



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)

CBBO review monitoring meeting for Balanagar and Dundubi FPOs

To streamline ongoing activities and chart a clear path for future growth, a review meeting was organized on 2nd March 2026 with Balanagar FPO and Dundubi FPO, promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad in the presence of Shri. Shanmukha Chary, DDM, Shri. Roshan Supe AGM, NABARD, Telangana Regional Office, Hyderabad and ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The meeting was primarily held to assess field level progress and operational challenges in the business activities of the FPOs. Shri. Chary and Roshan conducted detailed discussions on improving the business operations to ensure timely availability of quality inputs to farmers, to strengthen the functioning and outreach of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and identifying practical opportunities for value addition to enhance profitability. The interaction helped the FPO to streamline and prioritize activities for optimizing available resources and business expansion. Mr. Prashanth & Dr. Rafi from FPO-NEST coordinated this visit under the guidance of Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist & Principal Investigator of FPO Projects, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.



Strategic review and capacity strengthening of FPOs for sustainable growth

Shri. Roshan Supe, AGM, NABARD, Telangana Regional Office, Hyderabad along with team of ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad visited Palamuru Vegetable FPO and Manyam Devarakadra FPO, on 3rd March 2026 and conducted review to assess the progress of FPOs. During the visit, Roshan appreciated the efforts of ICAR-IIMR in strengthening FPOs by facilitating access to improved technologies, Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) equipment, and primary processing machinery. These interventions have enabled the FPOs to deliver affordable farm mechanization services to member farmers, reduce the cost of cultivation, and generate additional income through value added products. The support extended by ICAR-IIMR has significantly contributed in enhancing the managerial and operational capacities of the FPOs. As a result, member farmers are experiencing improved access to quality inputs, better extension services, and enhanced market linkages leading to increased productivity and income levels. The review meeting emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among stakeholders to further strengthen FPO led agribusiness development and ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities for the farming community. Dr. Rafi and Mr. Prashanth from FPO NEST organized and visited to FPOs with the support of Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

Sustainable agriculture and livelihood enhancement through natural farming techniques

To promote sustainable agriculture and value addition at the grassroots level, a training and practical demonstration programme was organized on 4th March 2026 at Vantlamamidi village for members of Girisiri FPO, promoted by ICAR-IIMR. The programme was designed to enhance farmer skills in preparing organic inputs and millet-based nutritious products, thereby strengthening both farm productivity and income opportunities. During the program participants were trained in preparation of Ghanajeevamrutham from cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, bengal gram flour, and fertile topsoil by Dr. Sangappa and Dr. Rafi. Farmers were informed about the advantages of adopting natural methods of cultivation involved in enhancing soil fertility, increasing beneficial microbial activity. In addition, a practical demonstration on the preparation of ragi malt was conducted using ragi flour, jaggery, milk, cardamom, and roasted gram. This activity aimed to promote nutritional awareness and encourage value addition of millets at the household and FPO level. Participants gained hands-on experience in preparing a nutritious product with potential for local consumption as well as market opportunities. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad along with Dr. Rafi and Ms. Rashmitha organized and facilitated this programme.

Educational exposure of UAS Dharwad students to millet processing and entrepreneurship

As part of All India Study Tour, final-year B.Sc. (Agriculture) students from the University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad



visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research on 5th March 2026. The visit provided students with an overview of millet processing systems such as cleaning, grading, milling, and value addition. They were introduced to modern machinery and practical methods used in developing millet-based products, helping them understand processing techniques and quality aspects. Students were also informed about support systems available for promoting millet-based enterprises. The session at Nutri-Hub explained its role in incubation, technical support, and business development, enabling students to understand the process of starting and managing millet-based ventures. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, Hyderabad, provided guidance to the participants throughout the visit.

Industrial exposure of agribusiness students to millet value chain and enterprise development

To acquaint students with real-time agri-processing systems and emerging business avenues in the millet sector, final-year Agribusiness Management students from the University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 9th March 2026 as part of their industrial tour. The visit enabled students to understand the complete millet value chain, with focused exposure to processing, value addition, and product development. At the Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit, they were introduced to practical aspects of millet-based enterprises and the role of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in aggregation, value addition, and improving farmers' income. The visit offered significant learning outcomes, including practical understanding of millet processing systems, exposure to business models in the millet sector, and awareness of institutional support available for start-ups. It also enhanced students' perspective on value addition, supply chain integration, and opportunities for self-employment and enterprise development in agriculture. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, Hyderabad, & Mr. Abbu Seth coordinated this visit.

