



MILLETS Newsletter

(Shree Anna)

Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer/Balotra

273 Issue-July 2026

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

Message from the Director

Dear Readers,

July 2026 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna) unfolded as a dynamic continuum of science, innovation, entrepreneurship and impact, translating millet research into tangible opportunities for farmers and value-chain stakeholders. The month witnessed a strong thrust towards industry engagement and technology commercialization, with multiple millet technologies being licensed to industry partners. The inauguration of a Millet Primary Processing Unit for a tribal FPO in Andhra Pradesh marked another milestone in decentralizing processing and strengthening grassroots enterprises. Our climate-smart research agenda advanced further with the commissioning of an Automated Retractable Rainout Shelter at the Solapur Regional Station, creating new capabilities for drought and moisture-stress research. Capacity building, student exposure, FPO mentoring and agribusiness initiatives continued to nurture a new generation of millet entrepreneurs, innovators and knowledge-driven farmers. The Institute also expanded its national and international interface through strategic collaborations in research, training, value-chain development and the global promotion of millets. These initiatives reaffirm ICAR-IIMR's vision of positioning millets at the intersection of climate resilience, nutrition, technology and inclusive rural prosperity. As we move forward, our focus remains steadfast on transforming research into relevance, innovation into enterprise, and millets into a powerful engine of sustainable development



Technical session on Millet Production Technologies and Value Addition at ICAR-KVK, Bidar

ICAR-KVK, Bidar, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Bidar, organized a Bi-Monthly Meeting on 1



July 2026. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, delivered a technical session on "Millet Production, Processing and Value Addition," highlighting improved production technologies, post-harvest management, processing, and value addition for enhancing farmers' income. He also emphasized the role of FPOs in aggregation, processing, branding, packaging, entrepreneurship, and market linkages. The programme brought together agriculture officials, scientists, extension personnel, and farmers, facilitating knowledge exchange on millet production, processing, and sustainable livelihoods.

ICAR-IIMR Scientist Receives Best Paper Award at International Conference on Agri Tech and Plantation 5.0

Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad,



participated in the International Conference on Agri Tech and Plantation 5.0, organized by IIPM, Bengaluru, during 3–4 July 2026. He presented a paper titled “Transforming Tribal Millet Farming through Innovation, Value Chain Integration and Sustainability: The Success Story of Sri Matsyadevatha FPO, Andhra Pradesh,” highlighting the impact of scientific interventions, value addition, institutional strengthening, and market linkages on tribal millet farming. The paper received the Best Paper Award for its contribution to sustainable agriculture and FPO-led rural transformation. The achievement reflects the dedicated efforts of the FPO-NEST team under the visionary guidance of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, in advancing millet enterprises and sustainable value chains.

Capacity building programme on Business Opportunities in Millet Production and Value Addition

APEDA Regional Office, Visakhapatnam, organized a Virtual Capacity Building Programme to Promote Millets (Shree Anna) on 14 July 2026, bringing together farmers, FPO representatives, entrepreneurs, processors, extension personnel, and other value-chain stakeholders from multiple states. Dr. Rafi, Agri Business Expert, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, shared insights on improved cultivation, post-harvest handling, quality management, and millet-based product development. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, highlighted the potential of millets as climate-resilient, nutritious, and marketable commodities. The programme strengthened awareness and promoted technological, entrepreneurial, and market-oriented approaches for wider millet adoption.

Exploring the Future of Millets: IARI-NIASM students gain practical exposure at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, hosted B.Sc. students from ICAR-IARI, NIASM Hub, Pune, on 14 July 2026 to provide practical exposure to millet processing, value addition, and entrepreneurship. The students visited the Shree Anna Processing and Value Addition Unit, gaining insights into processing technologies, product development, business incubation, and market-oriented innovations. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, and FPO NEST Team, ICAR-IIMR, and encouraged students to explore careers in food processing, agribusiness, research, and entrepreneurship.

