



MILLETS (Shree Anna) Newsletter

Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer . Warangal

268 Issue-February 2026

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

Agriculture students from Pasighat toured Shree Anna Millet Processing Unit at ICAR-IIMR

As part of study tour, 30 final year B.Sc. (Agriculture) students from the College of Agriculture, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 2nd February 2026. During the visit, the students were taken to Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit, and explained about the importance of millets, challenges facing by millet farmers, promotion of millet FPOs, role of millet FPOs in strengthening millet value chain and farmer livelihoods. This visit familiarized the students with millet primary processing technologies, business opportunities in millet value addition and entrepreneurship. They also observed various secondary processing operations and live demonstrations of equipment's like pulverizers, rava makers, chakki mills, vibro sifters, and packaging machines. This exposure visit was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer (NEH), ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad and FPO-Nest staff.

Exposure on processing and enterprise opportunities in millets for CAU, Meghalaya students

With the objective of sensitizing young minds towards modern millet processing technologies and emerging enterprise opportunities, an educational exposure visit was organized for 3rd year B.Sc. (Agriculture) students

specializing in Natural Farming from the College of Agriculture, Kyrdekulai, Meghalaya, under Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal. The visit was conducted on 4th February 2026 at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The programme provided insights into the growing



potential of millets in value-added product development and agribusiness ventures. Students were exposed to advanced millet processing technologies, product diversification, and market-oriented innovations. The visit also highlighted the critical role of millet FPOs in strengthening millet value chain, enhancing income opportunities, and improving livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. In addition, the students gained practical understanding of millet-based enterprises, including processing, branding, and market linkages. The visit was effectively coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Nodal Officer (NEH), ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

Capacity building of government officials through Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme

To strengthen the service orientation and professional capabilities of government officials, Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme was conducted on 9th



February 2026 at ICAR-ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. Participants were from various ICAR institutes and partner organizations like ICAR-NBPGR, ICRISAT, ICAR-NRIPM, ICAR-IARI (Jharkhand), ICAR-IIVR, and ICAR-CISH, Lucknow. The training focused on key aspects such as role and responsibilities of Rashtriya Karmayogi, professional growth creating meaningful service experiences and contribution of public servants towards nation building. Through interactive sessions and practical exercises by resource persons, Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Sh. Shiva Prasad Perumalla, Administrative Officer from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad helped participants to enhance their understanding of public service values, importance of aligning individual roles with institutional and national goals with responsibility. The programme was conducted through the iGOT platform, which enabled digital learning, self-assessment, and certification. The program was facilitated under the leadership of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad with the technical coordination and inputs of Dr. Sangappa & Sh. Shiva Prasad.

Exposure visit of KVK Heads on Millet Processing and Value Chain Development

As a part of Management Development Programme (MDP) ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) heads, and agricultural scientists from different states visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 9th February 2026 for understanding the post-harvest management practices of millets. The programme aimed to understand the millet processing technologies, business opportunities

and to understand millet based value chains developed by IIMR. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad interacted and explained the practical insights of millet processing techniques, operational procedures, value addition, and successful business models at Shree Anna Training and Processing unit of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. Further, discussions on role of millet Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in collective marketing, aggregation, and promoting millet



based enterprises was made. This exposure enabled KVK Heads to gain practical knowledge and operational insights in millet production, processing, and value addition, which helped them effectively disseminate these learnings through farmer trainings, demonstrations, and extension programmes in their respective districts. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects.

Karnataka agriculture students explore millet research and processing technologies

To enhance students' understanding of millet research and value chain development, 62 students from the College of Agriculture, Gangavathi and College of Agriculture, Hagari, Bellary, Karnataka visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 18th February 2026 as part of study tour. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad briefed the students on institute's work in millet production, processing, and value addition by highlighting the role of millets in sustainable agriculture and nutrition security. The students were also introduced to post-harvest millet processing and product preparation at Shree Anna Training and Processing unit of IIMR. Mr. Abbuseat from FPO-Nest unit explained the role of millet Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in

promoting millet awareness through collective marketing, and value-added enterprises. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects.

Farmers from Madhyabharat FPO Consortium visited Shree Anna Unit

A group of 100 farmers representing the Madhyabharat Consortium of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, on 19th February 2026. The visit was organized to provide firsthand exposure to advanced



millet research, processing technologies, and enterprise development opportunities. During the programme, Dr. Sangappa and Shri K. Srinivasa Babu briefed the participants on the ongoing research initiatives at ICAR-IIMR and highlighted the role of millet-based FPOs in promoting sustainable livelihoods and value chain development. The farmers were sensitized to various opportunities for establishing millet-based enterprises through institutional support and networking with IIMR-promoted FPOs. The participants were taken through different post-harvest processing units, where they gained practical insights into millet cleaning, dehulling, milling, and value addition processes. Live demonstrations of modern millet processing equipment enabled the farmers to understand the importance of technology adoption in improving efficiency, product quality, and market competitiveness. The exposure visit also emphasized the significance of collective action through FPOs in enhancing market access, reducing transaction costs, and improving farmers' income. The programme was jointly coordinated by Shri K. Srinivasa Babu and Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientists, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, along with the FPO NEST team, ensuring effective knowledge dissemination and interactive

learning among the participants.

