour. The CMR-wheat flour variant is suitable for preparing chapathi, parota, and other flatbreads, whereas the CMR-rice powder variant can be used for preparing puttu. The CMR–ragi–wheat flour variant is suitable for the preparation of cookies and other confectionery products. Kalpa Composite Flour

has a shelf life of three months and exhibits enhanced antioxidant activity compared with conventional cereal and millet flours. These variants represent a circular economy approach to coconut processing by valorizing a nutrient-rich by-product and converting it into a convenient, functional food ingredient with potential for diverse food applications.



Kalpa Composite flour

IMPORTANT EVENTS

ICAR Foundation Day celebration

ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, celebrated the 98th Foundation Day of ICAR by organizing a one-day seminar on 16th July 2026 on the theme 'Roots and Routes of Viksit Krishi: Science Journey of ICAR.' The programme was attended by around 100 participants, including scientists, staff, trainees, and students and faculty members from seven regional colleges.

The inaugural address was delivered virtually by Dr. P. Pugazhendi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Keralam, who emphasized biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head, ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, presided over the function Dr. Toms C. Joseph, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT, Kochi, delivered a special lecture on his experiences during India's 45th Scientific Expedition to Antarctica, highlighting research on microplastics and antimicrobial resistance. The session also featured the release of the proceedings of a national seminar on biosecurity risks in horticultural crops and the presentation of the pre-release proceedings of the Foundation Day seminar.







Glimpses of 98th Foundation Day at Kayamkulam

Photography, essay and technology review competitions were organized for institute staff, along with an inter-collegiate quiz on Indian agriculture and farmers' welfare.

Inaugural Function of SHITIJ 2.0

ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, organized the inaugural function of SHITIJ 2.0 – Nationwide Incubation Program on 20 July 2026. The event marked a significant step toward fostering innovation in agriculture, with a special focus on value chains in fruits, plantation crops, vegetable production, and sugarcane value addition.

The programme was presided over by Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director. The program was formally inaugurated by Dr. V.B. Patel, Additional Director General (F&PC), ICAR. He highlighted substantial progress in agricultural production and value addition across key sectors. Stressed the extensive scope remaining for further value addition in agricultural commodities. He emphasized that the future of Indian agriculture depends heavily on developing robust value chains and directly connecting farmers to market ecosystems.

Vision SHITIJ 2.0 as a transformative platform that must convert participants into successful employment generators and innovators. The esteemed guest of honour, Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, Assistant Director General (IP&TM), ICAR, stated an expectation of receiving over 2,000 applications for SHITIJ 2.0 during the current term.

Dr. T.N. Raviprasad (Director I/c, ICAR-DCR, Puttur) shared insights on sectoral developments and technology adaptation. Dr. Byju (Director, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvanathapuram) addressed the gathering regarding institutional synergies and research support. Dr. Selvaraj (ICAR-NRC Banana, Tiruchirappalli) deliberated on regional crop innovations and opportunities in banana value chains. Dr. P. Govindaraj, Director, ICAR-SBI Coimbatore highlighted financial mechanisms, credit support, and banking ecosystem assistance available for agri-entrepreneurs.



Dicussion of SHITIJ 2.0.

The theme of SHITIJ 2.0 focuses on the value chain in fruits (including plantation crops), vegetable production, and sugarcane value addition. This platform serves as a collaborative space for innovators, farmers, and researchers. The start-up initiative is a collaborative effort involving seven ICAR institutes, with CPCRI serving as the hub institute.

World Coconut Day 2026, Inauguration of SHITIJ 2.0 online mentorship incubation programme and stakeholder's meet

World Coconut Day 2026 was celebrated on 02 September 2026, at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, Keralam, with the theme 'Coconuts in times of uncertainty: Securing food, energy and livelihoods.' The event featured the launch of the entrepreneurial development programme—SHITIJ 2.0 and a Stakeholders' Meet.

The programme was presided over by Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director of ICAR-CPCRI. The Chief Guests were Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, Director of ICAR-DCR, Prof. Dr. B. Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Former VC, Nitte University, Mangaluru, and Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru.

Dr. K.B. Hebbar, in his presidential address, emphasized empowering the plantation sector by highlighting CPCRI's varieties and technologies. He spoke about the challenges posed by climate change, including

secondary problems such as pests and diseases. The demand for planting materials is being met through licensing varieties to nursery entrepreneurs, and challenges are addressed through collaboration with ICAR institutions and others. He also dwelt upon the achievements in variety improvement, technology development; programs initiated, and discussed the effects of El Nino in plantation crops.

