



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)

Future agri-professionals experience millet technologies at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad

A group of 50 students from the Karnataka State National University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (KSNUAHS), Shivamogga visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad on 6th January 2026 as part of their All India Study Tour. The visit was designed to provide practical exposure on how scientific innovations are translated into practical solutions for farmers and entrepreneurs. Through interactions and live demonstrations at Shree Anna Processing & Training Unit, students observed the complete journey of millets from post-harvest handling, processing to development of value-added products. They were also exposed to nutritional importance of millets, health benefits, production practices, business opportunities and role of technology in strengthening millet ecosystem. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, PI of FPO-Project along with Mrs. Monalisha and Ms. Meghana from FPO NEST coordinated the visit.

Balanagar FPO exhibited millet technologies at Udyan Utsav 2026

With the objective of expanding market access and creating awareness on the benefits of millets, Balanagar Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) promoted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, participated by exhibiting a stall at Udyan Utsav 2026 (Agriculture and Horticulture Festival) held at Rashtrapati Nilayam from 3rd to 11th January 2026. The stall attracted a large number of visitors and effectively showcased millet-based technologies and value-added products such as millet murukku, millet ladoo, millet chivda, millet instant mixes, millet barfi, millet healthy ladoo, and millet nutribars. The displayed products received an encouraging public response and generated a consistent daily income ranging from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 12,000, while simultaneously creating consumer awareness on millets and strengthening the brand identity of Balanagar FPO. Approximately 10,000 visitors, including students, farmers, scientists, officials, entrepreneurs, and defence personnel, visited the festival. The interactions significantly enhanced awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of millets. Engagements with consumers, institutional buyers, and entrepreneurs also provided valuable insights into market trends and opened avenues for future market linkages and collaborations. The stall activities and coordination during the event were facilitated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator (FPO Projects), Dr. Rafi, and Mr. Mahender, Chief Executive Officer of Balanagar FPO.



Expert Talk on Building Market-Driven Millet Enterprises through Partnerships

Dr. Sangappa and Dr. Rafi from FPO-NEST unit delivered lecture on 9th January 2026 during the Entrepreneurship Foundation Programme in Millets organised at Nutrihub, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad. Dr. Rafi spoke on the topic "Linking millet FPOs to start-ups through experience of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad" and shared institutional experiences on strengthening millet-based enterprises through effective linkages between Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and start-ups. The lecture highlighted practical collaboration models for improving market access, value addition, branding, technology adoption, and commercialization of millet products. The session was interactive and well received by participants, including FPO members, entrepreneurs, and aspiring agribusiness professionals, and enhanced their understanding of market-driven and scalable business models in the millet sector. Dr. Sangappa shared the importance of



millet FPOs in strengthening millet ecosystem by sharing the live and practical experiences of FPOs from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana.

Building Future Agripreneurs through Millet-Based Innovation

To inspire young minds towards millet-based innovation and entrepreneurship, Dr. Rafi, and Dr. Sangappa addressed



agriculture students on 19th January 2026 as part of the 10 day Nutri Cereals Entrepreneurship Foundation Programme under the GCOE TSP and SCSP Training Programme. Dr. Sangappa emphasized the nutritional superiority, economic potential, and climate-resilient nature of millets, underlining their critical role in sustainable and future-ready food systems. Dr. Rafi elaborated on key constraints across the millet value chain. The session further highlighted promising avenues for millet-based agribusiness, such as value-added product development, start-ups, FPO-led enterprises, branding, and innovative market linkages. Real-life case studies and success stories from ICAR-IIMR initiatives helped participants' bridge theory with practice and appreciate the vast scope for innovation, entrepreneurship, and employment generation in the millet ecosystem.

Millet Technology Consultation Workshop Strengthens NEH Outreach at ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati

A one-day consultation workshop on the Promotion of Millet Technologies in the North Eastern Hill (NEH) States was successfully organized on 19 January 2026 at ICAR-



Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone-VI, Guwahati. The programme was jointly conducted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad and ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VI, Guwahati, Assam, bringing together scientists and representatives from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim to deliberate on region-specific strategies for strengthening millet production, value addition and market

integration in the hill ecosystem. The technical deliberations were inaugurated by G. Kadirvel, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati, who outlined the mandate and initiatives of ATARI Zone-VI and emphasized the frontline role of KVKs in technology assessment, refinement and dissemination. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, highlighted the progress of NEH-specific millet programmes and underscored the need for region-tailored technologies, strengthened value addition and effective market linkages to realize the full potential of millets in the North Eastern region.