Monitoring and operational review of ICAR-IIMR promoted FPOs in Karnataka

A field monitoring and operational review of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad promoted FPOs was undertaken in Karnataka from 23rd February to 1st March 2026. The visit was carried out by Mr. Anup from the FPO-NEST team under the guidance of Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, FPO Projects. The review covered FPOs in Raichur, Kalaburagi, and Vijayapur districts. During the visit, meetings were held with the Board of Directors (BoDs) to assess operational performance, infrastructure facilities, machinery utilization, and ongoing business activities. The programme focused on strengthening institutional functioning through planning and strategy discussions for the upcoming quarter. Efforts were also made to facilitate market linkages for value-added products such as lemon squash, red gram dal, and other FPO products to improve market access and revenue generation. The visit provided necessary technical guidance and operational support to ensure the effective functioning and sustainability of the FPOs.

On-site evaluation of procurement and processing facilities at Thandava Valley FPCL

An on-site evaluation of procurement and processing facilities was carried out at Thandava Valley Farmer



Producer Company Limited (FPCL) on 25th February 2026 by Dr. Rafi and Ms. Rashmitha from ICAR- IIMR, Hyderabad under the guidance of Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist & PI of FPO Project. The visit was undertaken with the objective of strengthening institutional procurement systems and assessing the utilization of infrastructure established under various

initiatives. The team reviewed the aggregation mechanisms, procurement workflows, and market linkage arrangements facilitated through the FPO framework, providing insights into operational efficiency and business performance. Interactions were held with member farmers, Board of Directors (BoDs), and operational staff to understand procurement practices, price realization mechanisms, and field-level challenges. The evaluation also focused on identifying constraints affecting procurement and processing activities. Further, the utilization status of equipment supported through the ICICI Foundation CSR initiative and machinery installed under the GCoE Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) project was assessed to ensure effective use of resources and sustainability of operations. The visit provided valuable inputs for strengthening procurement systems, improving infrastructure utilization, and enhancing the overall efficiency of FPO-led operations.

Field level review of cashew aggregation and processing initiatives at Prema Sai FPCL

A field level review of cashew aggregation and processing activities was conducted at Prema Sai



Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPCL) as part of ongoing monitoring of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad promoted FPOs. During the visit, the cashew collection centre was assessed to understand the operational progress and institutional development of the FPO. Interactions were held with farmer shareholders and the Board of Directors (BoDs) to review the utilization of the Equity Grant Fund received from NABARD and to identify appropriate strategies for strengthening business activities. The discussions focused on improving aggregation systems, enhancing processing efficiency, and promoting value addition in cashew. The FPO leadership also shared plans to procure an automatic cashew peeling machine to scale up

processing capacity and improve profitability. The visit facilitated field-level insights, provided technical guidance on business planning, and emphasized effective utilization of institutional support for sustainable growth of the FPO. The visit was carried out by Dr. Rafi and Ms. Rashmitha with the guidance of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

Monitoring field visit to S. Kota Rythu Bharat FPO by NABARD DDM to explore business expansion opportunities

A joint monitoring visit was conducted on 26th February 2026 to S. Kota Rythu Bharat Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in Vizianagaram district by District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, along with Dr. Sangappa, Dr. Rafi from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The visit aimed to review the existing operational activities of FPO and to identify potential avenues for business expansion. Detailed interactions were held with the Board of Directors (BoDs) and member farmers to assess current performance, institutional functioning, and growth prospects. Key discussions focused on the proposed Gram Dukan model, envisaging the establishment of a village-level retail outlet for the supply of agricultural inputs and marketing of FPO-produced commodities. The initiative is expected to strengthen last-mile input delivery while enhancing market access and revenue generation for the FPO.