The online pre-incubation programme SHITIJ 2.0 was launched by Prof. Dr. B. Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Former VC and Vice-President (ISR & CRL), NITTE (DU). He praised the Kalpa Vruksha initiative and CPCRI's new technologies, calling SHITIJ 2.0 a launch pad for transforming ideas into innovations, products, and enterprises. He noted the surprising potential to earn approximately ₹10,000 from a single palm using value-added technologies and emphasized collaboration as the key to success. Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Head of Social Science at ICAR-CPCRI, introduced SHITIJ 2.0. About 424 participants registered for SHITIJ 2.0, with the ICAR-CPCRI hub connecting with seven associated institutes under the vegetable and fruit value chain as well as sugarcane value chain. He stressed that this pre-incubation mentoring will pave way for the roadmap for strengthening the agricultural start-up ecosystem in the identified thematic areas. Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga congratulated ICAR-CPCRI on celebrating Coconut Day at an institute with a 110-year research history in coconut. Felicitations were also offered Dr. B.A. Jerard (Project Coordinator, AICRP on Plantation Crops) and online by Dr. K.V. Prasad (Director, ICAR-NRC for Grapes, Pune), Dr. Anup Das (Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna).

The two best farmers from each of the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Keralam, and Andhra Pradesh were honoured. The two best-performing successful entrepreneurs from Kasaragod and Malappuram were honoured. Technology commercialization was highlighted through the exchange of six MoUs between CPCRI and industry partners. The Kalpa Composite Flour (CMR-based products) was unveiled, along with the release of publications including a book on Good Horticultural Practices for Cocoa, ISPC Newsletter, a leaflet on Balanced Nutrient Management, and an extension folder on EPN for Management of White Grubs in Arecanut (Kannada).CPCRI licensee Mr. Radhakrishna of Abhijnana Food Products Ltd, Karnataka (NITYA), launched a new brand. The Director, CPCRI, carried out distribution of coconut climbing devices to SCSP/TSP beneficiaries.The Stakeholders' Meet was inaugurated by Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director of Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru, focusing on the management of extreme climate vulnerabilities in plantation crops. The sessions extended through September 3, 2026.

World coconut Day was also celebrated on 02 September 2026 at RC, Mohitnagar in presence of Officials of District Horticulture, Jalpaiguri, A total of 134 farmers attended the programme. Importance of coconut on human health and livelihood was thoroughly discussed in the event.



Inauguration Ceremony of World Coconut Day

International Conference on Agri-Tech and Plantation 5.0

ICAR-CPCRI in collaboration with Indian Institution of Plantation Management (IIPM), Bangalore organized an International Conference on Agri-Tech & Plantation 5.0 during 3–4 July 2026 at IIPM campus, Bengaluru. ICAR-CPCRI contingent comprising of Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, Dr. B. A. Jerard, Dr. V. Niral, Dr. K. Ponnusamy, Dr. M. R. Manikantan, Dr. S. Jayasekhar and Dr. S. Sumitha participated in the conference.



NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SEMINAR / SYMPOSIA ATTENDED

Name and Designationn	Title	Place and Date
Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director Dr. V. Niral, Head, Crop Improvement, Dr. M. R. Manikantan, Pr. Scientist	International Conference on Agri-Tech and Plantation 5.0	IIPM, Bengaluru 3-4 July 2026
Dr. K. Balachandra Hebbar, Director Dr. Niral, V., Head, Crop Improvement Dr. Y. Diwakar, SIC, RC, Kidu	National Symposium on Harnessing Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) of Penisular India (NSPPI)	ICAR- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru 17-19 September 2026



PUBLICATIONS

Research articles

Abhinab Sarma, Nikhil Kumar Ramesha, Manoj Kumar, Srivatsa Udupa, Nagaraja, N.R., Manjunath Krishnappa Naik, Yu-Chung Chiang, Annamalai Muthusamy 2026. Chemical profiling and quantitative assessment of functional phytochemicals from areca nut (*Areca catechu* L.), *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*, **158**(109465),https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfca.2026.109465. NAAS Rating: 11.3.

Ashok Kumar, S. and Ponnusamy, K. 2026. Farmer-led Innovations in Commercial Dairy Farms of Punjab and Haryana. *Journal of Agricultural Extension Management*. **27**(2): 28-39. NAAS Rating: 4.22.

Babu, B.K., Ravichandran, G., Suresh, K., Sandip Shil, Sarika Sahu, Narayana Ruthwek, Mokhamatla Mahesh, Anitha, P. and Peeyusha Sai, M. 2026. Association Mapping of Height- and Yield- Related Traits using SSR Markers in Four Oil Palm (*E. guineensis* Jacq.) Populations. *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation* (pages 1–12) 2026, https://doi.org/10.1007/s00344-026-12405-7, NAAS Rating: 10.4.

Daliyamol, M., Aswathi, K., Riswana, U., Prathibha, V.H., Mahendran, B. Sandip Shil, Rajesh, M.K. and Vinayaka Hegde 2026. Thermal acclimatization and plasticity of *Phytophthora palmivora*: implications for coconut disease dynamics under a warming climate, *Frontiers in Climate,***8**. https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2026.1802746, NAAS Rating 9.9.

