



MILLETS (Shree Anna) Newsletter

Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer . Warangal

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ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030
Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)

ICAR-IIMR observes Kisan Samman Diwas

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, observed **Kisan Samman Diwas** on **23 December 2025** at its campus as part of a nationwide initiative of ICAR to honour farmers on the birth anniversary of Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, former Prime Minister of India. A key focus of the programme was to create awareness among farmers and stakeholders about the **Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025 (G RAM G Bill, 2025)**, which aims to strengthen rural livelihood security through enhanced employment opportunities and income stability, while supporting agricultural operations during peak seasons.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, highlighted the critical role of farmers in nation-building and emphasized the importance of millets as climate-resilient, nutrition-rich crops suitable for dryland and rainfed regions. She encouraged farmers to adopt improved millet production technologies, scientific post-harvest management, and value addition to enhance income and livelihood security. Scientists from ICAR-IIMR interacted with farmers and showcased the institute's initiatives across the millet value chain. An exposure visit to NutriHub and the Shree Anna Processing & Training Unit provided participants with insights into modern processing, value addition, packaging, and enterprise development. About 250 stakeholders, including farmers from Sangareddy district, participated in the programme. The programme concluded with appreciation to farmers for their dedication and resilience, and a reaffirmation of ICAR-IIMR's commitment to promoting millets as *Shree Anna* and advancing farmer-centric, sustainable agricultural development.

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Training programme for tribal farmers

1. Tribal farmers from Nandurbar district, Maharashtra, participated in 4 days intensive training programme at the Institute during 9-12 December 2025 under the TSP component of Global Center of Excellence on Millets. The programme was designed to enhance the technical competencies of tribal farmers by providing hands-on exposure to improved millet production, processing, value addition, and enterprise development technologies. The programme benefited a total of 25 tribal farmers. It was inaugurated by Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad who highlighted the importance of Shree Anna (millets) in achieving nutritional security, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in tribal



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and rainfed regions. The training programme focused on enhancing farmers' technical skills through sessions on scientific millet production practices, including suitable crops and improved varieties, seed and soil management, and climate-resilient agronomic practices. Participants received hands-on exposure to post-harvest management and primary processing technologies, such as cleaning, grading, dehulling, milling, and safe storage using small-scale, farmer-friendly machinery. Special emphasis was given to millet value addition and entrepreneurship development. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer, TSP-GCoE with technical support of Dr. A. Kalaisekar, Sh. K. Srinivasa Babu along with the FPO-NEST team.

2. A three-day hands-on training programme was conducted for tribal FPOs of Andhra Pradesh promoted by IIMR, Hyderabad, under the TSP component at Lambasingi from 3rd to 5th December 2025. The programme aimed at enhancing practical competencies in value addition, processing, packaging, and market readiness of locally available produce and millets, with active participation of tribal women farmers and members of FPOs. The training covered preparation of pickles, jackfruit-based products, and a wide range of millet-based foods, including laddus, snacks, instant mixes, and traditional products. Emphasis was placed on standardized preparation methods, hygiene and food safety practices, efficient utilization of raw materials, and techniques to improve product quality and shelf life. In addition to product preparation, the programme addressed key aspects of primary processing, such as cleaning, grading, and milling of millets, enabling participants to understand the complete processing workflow. Participants were also sensitized to the importance of FPO-led collective processing and marketing in reducing costs, increasing bargaining power, and generating sustainable income opportunities. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, with technical support from Shri. K. Srinivasa Babu and Dr. Rafi, and resource persons Dr. B. Suneetha, Mrs. Chandrika, Mrs. Indira, and Mrs. Ruthu. Women farmers and FPO members from Girisiri FPO, Sri Alluri FPO, and Sri Matysadevatha FPO, promoted by ICAR-IIMR, actively participated in the training.

3. To promote climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable livelihood enhancement among tribal farmers, a three-day training programme on "Millet-Based Technologies for Tribal



Farmers of Pattikonda" was organized from 16 to 18 December 2025 under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) component of the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna), in collaboration with the ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banavasi. The programme targeted tribal farmers from the Pattikonda region of Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, with the objective of strengthening their technical skills, value chain awareness,

and entrepreneurial capabilities in millet-based farming systems. The programme was inaugurated by the Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, and 28 tribal farmers representing two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) actively participated. The training focused on seed-to-market approach, covering improved millet production technologies, post-harvest management, primary processing, and value addition. Special emphasis was given to value addition and product diversification, with practical demonstrations on the preparation of instant millet mixes, bhakri, biscuits, cookies, pasta, vermicelli, noodles, cupcakes, and bread, enabling farmers to explore household- and small-scale millet-based enterprises. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa with technical support of Dr. A. Kalaisekar, Sh. K. Srinivasa Babu along with the FPO-NEST team.