Technical exposure of UPCAR scientists to millet processing systems and decentralized enterprise opportunities

With a focus on strengthening millet-based processing infrastructure and exploring region-specific enterprise models, scientists from multiple centres under the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR) visited the



ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 9th March 2026. The visit was oriented towards understanding scalable millet processing technologies and identifying opportunities for establishing decentralized processing units across different agro-climatic zones of Uttar Pradesh. Scientists were briefed on value addition pathways, product diversification, and the role of localized processing in enhancing farmer income and improving market access. At the Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit, the team examined operational aspects of primary and secondary processing systems, including machinery selection, process flow, and quality parameters. Discussions also covered practical considerations such as unit design, capacity planning, cost implications, and technology transfer mechanisms suitable for field-level implementation. The interaction provided key learnings on integrating processing infrastructure with farmer-centric institutions such as FPOs, enabling aggregation, value addition, and better price realization. It also highlighted the importance of promoting millet consumption through locally processed products and strengthening value chains within the state. The programme was effectively facilitated under the coordination of Dr. Sangappa, ensuring structured engagement and meaningful technical discussions throughout the visit.

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad celebrates 3rd foundation day of GCoE-Millet

Marking three years of progress in millet research and promotion, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad, celebrated the 3rd Foundation Day of the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna) on 18th March 2026. The occasion served as a platform to showcase key achievements and ongoing efforts in advancing millets for sustainable agriculture and nutritional security. The

programme featured addresses by distinguished dignitaries including Shri Abhay Sharma, Head of Operations



(Digitalization), ICICI Foundation (Guest of Honour); Dr. S. K. Pradhan, Assistant Director General (FFC), ICAR (virtual mode); Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director General (Seeds, O & P), ICAR (online); and Dr. Y. Venkateshwara Rao, Padma Shri Awardee, Raithu Nestham Foundation. Their remarks highlighted the importance of millets in climate-resilient agriculture, nutritional security, and farmer income enhancement. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IMR, presented key achievements of the institute, including the development of improved millet varieties, strengthening of seed systems, promotion of value-added products, and continuous support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) through capacity building and market linkages. During the event, several publications and innovative millet technologies were released. Awards were presented to recognize excellence, with Dr. Sangappa receiving the *Best Senior Scientist Award* and Dr. Amasiddha being honoured with the *Best Scientist Award*. Tekmal, Dundubi, and Balanagar FPOs were also felicitated for their commendable



performance in strengthening the millet value chain. A key highlight of the programme was the signing of a MoU for the commercialization of value-added millet technologies, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and expanding market opportunities.

Exposure of ATMA Pune farmers to millet processing and enterprise development

With a focus on linking production with post-harvest value addition and market opportunities, a group of 45 progressive farmers along with a coordinator from ATMA, Pune visited the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad on 24th March 2026. The visit provided an opportunity for participants to understand how millets can be positioned as commercially viable crops through processing and product diversification. Interactions during the



programme highlighted practical aspects such as selecting suitable millet varieties for processing, maintaining product quality, and aligning production with market demand. Participants were exposed to the workflow of processing units, including handling, grading, and conversion of raw millets into consumer-ready products. Discussions also focused on packaging, branding, and basic marketing strategies required for selling millet-based products in local and urban markets. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist & Ms. Monalisha.

Establishment of Chickpea procurement centre by Gram Vishwas FPCL to strengthen farmer market access

For improving market access, ensuring fair price realization,

and strengthening farmer centric value chains, Gram Vishwas Farmer Producer Company Limited established a chickpea procurement centre at Mehkar village in Bidar district on 19th March 2026. The FPO has been promoted by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research with institutional



support from the SFAC under the Atmanirbhar Bharat. This effort reflects the continued focus of ICAR-IIMR on strengthening FPOs through improved aggregation systems, better post-harvest management, and enhanced market linkages. The establishment of procurement infrastructure at village level reduced farmers' dependence on intermediaries and improving their bargaining capacity in agricultural markets. The procurement centre was inaugurated by BoDs of the FPO in the presence of farmers and stakeholders. The centre is providing a reliable and transparent platform to Mehkar village farmers for selling their chickpea produce efficiently. For the Rabi marketing season 2026-27, the Government of India has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for chickpea at Rs. 5,875 per quintal, ensuring assured and remunerative pricing. Through this facility, farmers are able to access MSP based procurement, receive timely payments, and reduce transportation costs, thereby improving their overall returns. The centre also supported the operational strengthening of FPO by enabling activities such as aggregation, quality assessment, and bulk marketing. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad along with Karnataka coordinators guided the FPO for arranging the procurement facilities at FPO farm gate.

Global learning exchange on Millet processing and farmer centric business models

Bringing global participants together for experiential learning in millet-based systems two batches of ITEC delegates from the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) visited the Shree Anna Processing Unit on 23rd March 2026. The visit engaged 47 participants from 12 countries in understanding how millets can be effectively integrated into modern agri-food systems through processing and value addition. During

the interactions Dr. Rafi explained on practical workflows, product transformation, and approaches to enhance the usability and market appeal of millets. Interactions on millet Farmer Producer Organization frameworks, and how collective institutions can support aggregation, streamline supply chains, and improve farmers' access to markets was discussed. Discussions emphasized adaptable models that can be replicated in diverse international contexts. The programme offered significant value by connecting technical knowledge with real-world applications, enabling participants to identify opportunities for strengthening millet value chains in their respective countries. It also facilitated cross-learning on institutional mechanisms, entrepreneurship pathways, and farmer-centric development approaches. The visit was facilitated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist & Dr. Rafi, FPO NEST ensuring an interactive and outcome-oriented learning experience.