In a special message, M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), along with A. K. Nayak, Deputy Director General (NRM), and Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities, called for intensified and long-term collaborative efforts among ICAR institutes, ATARIs, KVKs and State Agricultural Universities for scaling millet promotion in the NEH States. Amulya K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VII, Umiam, Meghalaya, and other delegates also participated and contributed to the technical discussions. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR and Nodal Officer (NEH), played a key role in coordinating the programme along with Bagish Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Guwahati. Dr. Sangappa facilitated interactions among ICAR-IIMR, ATARI and KVK scientists, supported the technical sessions and guided focused discussions on critical constraints such as seed availability, processing infrastructure and market access.

Exploring Millet Processing Models and Institutional Collaboration at ICAR-IIMR

Dr. P. K. Singh, Commissioner of Agriculture, Government of India, along with Dr. S. K. Rao, Former Vice Chancellor,



RVSKVV, Gwalior, visited the Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR) to review the institute's primary and secondary millet processing facilities on 28th January 2025. Dr. Sangappa briefed the functioning of the unit and its contribution in strengthening millet Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and providing livelihood opportunities for small and marginal farmers. The visit was coordinated by Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, & Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR.

Enhancing Incomes of ST Farmers through Millet Processing and Market Linkages

A focused training programme aimed at strengthening

livelihoods through millets was organized on 29th January 2026 at Thanagunda village in Yadgir district, Karnataka, for Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers. The programme emphasized millet processing, value addition, marketing linkages and input support, with the objective of improving post-harvest



management, enhancing technical skills and promoting market-oriented millet enterprises. The programme was jointly organised by Shorapur Taluka Millets Farmer Producer Company Limited, promoted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur and College of Agriculture, Bheemaranagudi. As part of the programme, tarpaulins were distributed to 55 Scheduled Tribe farmers to support efficient post-harvest handling and routine farm operations. These sessions enabled farmers to explore product diversification and improved market access. Overall, the programme significantly enhanced technical awareness and entrepreneurial orientation among the participating ST farmers and was effectively facilitated by Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator.

Dissemination of Millet Technologies at National Oilseeds Kisan Mela

As part of its ongoing extension and outreach activities, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR) participated in the National Oilseeds Kisan Mela organised on 30 January 2026 at Narkhoda Farm, Hyderabad by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research. ICAR-IIMR established an exhibition stall showcasing a diverse range of millet grains, processed millet products and value-added food items developed through its research programmes. The stall attracted wide interest from visitors and served as an effective medium for disseminating information on ICAR-IIMR's research and development initiatives in millets. Visitors were sensitised on improved millet varieties, advanced processing and value-addition technologies, product diversification options and enterprise development opportunities. Interactive discussions enabled farmers to gain practical insights into millet cultivation, post-harvest management and processing practices, while entrepreneurs and extension personnel sought technical guidance on establishing small-scale processing units and Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)-based millet enterprises. Overall, ICAR-IIMR's participation in the National Oilseeds Kisan Mela contributed significantly to creating awareness, strengthening stakeholder engagement and promoting wider adoption of millet technologies, in line with the institute's mandate of advancing nutrition- and climate-smart agriculture.

Developing Nation-Builders through the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Training Programme at ICAR-IIMR

In alignment with the national vision of building a future-



ready, values-driven and citizen-centric civil service, the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Training Programme was successfully organised at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, on 29 January 2026 for administrative and technical staff and on 30 January 2026 for scientific staff. The programme was inaugurated by C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, who highlighted the significance of ethical conduct, accountability and professionalism in public service. She emphasized that excellence in scientific research and administration must be anchored in integrity, empathy and a strong sense of national responsibility, and encouraged participants to internalise and practise the values of a Rashtriya Karmayogi in their professional roles. Sessions were delivered through an interactive, app-based learning format using the iGOT platform, promoting active participation, group discussions and self-reflection among participants. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, and Shiva Prasad Perumalla, Administrative Officer, served as master trainers and effectively facilitated the two-day training programme.

Students' Training Programme on "Commercial Beekeeping and Honey Production" conducted on 16th - 23rd January 2026 (7 days)

A Students' Training Programme on "Commercial



Beekeeping and Honey Production" was successfully conducted at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, from 16-23 January 2026. The programme aimed to impart scientific knowledge and practical skills in commercial beekeeping to agriculture students and aspiring agri-entrepreneurs. A total of 28 students (17 female and 11 male) from diverse agricultural institutions across India participated. The participants represented College of Agriculture Dharwad, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, College of Food Science and Technology, ANGRAU, Sher-e-Kashmir

University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Loni (affiliated to Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth).

The programme covered both theoretical and practical aspects of scientific beekeeping, including bee biology, species identification, colony management, pollination importance, pest and disease management, and hive products. Hands-on training was provided on bee handling, colony inspection, queen management, apiary establishment, honey extraction, processing, quality parameters, economics, marketing strategies, and relevant government schemes.