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Minnu Sasi, Veda Krishnan, Ramesh M. Naik, Chandrika Das, Damodar Reddy Dendi, Aditya Nath Jha, Arpitha, S.R., Raj A., Sharma, A., Shrestha, K. and Karan 2026. Barnyard millet (*Echinochloa* species): an underutilized nutritional powerhouse with emerging nutraceutical benefits, *Frontiers in Plant Science*, **17**: 1794657, https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2026.1802746, NAAS Rating 11.9.

Naik, P.L., Thomas, R.J., Karunakaran, G., Shareefa, M., Maya Lekshmi, Sreenivasa, V. and Rajesh, M.K. 2026. Assessment of genetic diversity in selected yellow-flaked jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam.*) genotypes using SSR markers, *Genetic*

Resources and Crop Evolution **73**(6). DOI: 10.1007/s10722-026-02866-w, NAAS Rating 6.

Neema, M., Aparna, V., Sudha, R., Chandran, K. P., Fathimath Zaeema, Padmanabhan Sugatha 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 Cell. Dev. Biol.-Plant* **62**, 574–587. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11627-025-10616-3

Pandiselvam, R., Rana M. Lal, Manikantan, M. R., Ramesh, S. V., Anjitha Jacob and Shameena Beegum, P.P. 2026. Influence of coconut maturity on the physicochemical, antioxidant, and sensory properties of osmotically dehydrated coconut flakes. *Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11694-026-04746-4. NAAS Rating: 9.30.

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Shilpa S. Selvan, Nath, A. and Jose, N. 2026. Optimization of guava fruit bar formulation using refractance window drying technique to enhance quality and nutrient retention. *Journal of Food Science and Technology*, 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13197-026-06675-y. NAAS

Rating: 9.30.

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Subbanna, A.R.N.S., Sai Tejasri, S., Sandip Shil, Chinnabbai, C.H., Emmanuel, N. 2026. Population structure and pest dynamics of invasive whiteflies, rugose spiraling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*) and bondar nesting whitefly (*Paraleyrodes bondari*) on oil palm, *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science,* **46**:2107–2116. https://doi.org/10.1007/s42690-026-01843-1, NAAS Rating: 7.20.

Papers presented in seminar/symposia/conferences/workshops/webinars/etc.

Hima John, Manikantan, M. R., Shameena Beegum, Ramesh, S. V. Shilpa S. Selvan and Murali Gopal 2026. Development and quality evaluation of coconut milk kulfi incorporating dairy and plant protein sources. *In* book of abstracts, international conference on Agri-tech and plantation 5.0 conducted at Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru on 3-4 July 2026. Page no. 81.

Manikantan, M. R., Hima John, Ponnusamy, K., Hebbar, K. B. 2026. Entrepreneurship potential in plantation crops: inspiring youth for sustainable future. *In* book of abstracts, international conference on Agri-tech and plantation 5.0 conducted at Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru on 3-4 July 2026. Page no. 67.

Shilpa S. Selvan, Manikantan, M. R., Hima John, Ramesh, S. V., Murali Gopal 2026. Thermal stability and degradation kinetics of bioactive compounds in ripe palmyra (*Borassus flabellifer* L.) fruit pulp. *In* book of abstracts, international conference on Agri-tech and plantation 5.0 conducted at Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru on 3-4 July 2026. Page no. 82.

Popular articles

Ananth, P.N., Raju, C.A., Sindhu, M.U., Thamban, C., Shammeena Beegum, Manikantan, M.R., Ansul, D., Abhishek Das, and Abdul Gafoor, V.M. 2026. Enhancing Coconut Value Chains through Traditional Knowledge and Innovation. *Indian Coconut Journal* **69**(3): 25-32.

Hima John, Shameena Begum, P.P., Shilpa S. Selvan, Sona Saji, Manikantan, M.R., Ponnusamy, K. 2026. Arogyathinum swathinum sheetheekari chathengappal ice creamum kulfiyum (In Malayalam). *Indian Naleekera Journal* **18** (7): 9-12.

Josephrajkumar, A., Jilu V. Sajan, Anes, K.M., Kamalkumar, V., Indhuja, S., Shareefa, M., Merin Babu and Regi J. Thomas 2026. Biodiversity-Driven Agro-Ecological Crop Protection in Coconut. *Indian Coconut Journal* **69**(2): 07-11.

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Ponnusamy, K., Selvamani, V. and Subramanian, P. 2026. Promotion of balanced fertilizer use in coconut farming. *Indian Coconut Journal* **69**(1): 26-30.

Regi Jacob Thomas 2026. Coconut hybrids and its specialities (In Malayalam). *Indian Nalikera Journal* **18**(6): 10-13.

Shareefa, M., Sreelekshmi, J.S., Mayalekshmi, Thomas, R.J. and Rajesh, M.K. 2026. Optimization of direct organogenesis from immature inflorescence explants of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.),

Scientific Reports, **16**, https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-52552-1, NAAS 9.9.