Promoting Millet Entrepreneurship through Innovation and Value Chain Development

K-AgTech LaunchPad, a NABARD-supported Rural Business Incubation Centre (RBIC), organized an online session under its Friday Agri-Innovation Talks series on 24 July 2026 titled “Empowerment of Smallholders through Millet Processing, Value Addition & Marketing.” FPO team, ICAR-IIMR,

Hyderabad, shared practical insights on millet processing, value addition, marketing, and entrepreneurship for enhancing farmers’ incomes. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, highlighted the potential of millets as climate-resilient and nutritious crops, emphasizing scientific processing, branding, packaging, market linkages, and incubation support. The session provided students, startups, entrepreneurs, researchers, farmers, and agri-enthusiasts with insights into technology transfer, product diversification, and commercialization of millet-based enterprises.

Enhancing Crop Productivity through Awareness and Training on El Niño and Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Practices

An Awareness and Training Programme on El Niño and Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Practices was organized on 28 July 2026 at Dharmavaram Village for shareholder farmers of Skota Rythu Bharat FPO MACS Limited, promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, under ATMA. The programme



focused on climate-resilient practices, including integrated pest and disease management, balanced nutrient management, and water-use efficiency. Dr. Srinivas, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR along with the ADA, AO, APSSD Planning Officer, and 40 farmers, participated in the programme. The technical sessions provided practical guidance on crop management under El Niño conditions, moisture conservation, and sustainable cultivation, supporting improved productivity, efficient input use, and climate resilience.

Impact of VKSA: ICAR-IIMR Establishes Millet Primary Processing Unit for Tribal FPO in Andhra Pradesh

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, inaugurated a Millet Primary Processing Unit at Sevalal FPO MACS, Pendliman Thanda, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, on 30 July 2026. The unit was inaugurated by Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, in the presence of scientists, officials, partners, and tribal millet farmers. Supported under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) with technical support from ICAR-KVK Banavasi, ANGRAU and ICAR-ATARI, the unit aims to strengthen post-

harvest management, reduce processing losses, and promote value addition, branding, and market linkages. Dr. Tara Satyavathi emphasized village-level processing infrastructure



for enhancing farmers' income and encouraged FPOs to develop sustainable agribusiness enterprises. With 757 tribal farming families as members, Sevalal FPO is expected to improve processing efficiency, generate rural employment, and strengthen millet-based livelihoods. Sh. K. Srinivasa Babu, Dr. Sangappa, Dr. Rafi, and Mr. Prashanth coordinated the event with the support of Dr. K. Raghavendra Chowdhary, PC & Head, ICAR-KVK, Banavasi, and Sevalal FPO BODs.

Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBSC) Meeting

The second meeting of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) was held on 20 July 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR and Chairman, IBSC, to review the progress of biosafety measures at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by Dr. V. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR (DBT-Nominee); Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIRR (External Expert); Dr. Jinu Jacob, Senior Scientist and Member Secretary, IBSC; Dr. D. Balakrishna, Dr. P. Rajendrakumar (Internal Experts); and Dr. Santhosh K. Gupta, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR.

Deputation Presentation on Overseas Training in Genome Editing

On 9 July 2026, Dr. Jinu Jacob, Senior Scientist (Biotechnology), delivered a deputation presentation on the completion of her short-term overseas training in genome editing under the ICAR-funded EFC Project, "Enhancing Climate Resilience and Ensuring Food Security with Genome Editing Tools," at IPK, Germany.

Capacity Building Programme on Millets Cultivation and Value Addition

ICAR-IIMR, Regional Station, Solapur participated in a Capacity Building Programme on Millets Cultivation and Value Addition held on 10 July 2026 at KVK, Tuljapur, Dharashiv, organized by KVK Tuljapur, VNMKV, Parbhani

and Meloop Foods Pvt. Ltd. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Indra Mani, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani; Dr. Rakesh Ahire, Director of Extension Education; Dr. Sachin Suryavanshi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Tuljapur; and Mr. Rajeev Jain, Food Industry Expert. Dr. Parashuram Patroti, Senior Scientist & Nodal Officer, CoE on Millets Processing & Value Addition, ICAR-IIMR, Solapur, delivered a technical lecture on millet cultivation, processing, value addition and entrepreneurship. A millet exhibition was also organized, followed by distribution of quality seeds of finger, foxtail and barnyard millets to promote improved and sustainable cultivation.