ICICI-IIMR Review Meeting on Project Implementation Progress

On 21st January 2026, a review meeting was held between ICICI Foundation and ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) at IIMR, Hyderabad, to evaluate



the progress achieved in the implementation of the projects submitted for support. Mr. Manish, Head – ESG, ICICI Bank; Mr. Sanjay Datta, President, ICICI Foundation; Mr. Suhas Nayak, Program Head; Mr. Vineet Rungta, Program Head; and Mr. Venkatesh BK, HOO, ICICI Foundation, offered their remarks and constructive feedback on project execution. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen coordination, ensure timely reporting, and accelerate field-level implementation to

accomplish the envisaged project outcomes. The visit to the processing unit was facilitated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, FPO Projects.

Seed Monitoring visit

The monitoring team of AICRP on Seed (Crops) project, Southern zone, headed by Dr Amit Bera, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore, visited IIMR on 21st January, 2026. The progress of the IIMR centre during 2025-26 was monitored by the team, other members Drs., Sanjay Kumar Singh Professor JNKVV, Jabalpur and Shantha Raja C.S ICAR-IISS, RS, Bengaluru. Drs. B. Venkatesh Bhat and Sooganna, Nodal Officers (Seed) explained the activities and the progress at the IIMR centre and the seed production programmes undertaken. Mr. Raghunath Kulakarni, Senior Technical Officer, Seed Unit, coordinated the visit to seed centre and facilities.

Little Millet Genome Revealed: A Landmark Achievement in Climate-Resilient Crop Genomics

Little millet (*Panicum sumatrense*), a highly climate-resilient yet underutilised small millet, holds significant potential for nutritional security and sustainable agriculture, particularly in marginal and resource-poor environments. To advance its genetic improvement, the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna) at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan and the National Research Council of Canada, as well as the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru, has generated the first chromosome-scale reference genome of little millet. The research has been published in the research journal *Nature Communications* (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-66716-6>).

Using a hybrid sequencing approach integrating long-read and short-read technologies, a high-quality genome assembly was produced for the genotype JK-8, comprising 18 chromosomes and 59,045 annotated protein-coding genes. Seven chromosomes were assembled from telomere to telomere, demonstrating exceptional continuity and structural resolution. To capture the species' genetic diversity, a panel of 300 little millet genotypes from diverse agro-ecological regions across India was resequenced, identifying approximately 250,000 SNP markers. Paired with extensive phenotyping for grain yield and micronutrient traits, these genomic datasets enabled genome-wide association studies (GWAS), which revealed genetic loci associated with iron, zinc, phosphorus content and key agronomic traits. These findings establish a robust foundation for integrating molecular breeding, marker-assisted selection, genomic selection and gene-editing into little millet improvement programmes.

This landmark genomic resource elevates little millet from an orphan crop to a genomically empowered species and positions it for targeted enhancement of yield stability, nutritional quality and climate resilience. The achievement emphasises India's leadership in millet science and directly supports the mission of the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets to accelerate millet research, innovation and global food and nutritional security efforts.

The Global Centre of Excellence on Millets was dedicated to the nation by the Honourable Prime Minister in March 2023, reflecting the Government of India's strong commitment to advancing millet science and establishing India as a global hub for climate-smart agriculture. The successful decoding of the little millet genome exemplifies this vision, demonstrating the Centre's growing leadership in high-impact research and its pivotal role in driving the next phase of scientific and technological innovation in millets.

Training organized details during January 2026

S. No.	Title of training	Dates	Duration (in days)	Number of Participants	Category of Participants (ICAR Employees, Entrepreneurs, Farmer's, Students etc.)
1	Training program on 'Latest Advances in Millet Production, Processing & Value Addition'	1-3 January 2026	3	35	Farmers
2	Entrepreneurship Foundation Program on Millets	6-9 January 2026	4	48	Entrepreneurs
3	Demonstration of Millet Recipes	19.01.2026	1	20	Students
4	Cooking With Millets	20.01.2026	1	20	Entrepreneurs
5	Training program on 'Latest Advances in Millet Production, Processing & Value Addition'	20-21 January 2026	2	25	Farmers

Execution of Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

S. No.	Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory authority		Witnessed by
				ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
1	09.01.26	M/s. Poorva Foods Products, Karnataka	Licensing of one millet value added technologies i.e. Foxtail millet instant idli mix	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Lingagouda B Patil, COO	Drs. J Stanley & Amasiddha B
2	06.01.26	Borne Technology	For equipping the millet primary processing unit at FPO farmgate as a part of CSR activity.	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mrs. Subalaxmi Sankararayan, Chairperson	Drs. Amasiddha B and Sangappa BC
3	06.01.26	Borne Technologies Private Limited, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Collaborative Research on training and capacity building program in millets	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mrs. Subalaxmi Sankararayan, Chairperson	Drs. Amasiddha B and Sangappa BC
4	03.01.26	Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation,	Collaborative Research and Joint promotion of Millets	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Kaunteya Dasa, CEO	Drs. Amasiddha B & K. Srinivas Babu