Shareefa, M., Thomas, R.J., Nagaraja, N.R. and Elain Apshara S. 2026. Improvement varieties of arecanut and cocoa from ICAR-CPCRI (In Malayalam). *Keralam Karshakan* July Issue: 46-47.

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Sudhalakshmi, C., Padmapriya, S., Karthiba, L., Sumitha, S. and Augustine Jerard, B. 2026. Surprising Science behind Painted Coconut Palms. *Indian Coconut Journal* **69**(2): 23-25.

Surekha, Ravi Bhat and Subramanian, P. 2026. Strategies to Sustain Coconut Yield: Efficient Nutrient and Water Management Techniques. *Indian Coconut Journal* **69**(3): 16-20.

Thamban C., Subramanian, P., Ashamol, E.P. 2026. Coconut seedling planting and care (In Malayalam). *Indian Nalikera Journal* **18** (8): 07-11.

Extension folder

Surekha, Rajkumar, Joseph Rajkumar and Vinayaka Hegde 2026. *EPN mulaka beru hulagala samagra niyanthrana*, (In Kannada). Extension folder: **264**: 1-2. ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.

Training manual

Surekha, Chandran, K.P. and Ponnusamy, K. 2026. Scientific cultivation practices of coconut (SCSP). Training Manual, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. pp 1-71.

Technical Bulletin

Elain Apshara, S., Mahendran, B., Madhu, T.N., Daliyamol, Niral, V., and Femina, P.S. 2026. Good Horticultural Practices for Cocoa. Technical Bulletin No. **164**. ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod. 102p.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELPOMENT

Training

Name and Designationn	Title	Place and Date
Dr. M. R. Manikantan, Pr. Scientist Dr. Hima John, Scientist and Dr. Shilpa S. Selvan, Scientist	Online training on RAISINS- Statistical Analysis Platform	ICAR-CPCRI (Online) 28 July 2026

Rashtriya Karmayogi training programme

Under the training programme on Rashtriya Karmayogi conducted by the Government of India, through the online portal employees of ICAR-CPCRI have participated in these programmes during the period. Online trainings were attended by the staff of ICAR-CPCRI as given below. A total of 261 certificates were obtained by the staff during period. The major focus was given according to the ICAR directions in this regard.

Awards and Recognition

Best Oral Presentation Awards

Dr. Niral V., Dr. Diwakar Y. and Dr. K. B. Hebbar bagged 1st prize for oral presentation on 'Coconut genetic resources – status and prospects in breeding for climate resilience and industrial applications' and Dr. Diwakar, Y. and Dr. Niral, V. received II best poster presentation award for the paper 'Phenotypic characterization and multivariate assessment of diversity in coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) germplasm.' *In* National

Symposium on Harnessing PGR of Peninsular India (NSPPI), during 17-19 September at ICAR-IIHR Bengaluru.

Dr. Manikantan M.R., Principal Scientist, received the Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Agri-Tech and Plantation 5.0, held on 3–4 July 2026 at IIPM, Bengaluru.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Demonstration of coconut root (wilt) disease management

ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, organised an outreach programme at Panpoli, Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu, on 29 July 2026, marking the successful completion of the two-year Laying out of demonstration plot (LoDP) project on integrated management of coconut root (wilt) disease. Funded by the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, the project covered four clusters in Tenkasi district-Vadakarai, Kanakkappillavalasai, Kadayanallur and Puliyarai-benefitting coconut farmers through technical guidance, field demonstrations and input distribution.

The programme was attended by around 120 farmers, 20 college students and officials from CDB and the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops.

Training on coconut cultivation

A comprehensive training programme and exposure visit on coconut cultivation was organized at the ICAR- CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam, under the ATMA scheme of Vakathanam Krishi Bhavan, Madappally Block, Kottayam District, on 10 August 2026. 22 farmers and ATMA agricultural officials participated in the programme. The session also covered important aspects of hybridization techniques and scientific nursery management, advanced production technologies and other important pest and disease problems.

Capacity building programmes conducted at RC, Mohitnagar

1. Capacity building programme through training was conducted on 31 July 2026 for the 51 farmers (45 men and 6 women) for the farmers belong to Scheduled Caste community. A total of 1020 numbers of arecanut seedlings were distributed.

2. A capacity building programme was conducted on 2 September 2026 to farmers (58 nos. 50 men and 8 women) belongs to SC community. A total of 58 coconut seedlings were distributed.

3. Training cum seedling distribution programme as a part of capacity building of tribal community was attended by 63 farmers (10 men and 53 women) on 31 July 2026, 50 farmers (30 men and 20 women) on 20 August 2026 and 76 farmers (46 men and 30 women) on 2 September 2026. Arecanut seedlings 2260 numbers for 113 farmers and 76 coconut seedlings for 76 farmers were distributed.