Exchange Programme on "Strengthening of Millets Ecosystem: From Farm, Processing to Market Integration"

ICAR-IIMR, Regional Station, Solapur participated in the Exchange Programme on "Strengthening of Millets Ecosystem: From Farm, Processing to Market Integration" held on 15 July 2026 in Pune, Maharashtra, organized by IMMIDA under the SMART Project, Government of Maharashtra, with support from the World Bank and NIFTEM, Kundli. Shri Dattatray Bharane, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, emphasized millets' role in climate resilience, nutritional security and farmer livelihoods. Dr. Parashuram Patroti, Senior Scientist & Nodal Officer, CoE on Millets Processing & Value Addition, ICAR-IIMR, delivered an expert presentation on production, processing, value addition, entrepreneurship and market linkages, and highlighted progress under the SMART Maharashtra project, including CoE activities and infrastructure development.

Inauguration of the Automated Retractable Rainout Shelter Facility at ICAR-IIMR, Regional Station, Solapur

The Automated Retractable Rainout Shelter Facility at ICAR-IIMR, Regional Station, Solapur, was inaugurated on 25 July



2026 by Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. Supported by ICICI Foundation under CSR, the facility will strengthen research on drought tolerance, moisture-stress screening, and climate-resilient sorghum breeding.

The event was attended by Mr. Ajinkya Purwat, Mr. Rushikesh Kate, and Mr. Rohit Bhandwale from ICICI Foundation/ICICI Bank, along with Dr. Baswaraj Raigond, Dr. Parashuram Patroti, Dr. D. Balakrishna, Dr. Srinivas Babu, and Dr. Amasiddha from ICAR-IIMR. The facility will provide controlled conditions for moisture-stress screening and support the development of climate-resilient sorghum cultivars.

One-Day Workshop on “Agribusiness Opportunities for Gen Z Farmers and Technologists”

ICAR-IIMR, Regional Station, Solapur participated in the workshop on “Agribusiness Opportunities for Gen Z Farmers and Technologists” held on 31 July 2026 at Sinhgad Institute, Solapur. The exhibition showcased millet varieties, value-



added products, processing technologies, value-chain activities and entrepreneurship opportunities, attracting farmers, students, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. Dr. Parashuram Patroti, Senior Scientist & Nodal Officer, delivered an expert lecture on “Millets Value Chain: From Farm to Processing, Value Addition and Entrepreneurship Development”, highlighting cultivation, processing, value addition, market linkages and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth.

Visit of Dr. M. J. Khan, Executive Director, World Agriculture Forum (WAF) to ICAR-IIMR

Dr. M. J. Khan, Executive Director, World Agriculture Forum (WAF), Washington, D.C., visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, on



27 July 2026 and interacted with Dr. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR. Dr. Khan appreciated IIMR's scientific achievements, advanced research facilities, startup incubation

ecosystem, and contributions to strengthening India's global leadership in millets. Discussions focused on exploring a strategic partnership between WAF and IIMR for the global promotion of millets, with emphasis on nutrition, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and farmer prosperity. The proposed collaboration would leverage WAF's international network and convening platform along with IIMR's scientific and technical expertise.

Tree Plantation Drive Organized to Mark ICAR 98th Foundation Day

As part of the 98th Foundation Day celebrations of ICAR, a tree plantation drive was organized at ICAR-IIMR, Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna), Hyderabad, on



16 July 2026. Dr. (Mrs.) C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR, along with the scientific and technical staff, participated in the programme near the newly constructed farm shed. Seven mango saplings were planted to promote environmental sustainability and green campus development. The programme was coordinated by Dr. B. Amasiddha and Mr. J. Bhagavantham, highlighting the importance of tree cover and environmental stewardship in sustainable agricultural development.

Tarpaulin and Sprayer Distribution for Improved Millets Cultivation and Post-harvest Management - Vikarabad, Telangana

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, organized a farmers' meeting-cum-input distribution programme under GCoE-SCSP on 24 July 2026 in Vikarabad District, Telangana. Dr. N. Anuradha, Senior Scientist, Dr. C. Deepika, Scientist, and Mrs. M. Deepika, Project Staff, participated in the programme and provided technical guidance on improved millet cultivation, nutrition, and scientific crop management. Following a baseline survey of 300 farmers, 200 SC beneficiaries were selected from Darur and Pudur mandals. As part of the intervention, 100 tarpaulin sheets and 100 power sprayers were distributed to selected farmers to support post-harvest management and crop protection. The programme witnessed active participation and appreciation from beneficiary farmers.