MoU with Borne Technology

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. C Tara Satyavathi	Meeting to re-examine and recommend a comprehensive Food Model and Diet Chart for Anganwadi Beneficiaries organized by the Dept of Women Development and Child Welfare, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.	Dept. of Women Development and Child Welfare, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.	Dept. of Women Development and Child Welfare, Govt. of Telangana, Hyderabad.	Online	02 Jan, 2026
2	Drs Sangappa, Vikas Kumar	Workshop on Millet Based Technologies at Udyan Utsav	ICAR-IIMR & MANAGE, Hyderabad	Rastrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad	Physical	05 Jan, 2026
3	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Meeting with DG, ICRISAT to finalize modalities of MAHARISHI Mini Secretariat at Nairobi, Kenya.	ICRISAT, Hyderabad.	ICRISAT, Hyderabad.	Physical	06 Jan, 2026
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated as National Crop Scientist and Chair for the Millets Deliberation Session during the Sankranti Sambaralu 2026 – Crop Specific Deliberations Summit for Policy Recommendations organized by Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research, Vadlamudi, Andhra Pradesh.	Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research, Vadlamudi, Andhra Pradesh.	Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research, Vadlamudi, Andhra Pradesh.	Physical	08 Jan, 2026
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Seva Manthan 2026 - Role of CSR in Affordable and Quality Healthcare organized by Seva Bharathi, Telangana.	Seva Bharathi, Telangana	Infosys Campus, Gachibowli, Hyderabad	Physical	08 Jan, 2026
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the First Meeting of the processing, value addition and B2B Committee of International Trade Fair 2026	KAPPEC, Bengaluru	Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing & Export Corp. Ltd Bengaluru	Online	12 Jan, 2026
7	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated as Member in the GSA Board meeting	GSA Global Sorghum & Millets Initiative Series 2025, Chicago, USA.	GSA Global Sorghum & Millets Initiative Series 2025, Chicago, USA.	Online	14 Jan, 2026
8	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated as Expert Resource Person during the SAARTHI: KRANTI 2026 organized by Society for Agricultural Advancement, Research, Training and Human Innovation, Haryana.	Society for Agricultural Advancement, Research, Training and Human Innovation, Haryana.	Society for Agricultural Advancement, Research, Training and Human Innovation, Haryana.	Online	14 Jan, 2026
9	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Delivered talk on "Millets as Functional Food and Nutraceuticals" during the Virtual Training Program on "Plant Genetic Resources Management and Utilization-Contemporary Approaches"	ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.	ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi	Online	16 Jan, 2026
10	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Delivered talk on "Genetic improvement in Millets: Status and Future Prospects" during the ICAR sponsored Winter School on "Integrated Breeding Approaches to Bring Climate Resilience and Accelerated Genetic Gain in Dryland Crops" organized by Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agril. University, Jhansi.	Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agril. University, Jhansi.	Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agril. University, Jhansi.	Online	17 Jan, 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
11	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the inaugural session of XXIX Biennial Workshop of AICRPDA and XII Annual Review Workshop of AICRPDA-NICRA at AAU Horticulture Research Station, Kahikuchi, AAU, Guwahati.	ICAR-ATARI, Zone-IV, Patna.	AAU Horticulture Research Station, Kahikuchi, AAU, Guwahati	Physical	19 Jan, 2026
12	Dr. Sangappa	Consultation workshop on the <i>Promotion of Millet Technologies in North Eastern Hill (NEH) States</i>	ICAR- ATARI, Guwahati, Assam & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	ICAR- ATARI, Guwahati, Assam	Physical	19-20 Jan, 2026
13	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the first meeting as Member nominated by ICAR vide DA&FW DAFW OM F.No. A-58011/135/2025-E.I dated 30.12.2025 in the Committee to assist in Agriculture Planning for the State of Andhra Pradesh.	Government of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.	Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.	Physical	20 Jan, 2026
14	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Inaugural session of launch workshop of "Atlas of Climate Adaptation in South Asian Agriculture (ACASA)" organized by ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad at AP Shinde Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi.	ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad	NASC Complex, New Delhi.	Physical	23 Jan, 2026
15	Anuradha Narala	Consultative Meeting with Organization and Association related to Rice, Maize and Millets regarding Kharif Price Policy for Marketing Season, 2026-27	Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.	DFPD Hall, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi	Physical	27 Jan, 2026
16	Dr. Sangappa	Rashtriya Karmayogi	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Physical	29-30 Jan, 2026

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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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