Capacity building programme under STC (TSP)

As part of the activities envisaged under the Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) / Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) training programme was organized for 10 tribal youths at ICAR–CPCRI, Kasaragod and its Regional Stations/Research Centre. The training programme commenced on 15 June 2026 and continued during the period July to September 2026.

Exposure visit

An inter-state exposure visit and orientation training programme for Extension Officers from the Department of Agriculture, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, was organized at ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam on 27 July 2026.

Training SC farmers on integrated farming

In collaboration with ICAR- KVK, Dakshina Kannada, a training programme-cum-vegetable seed distribution was organized on 21 September 2026 at Ujire Gram Panchayat, Dakshina Kannada district under SCSP. More than 25 participants attended the programme.



SC farmers during the vegetable cultivation training at Ujire

Field exposure and entrepreneurship skills to SC youths

Organized a one-day field day-cum-exposure visit for 23 SC youths on 11 September 2026 to ICAR–CPCRI, RS, Vittal, and ICAR–DCR, Puttur, Karnataka. During the visit, trainees were received practical exposure to arecanut and cocoa cultivation practices, cocoa grafting techniques, selection of mother palms for raising quality planting material. At ICAR–DCR, Puttur, the participants were introduced to high-yielding cashew varieties and practical demonstrations on cashew apple-based value-added products provided insights into entrepreneurship and opportunities for developing small-scale start-ups in plantation crops.



Participants during field exposure and hands-on training in entrepreneurship skills

SITIJ 2.0 orientation programme on agro-based entrepreneurship

An orientation programme on SITIJ 2.0 – Entrepreneurship Development in Vegetables, Fruits and Plantation Crops was organized on 8 August 2026 at ICAR–KVK, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, to create

awareness about entrepreneurship and incubation opportunities in agriculture. More than 60 participants, including farm women, agricultural input dealers and NRLM Krishi Sakhis, attended the programme.




Technical session on crop-based incubation programmes and facilities

Empowering SC youth through vegetable seed kits distribution

As part of skill development programme, an awareness programme on vegetable cultivation was organized for 23 unemployed SC rural youth on 18 September 2026 at the institute. Vegetable seed kits were distributed to all the participants.



Distribution of vegetable seed kits among SCSP trainees

Exhibition

Participated in the exhibition organized as part of the MSME Vendor Development Programme held at Udupi from 11 August 2026 to 12 August 2026.

ICAR-CPCRI showcased exhibits during the 9th ASEAN–India Ministers' Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF), held during 8–9 September 2026 at NASC Complex, ICAR New Delhi.

Institute technologies and value added products were showcased in the exhibition during Young Entrepreneurs Conclave 2026 on 26 September 2026, at Calicut Trade Centre, Kozhikode organised by Keralam Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (KIED).

In connection with WCD an exhibition was conducted at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod on 2nd September. Another exhibition was attended, conducted by the CDB at the Mount Carmel Convention Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

Radio Talks

Regi Jacob Thomas participated in an interview with Muarlidharan Thazakara (Rtd. Programme Executive - All India Radio) on the relevance of World Coconut Day (In Malayalam). Club FM 90.8, Chethana, Kayamkulam on 2 September 2026.

Regi Jacob Thomas participated in an interview on 'Coconut varieties, cultivation, pest and disease management and value addition' broadcast through FB Live on 16 September 2026.

NEW PROJECTS INITIATED

A project titled 'Climate responsive bio-suppression of exotic whitefly invasions on coconut' with a financial outlay Rs. 73.40 lakhs under Central Corpus Fund-Indian Council of Agricultural Research (CCF ICAR) - National Priority Project (NPP) for three years. Dr. Josephrajkumar, A., Head-in-charge, Crop Protection, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod is the Principal Investigator of the project.

ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod

Rashtriya Poshan Maah

As part of National Nutrition Month 2026 – Rashtriya Poshan Maah, ICAR-CPCRI, KVK Kasaragod organised a series of training and awareness programmes on 09, 10, 11, 17 and 18 September 2026, focusing on the preparation and use of amylase-rich nutrient supplements for balanced nutrition. The programmes targeted former KVK trainees, Anganwadi teachers and ICDS officials, tribal communities under TSP, schoolchildren of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Chowki, and SC beneficiaries.



Glimpses of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 at KVK Kasaragod

Training on microgreens

ICAR-CPCRI, KVK Kasaragod organised a one-day on-campustraining programme on Microgreens: Cultivation, nutrition and business potential' on 4 August 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. A total of 51 participants attended the training.





Promoting microgreens for nutrition, sustainable cultivation and entrepreneurship

Awareness campaign on health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding

In collaboration with ICDS Kasaragod and ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, organised an awareness campaign on health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding, on 06 August 2026 at Kasaragod, in connection with World Breastfeeding Week 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Abdullah Kunhi, President, Kasaragod Block Panchayat. Smt. Arfana Najeeb, Vice President, Mogral Puthur Grama Panchayat, presided over the function. A total of 98 participants, including 96 women and 2men participants, attended the programme.