Exposure visit of progressive farmers

As part of an exposure and skill development programme, 22 progressive farmers from Sitteri village, Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu, visited the Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The visit aimed to familiarize farmers with practical aspects of millet processing, value addition, and enterprise development. The farmers were guided through the complete millet processing workflow, from raw grain handling to finished products. Live demonstrations of small-scale machinery enabled participants to understand the technical requirements, efficiency, and suitability of processing units for village and FPO-level operations. Discussions focused on reducing postharvest losses, improving product quality, and enhancing returns through local processing. Dr Sangappa, Senior Scientist coordinated this visit.

Advanced training on millets value addition

With the objective of moving millets beyond production to profitable enterprises, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, conducted a four-day



advanced capacity-building programme on "Millet-Based Value Addition and Product Development" for 25 agricultural officials and representatives of FPOs from Odisha. The programme equipped participants with practical knowledge and hands-on skills required to transform millets into market-ready products and viable enterprises. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa with technical support of Sh. K. Srinivasa Babu along with the FPO-NEST team.

Building Cleaner Communities: "Say No to Plastic" Campaign under Swachhta Pakhwada

As part of Swachhta Pakhwada, a community involvement programme was organized on 22 December 2025 at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, with the active participation of

20 community members of Gandhinagar, focusing on the theme "Say No to Plastic." The programme aimed to create awareness on reducing plastic usage and promoting cleanliness and eco-friendly practices at the community level. The initiative highlighted the importance of minimizing single-use plastics, adopting sustainable alternatives, and maintaining clean and plastic-free surroundings. Participants were sensitized to the adverse impacts of plastic pollution on the environment and public health, thereby reinforcing the core objectives of Swachhta Pakhwada. The campaign received an encouraging response, reflecting strong community participation and collective responsibility. The programme was coordinated by Ms. Usha Satija, Mr. Naresh, Mr. N. Santosh, Mr. Rahul, and Dr. Sangappa under the guidance of Dr. C. Tara Sathyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, and Dr. N. Kannababu.

Field-Based Learning on Millet Processing and Market-Oriented Practices

As part of the Nutri Cereals-Entrepreneurship Foundation Program organized by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad an exposure visit was organized on 20 December 2025 for 22 student participants to the Shree Anna Processing Unit. The visit aimed to bridge classroom learning with real-time enterprise



operations in the millet sector. The participants were exposed to millet-based value-added products developed by ICAR-IIMR and its promoted FPOs, with special emphasis on product diversification, branding, and innovative packaging to enhance market competitiveness. The exposure visit also provided valuable insights into enterprise management, including product presentation, market orientation, and value-chain integration. The programme was facilitated by Dr Sangappa and FPO NEST team.

Farmers Training Programme on Improved Cultivation Practices in Millets at Bandipur, Karnataka

A training programme and input distribution drive on *Improved Cultivation Practices in Millets* was successfully organized on 26 December 2025 at Bannimaradahatti, Bandipur, Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka. The programme was conducted jointly by the AICRP Centre on Pearl Millet, University of Mysore and ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, in association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chamarajanagar, under the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan as part of capacity-building initiatives.

The main objective was to strengthen farmers' knowledge on sustainable millet cultivation and facilitate access to quality

inputs. Around 50 participants, including beneficiary farmers, farm women, actively took part in the programme. A technical session on improved cultivation practices in millets covered climate resilience and nutritional importance of millets, selection of improved varieties of millets, and best agronomic practices. Emphasis was also given to intercropping of millets with pulses, soil health improvement and opportunities for value addition and postharvest management. The extension personnel and officials from the University of Mysore also acted as trainers in the event.

As part of the SCSP/TSP component, quality seeds of improved millet varieties and essential farm inputs were distributed to the beneficiary farmers to support adoption of the recommended practices during the ensuing season.

Credit Seminar for Ph.D Entomology Students of IARI MU, Hyderabad Hub

The Credit Seminar for the Ph.D Entomology students of the academic year 2024-25 was successfully conducted on 22nd December 2025 at the IIMR Conference Hall. This academic activity is a vital part of the postgraduate curriculum, aimed



at enhancing students' knowledge, research aptitude, and presentation skills.

A total of four students presented seminars on emerging topics in the field of Entomology. The seminar provided a platform for students to explore and discuss recent advancements, innovations, and their potential applications in insect pest management.

The credit seminar was organized by seminar co-coordinators Dr. P.G. Padmaja, Principal Scientist, IIMR, Dr. Guru Prasanna, Principal Scientist, NBPGR and Dr. Boopathy, Principal Scientist, IIOR and the Discipline coordinator Dr. G. Shyam Prasad, Principal Scientist, IIMR and attended by faculty members of Hyderabad Hub, researchers, and students from the department.

Swachhta Awareness Week (Swachhta Pakhwada 2025)

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad observed Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 from 16 to 31 December 2025 in alignment with the Swachh Bharat Mission. The programme aimed at promoting cleanliness, hygiene, environmental sustainability, and community participation.