Execution of Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory Authority		Witnessed by
			ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
09.07.26	MP Agrotonics Limited, Punjab	Licensing of two millet value added technologies i.e. Finger millet-based energy bar & finger millet nut delight bar	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Anilesh Singh, Business Partner	Dr. J. Stanley
09.07.26	Ajitnath Merchant Pvt Ltd, Madhya Pradesh	Licensing of two millet value added technologies i.e. little millet instant khichdi mix & multimillet extruded snacks	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Raj Verma, Business Partner	Dr. J. Stanley
14.07.26	NaturSav Biosustainable Solutions Private Limited, Tamil Nadu	Collaborative research & promotion of millets for Bio-ethanol production	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Sarvanan M, Director	Drs. AV Umakanth Amasiddha B
15.07.26	Ojas Kishan, Hyderabad	Licensing of four millet value added technologies i.e. sorghum cookies gluten free, sorghum premium almond cookies, sorghum premium choco chip cookies & finger millet cookies	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Kishore Reddy, Business Partner	Dr. J. Stanley
24.07.26	Kuntunath Merchants Private Limited, Madhya Pradesh	Licensing of one millet value added technology i.e. Finger millet-based energy bar	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. JP Sharma, Business Partner	Dr. J. Stanley
29.07.26	MIT Vishwaprayag University, Maharashtra	Collaborative research & students training & post graduate research	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Prof. Pranesh Mrunal, Registrar	Drs. Amasiddha B & Parashuram
27.07.26	Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh	Collaborative research, capacity building, promotion of millets & students training & post graduate research	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Prof. T Srinivasan, Vice-Chancellor	Drs. Amasiddha B & Srinivas Babu K
31.07.26	Purely Rooted Foods Private Limited, Haryana	Licensing of six millet value added technologies i.e. Sorghum sugar-free cookies (less fat), sorghum premium cashew cookies, sorghum premium choco chip cookies, finger millet jaggery cookies, sorghum instant idli mix & foxtail millet instant idli mix	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Vignesh Garg, Director	Dr. J. Stanley



MoA with MP Agrotonics



MoA with Ajitnath Merchant Pvt Ltd.



MoA with Ojas Kishan



MoA with Kuntunath Merchants PVT. Ltd



MoA with Purely Rooted Foods Private Limited

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	Participated in the Techno Commercial Assessment Committee (TCAC) for the evaluation of the multi-cut forage sorghum hybrid CSH 24 MF scheduled by Agrinnovate India Limited.	Agrinnovate India Ltd	ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad	Online	3.7.2026
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the online meeting to review preparedness of districts in Andhra Pradesh to address impact of El Nino	ATARI, Hyderabad	--	Online	6.7.2026
3	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the meeting convened by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Telangana on El Nino conditions in the state	Agriculture Department, Telangana	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	Physical	13.7.2026
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the online ICAR Technology Portfolio for Corporate Social Responsibility Conclave 2026 in collaboration with Agrinnovate India Ltd.	ICAR, New Delhi	NASC Complex, New Delhi	Online	15.7.2026
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the 98 th Foundation Day Program of ICAR	ICAR, New Delhi	-	Online	16.7.2026
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated as Member in the Expert Committee meeting to assess the impact of prevailing El Nino conditions under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Chairman, Expert Committee & Vice Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board	Government of Telangana	Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, Panjagutta, Hyd.	Physical	22.7.2026
7	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in Scientific panel on Cereals and Cereal Products, Legumes and Pulses (SP-11) of Science & Standards Division of FSSAI, New Delhi	FSSAI, New Delhi	-	Online	23.7.2026
8	Dr. Hariprasanna K.	IMC Meeting	ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi	ICAR-NBPGR	Online	23.7.2026
9	Dr. Stanley and Dr. Amasiddha	Technology valuation methods and techniques	ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad	ICAR-NAARM	Physical	23-24th July 2026

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

Compilation & Editing
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