Awareness on breastfeeding

Training under SCSP

ICAR-KVK Kasaragod, in collaboration with ICAR-CPCRI, organised a training-cum-input distribution programme under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) for identified vegetable, flower and honeybees on 17 September 2026.



Promoting sustainable farming and input distribution

Arecanut-based integrated farming

On 28 September 2026, under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), ICAR-KVK Kasaragod quality arecanut seedlings were distributed to SC beneficiaries at Pilicode and Vattapoyil, Nileshwar Block, with around 45 farmers and 47 farmers, respectively.





SCSP programme under Strengthening Arecanut-Based Livelihoods through Quality Seedling Distribution

Drone-assisted micronutrient application in paddy

ICAR-KVK Kasaragod conducted a drone-based micronutrient application demonstration in paddy across the Nileshwar and Uduma blocks of Kasaragod district during the second fortnight of August 2026.



Drone-assisted paddy cultivation

Training on poultry rearing

A training programme was on backyard poultry rearing and management was organised on 21 September 2026 at KVK Kasaragod, attended by 39 farmers.



Poultry chicks were distributed to beneficiaries

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Alapuzha

Launching of KVK activities

Launching of various activities as per the approved action plan of the KVK in Haripad block on 29 September 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Sri V. K. Nathan, President, Haripad block panchayat. Various technology interventions like Sree Annam- Cassava variety released by ICAR-CTCRI, newly released cowpea variety KAU-Apoorva. Integrated management of Giant African snail, disease management in snake gourd, infertility management in dairy cattle, value added products from banana etc. will be taken up officials from state department of Agriculture and more than 100 farmers participated in the programme.



Launching of KVK activities

PIMC meeting of the KVK-NABARD project on 'Value Chain in Banana'

Sixth meeting of the Project Monitoring and Implementing Committee of the KVK-NABARD project on 'Promotion of Value Chain in Banana' was conducted on 25 September 2026. The project is funded under the FSPF of NABARD and implemented by KVK in the six panchayats of Bharanikkavu block. Four major poovan banana varieties viz., Njalipoovan, Mysore Poovan, Charapoovan and Poovan are cultivated by 180 partner farmers in the block under the guidance of KVK.

Capacity building programmes on value addition of agricultural produce

Three capacity building programmes on value addition were conducted in the Agro-Processing Training cum Incubation Centre (APTIC) of the KVK during August 2026. Fourteen persons from Oachira on 3 August 2026, 22 farmers from Nedumkunnam, Kottayam district on 7 August, and 24 women farmers from Alappuzha district on 10 and 11 August, 2026 participated.



Capacity building programme

VISIT OF DIGNITORIES

Chief Executive Officer, Coconut Development Board Visits ICAR–CPCRI

Smt. Deepa D. Nair, IFS, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Mr. Jayanth, Deputy Director, Coconut Development Board (CDB) visited ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, and the Research Centre, Kidu, which houses the World Coconut Gene Bank, from 28 September 2026 to 30 September 2026. During visit, she remarked about the tissue culture potential, climate change implications especially El Nino, value addition, AI based extension activities, technological and policy interventions as well as infrastructure development for scaling up of the innovations, and the overall development of the coconut sector. She released the Palm Top Cocosap Concentrator after addressing the farmers of Tamil Nadu.



CEO, Coconut Development Board, visits ICAR–CPCRI

CELEBRATION

Independence Day

The 80 Independence Day was celebrated at ICAR–CPCRI, Kasaragod on 15 August 2026. Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director, hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering, highlighting the nation's remarkable progress and the vital role of agricultural research in national development. All the Staff including regular, scheme, contractual, and SCSP trainees, actively participated in the event, reaffirming their dedication to the nation's growth and institutional excellence.



Glimpses of Independence Day

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

During the period from July- September 2026, 24 technologies were commercialized and an amount of Rs. 9.52/- lakhs was collected as technology transfer fees.