The Pakhwada was inaugurated on 16 December 2025 with Swachhta Pledge Day, during which staff members pledged to maintain cleanliness at workplaces and public spaces. A

series of activities were organized throughout the fortnight, including cleanliness drives, office and record weeding, disposal of scrap and e-waste, plantation programmes, plogging/walkathon, waste segregation and recycling awareness, "Say No to Plastic" campaigns, and community outreach programmes in nearby residential colonies and villages.



The Swachhta Pakhwada concluded with media interaction to disseminate information on the activities undertaken. Overall, the programme was conducted successfully with active participation from staff and stakeholders, reinforcing the institute's commitment towards cleanliness, sustainability, and environmental responsibility.

Student Achievement

Ms. P. Sharmila, M.Sc. Entomology student under the guidance of Dr. P. G. Padmaja, secured Second Prize in the online oral presentation. She was awarded for her presentation titled "Oviposition preference of the Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in millets" at the International Conference on Sustainable Innovations in Agriculture, Veterinary and Allied Sciences, held on 30 December 2025 by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, Karnataka.

Execution of Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory Authority		Witnessed by
			ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
02.12.25	Durgi Foods, Hyderabad	Licensing of 1 millet value added technology i.e. Finger millet nut delight bar	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Durgi Vamshi, Managing Director	Dr. J Stanley
11.12.25	ICICI Foundation	Collaborative Research	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Venkatesh BK, Head of Operations	Dr. Amasiddha B
12.12.25	Vignan Foundation for Science, Technology and Research, Andhra Pradesh	Collaborative Research for students training (Post graduate research & Ph.D.)	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. PMV Rao, Registrar	Dr. Amasiddha B
18.12.25	School of Agriculture, Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Odisha	Collaborative Research for students training & Extension activities	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. VS Devadas, Dean	Dr. Amasiddha B



MoU with Durgi Foods, Hyderabad



MoU with ICICI Foundation



MoU with School of Agriculture, Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Odisha

Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences

1	Baswaraj Raigond	Institute Animal Ethics Committee	School of Pharmacy, IEC University, H.P	Baddi	Online	1 Dec, 2025
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Regional Project Terminal Review and Workshop (TRPTRW) of the TCP/RAS/3909 project titled "Enhancing Capacity on Sustainable Value Chain Development of Millets for Food and Nutrition Security in Asia"	Food and Agricultural Organization	The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand	Physical	4-5 Dec, 2025
3	Srividhya, S	7-day Online training on Next-Gen Data Analysis with R and AI-Powered RAISINS	conducted by Statoberry LLP in association with Dept. of Agricultural Statistics, College of Agriculture, Vellayani,	Kerala Agricultural University	Online	5-11 Dec, 2025
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025	Government of Telangana	Bharat Future City, Hyderabad.	Physical	08 Dec, 2025
5	Gopi Kishan	National Terminal Workshop of FAO Project (TCP/RAS/3909)-India Presented "Project Implementation & Achievement of Gudamalani center"	By ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad under FAO Funded Project "Enhancing capacity on sustainable value chain development of millets for food and nutrition security in India"	IIMR, Hyderabad	Physical	10 Dec, 2025
6	Sooganna	ISSS- ISTA Webinar on Seed Vigour - Mechanisms and Applications	International Society for Seed Science (ISSS) United Kingdom and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Switzerland	Hyderabad	Online	10 Dec, 2025
7	Sangappa	Training Program on Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva program Phase II	NAARM, Hyderabad	NAARM, Hyderabad	Physical	15-17 Dec, 2025
8	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Network of Policy Advisors and analysis (NePAA) Webinar	IFPRI, New Delhi.	IFPRI, New Delhi.	Online	17.12.2025
9	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Online 52nd meeting of SP on Cereals, Pulses & Legumes and their products (including bakery) (SP-11)	Science & Standards Division, FSSAI	Science & Standards Division, FSSAI-HQ, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002.	Online	17.12.2025

Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences

10	Srividhya, S	6 th International conference on Plant Physiology on "Translational Genomics and Physiology for Sustainable Agriculture" and delivered a session talk on Root adaptations and water use strategies in sorghum under drought and optimal moisture conditions	ISPP, New Delhi and TNAU, Coimbatore	TNAU Coimbatore	Physical	15-18 Dec, 2025
11	Seva Nayak D	International Conference On Sustainable Innovations in Agriculture, Veterinary and Allied Sciences" SIAVAS-2025" Paper title: Physiological Smart Millets, Processing, and Value Addition Technologies for Empowering Farmers	University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) Raichur & National Agriculture Development Cooperative Ltd. (NADCL) Baramulla	Venue: Main Campus, UAS, Raichur, Karnataka, India	Online	29-31 Dec, 2025
12	Sangappa	International conference SIAVAS-2025 presented paper titled 'Farm to Fork: A Sustainable innovation in Lambasingi FPO to empower tribal farmers'	UAS Raichur and NADCL	UAS, Raichur	Physical	29-31 Dec, 2025

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Global Centre of Excellence on Millets(Shree Anna)
 All India Research Project on Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Small Millets

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