Inspection of Official Language Implementation at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research and Other Sister Institutions

On March 10, 2026, Shri Ram Dayal Sharma, Joint Director (Official Language), ICAR, New Delhi, inspected the Official



Language Implementation activities of ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad, and other sister institutions (Central Dryland Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Institute of Oil Seeds Research, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Indian Rice Research Institute, Directorate of Poultry Research, and National Meat Research Institute). Upon arrival at the Institute, he was welcomed by Dr. (Mrs.) C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR. Thereafter he reviewed the activities mentioned in the IIMR, Hyderabad report pointwise and commended the Institute for its smooth functioning and made some suggestions to accelerate the implementation of the Official Language. The entire inspection was coordinated by Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Chief Technical Officer (Official Language) under the guidance of Dr. Tara Satyavathi.

Execution of MOUs

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory Authority		Witnessed by
			ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
06.03.26	Vasantdada Sugar Institute & Indian Federation of Green Energy	Tripartite MoU signed for Collaborative Research and promotion of millets for CBG & Ethanol Production	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Shri Sambhaji Kadupatil, Director General, VSI & Shri Sanjay Ganjoo, IFGE	Dr. AV Umakanth
12.03.26	Dhaanya Lakshmi Foods, Hyderabad	MoA signed for the licensing of one millet value added technology i.e. Sorghum heat and eat roti	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Ms. Preethi Kartan, Partner	Dr. Amasiddha B
17.03.26	Vivek Foods Global Exim Enterprises, AP	MoA signed for the licensing of two millet value added technologies i.e. Finger millet nut delight bar & Multi millet cookies	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Vijay Kiran, Managing Director	Dr. Amasiddha B
17.03.26	Presidency University, Kolkata	MoU signed for Collaborative Research, Capacity building and promotion of millets	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. Debajyoti Konar, Registrar	Dr. Amasiddha B

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	"Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Millets and Food Nutritional Security" India's Biggest 30 Day's National Training Program, "Agri SAARTHI KRANTI 2026 2.0"	Agri SAARTHI KRANTI	Agri SAARTHI KRANTI	Online	10.03.2026
2	Dr. Sangappa	Millet-Based Livelihoods and Strengthening Value Chains: Online Conclave on Seed Distribution and Value Addition Centre Establishment	ICAR-CITH & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	West Kameng Dist, Arunachal Pradesh	Virtual	10.03.2026
3	Dr. Vikas Kumar	Processing of Millets	Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Village Lathau, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh	Physical	11th March 2026
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) Delivered talk on "Steering Shree Anna for Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Security of Small and Marginal Farmers – A Success Saga" during the Technical Session II on Driving progress, attaining New Heights.	ICAR, TAAS, CGIAR and PPVFRA	NASC, New Delhi	Physical	12.03.2026

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5	Dr. Sangappa	Farmer-Scientist Interaction-cum-Training Workshop on Fodder Sorghum & Millets	CoA, Tripura	Tripura	Virtual	12-13 March 2026
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Guest of Honour during the Inaugural Ceremony at the Maize & Millet Summit 2026. Participated in the 2 nd day program of Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026)	Tefla's & Waseda Global, Endorsed by MAPS (Maize & Millet Promotion Society).	The Leela Ambience Gurugram ,	Physi-cal	13.03.2026
7	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the 3 rd day program of Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026).	ICAR, TAAS, CGIAR and PPVFRA	NASC, New Delhi	Physi-cal	14.03.2026
8	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Round table on "Advancing Food System Transformation: Evidence to Policy for a Viksit Bharat and Net-Zero future during the ISB Public Policy Dialogues 2026	(CEEW), Bharat Institute of Public Policy and ISB.	ISB cam-pus, Hydera-bad.	Physi-cal	20.03.2026
9	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Chief Guest for the Inaugural Ses-sion of the ISSCA-ITEC Interna-tional training courses on "Resilient Seed Systems"	ICRISAT, Hydera-bad.	ICRISAT, Hydera-bad	Physi-cal	23.03.2026

Training organized details during March 2026

S. No	Title of the training	Sponsoring Agency	Date	Duration in Days	Number of participants	Category of participants
1	Master training programme on processing and value addition technologies in millets for entrepreneurship development in Arunachal Pradesh	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad & CoA, Pasighat, CAU, Imphal	3-6 March 2026	4	16	Entrepreneurs, FPOs, women SHGs
2	Skill Development and Livelihood enhancement of tribal women of Lambasingi FPO	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	6 March 2026	1	30	Tribal farmers
3	Master training programme for KVK Scientists on development of Millet Value Chain in North Eastern Hilly Region	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad & AICRP NEH component	17 - 20 March 2026	4	15	Subject Matter Specialists (SMS)

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

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