Name of Technology	Date of MOU	Value (In INR)	To Whom Commercialized
Kalparasa and production of natural coconut sugar	29.09.2026	1,00,000	Ashok V.N., C.E.O., Ambegaalu FPC Ltd., Channapatna, Bengaluru South-562160, Karnataka
Coconut chips	07.07.2026	20,000	Sulochana Rao B., Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka 581351
	08.07.2026	20,000	Nagesh T. N., Partner, Poojary Products, Echanur, Tiptur-572201, Karnataka
	02.09.2026	25,000	Dr. P. Patchaimal, ICAR KVK, Kamatchipuram, Tamil Nadu – 625520
	02.09.2026	25,000	Mr. K. Anantha Padmanabha Udupa, Moodare, Byndoor, Udupi District, Karnataka – 576235
	07.09.2026	20,000	Ms. Vanitha Sundaravadivel, Seelanaickenpatti, Salem – 636201, Tamil Nadu
	23.09.2026	25,000	Abdul Basheer Udyawar Abdul Khader, Manjeswar, Kasaragod -671323, Keralam
Virgin coconut oil	07.07.2026	32,000	Sulochana Rao B., Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka 581351
	02.09.2026	25,000	Mr. S. Chidambaram, M/S Alvai Food Ventures, Sankarankovil, Tenkasi District, Tamil Nadu – 627756
Flavoured coconut milk	08.07.2026	20,000	Nagesh T. N., Partner, Poojary Products, Echanur, Tiptur-572201, Karnataka
	04.08.2026	25,000	Ms. Sumila J Raj, Greenaura International, P.O. Engandiyur, Thrissur, Keralam – 680615
	02.09.2026	25,000	Mr. Santhosh V. Shetty, Chanthar, Davebail Post, Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi District – 576213
	07.09.2026	20,000	Ms. Vanitha Sundaravadivel, Seelanaickenpatti, Salem – 636201, Tamil Nadu
Foam mat dried coconut milk powder	02.09.2026	25,000	Sathyanarayana Udupa, Udupi Kalparasa, Coconut and All Spices Producers Co. Ltd., Kundapura, Udupi District, Karnataka – 576211
	07.09.2026	20,000	Ms. Vanitha Sundaravadivel, Seelanaickenpatti, Salem – 636201, Tamil Nadu
Technical knowhow of dairy analogues	15.07.2026	50,000	Sunny T. J., Secretary, Kunnamanagalam Agro Producers Society (KAPS), Kozhikkode-673570
CMR-based wheat, rice and ragi and cookies	24.07.2026	50,000	Radhakrishna I., Abhijnana Food Products Pvt Ltd, Narimogaru post, Puttur taluk 574202, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka
Trichoderma formulations	20.07.2026	25,000	Naveen M. O., Director, DRK Agro Products Pvt Ltd., Post Dasanapura Bengaluru North Taluk 562123Karnataka
Kalpa Vardhini	21.07.2026	25,000	Mr. R. Jagesh Kumar, Grow Me Green, Keerikadu P.O. Alappuzha, 690508, Keralam
Coconut variety, Kera Keralam	24.07.2026	45,000	Mr. Bharatkumar Hajabhai Jotva, Veraval, Dist. Gir Somnath, Gujarat - 362256
Arecanut variety, Shatamangala	04.08.2026	1,60,000	Mr. Hirabhai Arjanbhai Jotva, Veraval, Dist. Gir Somnath, Gujarat - 362256
Arecanut variety, Madhuramangala	04.08.2026	80,000	-do-
Coconut variety, Kera Keralam	02.09.2026	45,000	Mori Hiteshkumar Hanabhai, Kalpkrushi Hybrid Centre, Maliya (Hatina), Dist Junagadh, Gujarat-362255.
Coconut variety, Kalpa Pratibha	02.09.2026	45,000	-do-

OTHER INFORMATIONS

Swachhta Hi Seva 2026

ICAR–CPCRI, Kasaragod, and its Regional Stations and Research Centres organised a series of cleanliness drives, sanitation awareness programmes and sustainable waste-management activities under the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2026, from 17 September to 2 October 2026, featuring activities under different themes.

The campaign was inaugurated at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, on 17 September by Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, who administered the Swachhata Pledge to nearly 150 staff members and emphasised collective responsibility for cleanliness. A 'Swachhata Hi Seva Selfie Point' was inaugurated, followed by a cleanliness awareness rally to Chowki in Mogral Puthur Grama Panchayat. On 26 September, cleanliness drives were conducted around office buildings, the ATIC premises and the adjoining railway track. Awareness sessions for SCSP and TSP trainees highlighted personal hygiene, waste segregation, plastic reduction and eco-friendly practices. Separate bins for biodegradable and plastic waste were installed near the ICAR-CPCRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 to promote waste segregation at source.

On World Tourism Day, 27 September 2026, around 35 staff members participated in a cleanliness and awareness drive at Kottapuram Houseboat Terminal, Nileshwar, under the theme Clean Tourist Destinations. Waste was collected and segregated, while tourists, vendors and houseboat operators were sensitised to reducing single-use plastics and protecting the Valiyaparamba Backwaters ecosystem.

ICAR-CPCRI Research Centre, Kidu, organised cleanliness drives, sanitation awareness activities, a Waste-to-Art Selfie Point and a human chain at Bilinele village on 29 September, promoting community participation and Mission LiFE's Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3R) principles. At the Regional Station, Kayamkulam, a cleanliness drive at Azheekkal Beach on 21 September promoted the Green Protocol and proper waste disposal, with a dustbin installed at the site.

Under Swachhata Se Samriddhi, Kayamkulam organised 'Kabaad Se Jugaad' and 'Kabaad Se Kala' competitions for trainees and contract staff on 28 September. A separate initiative showcased staff efforts towards waste reduction, reuse and recycling from January to September 2026. The exhibits were viewed by staff and 40 B.Tech. students from St. Thomas College of Engineering, Kozhuvallur, Chengannur. Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas, Head of the Regional Station, interacted with the students and emphasised waste segregation, plastic reduction and resource conservation.