ICAR-IIMR establishes Custom Hiring Centre and Farmer Advisory Kiosk at Tekmal FPO

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, established a Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) and Farmers' Advisory Services Kiosk at Tekmal Mandal FPO on 24 February 2026 in



collaboration with the ICICI Foundation. The initiative aims to improve access to farm mechanization and

digital advisory services, initially benefiting around 500 small and marginal farmers, with scope for expansion. The advisory kiosk, powered by CropSync, provides real-time support on crop practices, pest management, weather updates, and market intelligence. The facilities were inaugurated by Shri Srinivasa Babu, Dr. Sangappa, and Dr. Rafi in the presence of FPO members, SHGs, and stakeholders, with around 120 farmers participating. Equipped with machinery for harvesting, processing, and value addition, the initiative strengthens FPO capacity, enhances farmer decision-making, and supports sustainable livelihoods.

ICAR-IIMR Witnesses National Rollout of BHARAT-VISTAAR, India's AI-Driven Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, actively participated in the live telecast of the national launch of BHARAT-VISTAAR, an AI-enabled Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture. The event was held on 17 February 2026 at Jaipur during the India AI Impact Summit 2026. The

platform was inaugurated by Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the presence of Bhajanlal Sharma. BHARAT-VISTAAR is a multilingual AI platform that delivers 24x7 agricultural support to farmers via mobile or phone calls. Through its voice assistant "Bharati" (dial 155261), farmers can access crop advisories, pest and disease management, weather updates, market information, government schemes, and grievance services in one place. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR, highlighted the role of such AI-driven platforms in strengthening millet research, climate-resilient farming, and market linkages. Scientists, staff, and trainees, including students under the GCoE-SCSP project, attended the session.

Award:

Dr Rajesha G is declared as **Fellow of Plant Protection Association of India** at the National Seminar on Innovations in Plant Health Management for Resilient Agriculture and Agri-Export Promotion, Feb 26-28, 2026, Hyderabad.



Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences

S. No.	Name of Employee	Title of the meeting / Workshop etc. (If paper etc. presented mention the title)	Organized by	Venue / Place	Online / Physical	Dates
1	Dr. Sangappa	International Trade Fair 2026	Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka	Bengaluru	Physical	6 – 8 Feb, 2026
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Collaboration between ICAR-IIMR, Vasantdada Sugar Industries (VSI) and Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) on Sweet Sorghum as feedstock for CBG production	Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.	IFGE, Ghaziabad, UP	Online	11.02.2026
3	Drs. Sangappa & A. Srinivas	National Millet Workshop and Kisan Mela, Jhansi	RLBCAU, Jhansi, UP	Jhansi, UP	Physical	14 – 15 Feb, 2026
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Member-Subject Matter Specialist in the 43 rd Extant Variety Recommendation Committee (EVRC) meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. HS Gupta, Chairman, Assam Agril. Commission & Former Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	PPV&FRA, DAC&FW, New Delhi.	Plant Authority Bhawan, New Delhi.	Online	16.02.2026

Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences

S. No.	Name of Employee	Title of the meeting / Workshop etc. (If paper etc. presented mention the title)	Organized by	Venue / Place	Online / Physical	Dates
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	National Launch of BharatVistaar - the Digital Public Infrastructure (DP/I) for AI in Agriculture - at Jaipur, as a side event of the India AI Impact Summit 2026	Govt. of India, New Delhi	Govt. of India, New Delhi	Online	17.02.2026
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Visited Crop and Food Science Department at Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Queensland, Australia and to engage in technical discussion on advanced processing technologies and value addition, discussed on bilateral research collaboration.	Crop and Food Science, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Government, Australia	Crop and Food Science, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Government, Brisbane.	Physical	22-27 Feb. 2026
7	Dr. Mahesh Kumar	Workshop on Bharati Bahubhasha Sarathi	Regional Implementation Office, DOL, MHA, Gol	NIMSME, Hyderabad	Physical	26 Feb, 2026

Training organized details during February 2026

S.No	Title of the training	Sponsoring Agency	Date	No. of participants
1.	Training program on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	9 Feb, 2026	35
2	Skill Development Training on Millet Processing and Value Addition for Women Farmers	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad & Selcos Foundation	14 Feb, 2026	60
3	Capacity building programme on Fruit Value Addition for Girisiri Tribal FPO Farmers	ESAF, Foundation & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	27-28 Feb, 2026	30

ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR)

E mail: director.millets@gmail.com **Website:** www.millets.res.in

Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)

All India Research Project on Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Small Millets

Compilation & Editing

Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat & D Revati

Photos, Design & Lay-out

HS Gawali

Publisher & Chief Editor

Director

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research
Global Centre of Excellence on Millets
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

Centre on Rabi Sorghum (IIMR), NH 9
Bypass, Shelgi, Solapur - 413 006 (Mah.)
Tel: 0217-2373456 Telefax: 0217-2373456

Sorghum Off-Season Nursery, Warangal
Indian Institute of Millets Research, RARS,
(PJTSAU) Mulugu Road, Warangal.

Regional Research Station on Pearl Millet
Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan
E mail: barmer@millets.res.in