The campaign reinforced the importance of community participation, responsible waste management, eco-friendly celebrations and sustainable practices in institutional and public spaces, reaffirming the message 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag – Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat.'



Swachatta HI Seva Campain in CPCRI

Hindi Workshop on 'High Quality Publications in Agriculture'

A workshop on 'High-Quality Publications in Agriculture' was organised in Hindi at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod, in hybrid mode on 29 July 2026. The programme was presided over by Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. Shri Madhusudhanan M., District Information Officer, Kasaragod, was the chief guest.

The workshop featured technical sessions in the forenoon and afternoon, covering six different

types of communication relevant to researchers. Two practical exercises were also conducted for the participants on popular article writing and social media communication.

About 100 participants attended the workshop, while others joined online from the Regional Stations, Research Centres and KVKs.
The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director, ICAR-CPCRI, who also delivered the presidential address. Dr. M. S. Venkatesh, Principal Scientist, DCR, Puttur, was the chief guest of the valedictory session.



Director addressing the gathering

Hindi Week Celebration
Kasaragod

Hindi Week was celebrated from 14 September 2026 to 21 September 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod. The chief guest of the inaugural function was Mrs. Shailaja T., P.G.T., K.V.-No.1 School, CPCRI. A total of 8 different competitions were conducted for the staff/trainees/contractual staff of the Institute during the week. A multi-media documentary promoting Hindi was also screened on 16 September 2026. The chief guest of the valedictory function on 21 September 2026 was Prof. Manu from the Central University of Keralam. The chief guest presented prizes to the winners of various competitions.



Dr. K.B. Hebbar, Director addressing the gathering

Kayamkulam

Hindi Week was celebrated at ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam during 14-21 September 2026. It started with the Hindi Diwas celebration on 14 September 2026. This was followed by various competitions for officers and staff on 15, 16, 17 September 2026. A workshop was conducted for officers and staff on 18 September 2026 and the workshop was handled by Mr. Vallikunnam Ramachandran, Rtd. Hindi Teacher (DIET) and Rtd. Agricultural Officer. The valedictory function of Hindi Week celebration was held on 21 September 2026. Shri Leo Mathews Kurian, Deputy Commandant, 27 Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Noornadu was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function.



Hindi Week Celebration at RS, Kayamkulam

RC, Mohitnagar

Hindi Saptah was celebrated from 14-21 September 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Mrs. Rima Tiwari, Teacher in Charge, Hindi Girl's High School, Jalpaiguri. Different competitions were conducted among the staff of this centre to encourage the implementation of Hindi in official activities. The programme was concluded on 21.09.2026 with the presence of Sri Shiv Kumar, The Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, BSF Camp, Raninagar. On his concluding remarks, he emphasized on how to learn Hindi easily, its necessity.

Patent granted

- Design registration: Solar assisted linear actuated tender coconut cutting machine (Design No. 433373-001).

- Patent granted for 'Portable electric palm sap concentrator' (Patent number: 591074).

FACILITIES CREATED

At ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam, UV-Spectrophotometer worth Rs. 6.50 lakhs installed at Soil Science lab, Soil Respiration Chamber costing Rs. 3.50 lakhs fitted to the Portable Photosynthesis System of and Laminar Air Flow worth Rs. 1.50 lakhs purchased and during the period.

UPCOMING EVENTS

One day State- Level Stakeholders meet on 'Sustaibality in arecanut and cocoa system: present development and strategic outlook on 26 October 2026 at ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Vittal. Stakeholders meeting 'Scaling Technology Outreach in Coconut Cultivation & Value Chain Management' on 14 October 2026 and Foundation stone Laying of Coconut Tissue culture lab at ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam on 14 October 2026.

PERSONALIA

PROMOTIONS

Name	From	To	w.e.f.
Dr. Bhavishya	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025
Dr. Sumitha S.	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025
Dr. Jilu V. Sajan	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025
Dr. Daliyamol	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025
Dr. R. Thava Prakasa Pandian	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025
Dr. Mahendran B.	Scientist	Senior Scientist	01 January 2025

TRANSFER

Name	From (Place)	To (Place)	w.e.f.
Dr. Joseph Rajkumar, Pr. Scientist	ICAR-CPCRI, RS, Kayamkulam	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	03 August 2026
Shri K. P. Ebrahim Lower Division Clerk on Permanent Absorption	ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	16 September 2026

RETIREMENT

Name	From (Designaion)	To (Place)	Date
Shri V. Chennappa	Technician (T-1)	ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Kidu	31 August 2026
Shri Gopinath Malakar	Technical Officer (Vehicles)	ICAR-CPCRI, RC, Kahikuchi	30 September 2026

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