



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)

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji inspires Millet Stakeholders during Visit to ICAR-IIMR, Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)

With millets gaining renewed importance as nutritious and climate-resilient crops, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad, on 21 May 2026 to review the activities of the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna). The Hon'ble Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji planted a sapling, reviewed the institute's research and infrastructure, and interacted with farmers, FPOs, startups, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders through an exhibition organized at the institute premises. The exhibition showcased improved millet varieties, value-added products, processing



technologies, and innovative enterprises.

Addressing the participants, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji, highlighted the critical role of millets in ensuring nutritional security, sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and enhanced livelihoods for farming communities. He stressed the importance of expanding millet consumption, strengthening processing and value-addition infrastructure, and creating greater opportunities for FPOs, startups, women entrepreneurs, and rural youth in millet-based businesses. The Hon'ble Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards supporting millet promotion through research, innovation, technology transfer, and enterprise development aimed at improving farmer incomes and generating rural employment. He also appreciated the contributions of ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research in advancing millet research, entrepreneurship, and farmer-centric development initiatives for the overall growth of the millet sector.



Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi briefed the Minister on major initiatives under GCoE, TSP, SCSP, NEH, FPO promotion, and the MAHARISHI programme. The Hon'ble Minister also visited the Advanced Phenomics Facility, developed under the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna), and reviewed the institute's advanced research infrastructure for genomics and precision breeding in millets.

The visit of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji instilled a strong sense of encouragement and confidence among farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agri-startups, women entrepreneurs, scientists, and millet stakeholders at the programme.

Dr. M. L. Jat reviewed Advanced Nutrigenomics Laboratory at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)

Highlighting the growing importance of millets in ensuring nutritional security, climate resilience, and sustainable

livelihoods, Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)) on 6th May 2026 to review the institute's research advancements, infrastructure development, and outreach initiatives focused on strengthening the millet ecosystem in the country.

During the visit, the Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) reviewed the state-of-the-art Nutrigenomics Laboratory at ICAR-IIMR, established



under the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna). The facility supports advanced genomics and molecular breeding through high-throughput sequencing, RNA sequencing, gene validation, SNP marker development, and trait mapping. It will accelerate marker-assisted, AI-enabled, and gene-editing approaches for developing climate-resilient, nutrient-rich, and high-yielding millet varieties. The newly established Nutrigenomics Laboratory will strengthen global millet research by providing advanced genomics support to researchers, institutions, start-ups, and industry through collaborative research and technology partnerships. The facility will advance nutritional genomics, functional trait discovery, and next-generation breeding, contributing to food and nutritional security, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Jat and Dr. D.K. Yadava (DDG, Crop Science) visited the Advanced Phenomics Facility and reviewed the progress of the Global Centre of Excellence on



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Millets (Shree Anna), appreciating ICAR-IIMR's world-class research infrastructure. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi briefed them on the institute's achievements and initiatives under TSP, SCSP, NEH, and FPO programmes, highlighting millet-based livelihoods, value addition, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture.

During the exhibition, the dignitaries reviewed improved millet cultivars, germplasm, and processing technologies, and interacted with millet farmers from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, who shared their success stories under ICAR-IIMR interventions.

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad Receives Best Centre Award for Excellence in Quality Seed Production

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad has been conferred the Best Performance Award (ICAR Institute Category) for the



year 2025–26 in Quality Seed Production under the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Seed (Crops). The award was presented during the 41st Annual Group Meeting (AGM) of AICRP on Seed (Crops) held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu, from 13–15 May 2026. The award was presented by ICAR-National Institute of Seed Science & Technology (ICAR-NISST), Mau, Uttar Pradesh, in recognition of ICAR-IIMR's outstanding contributions to the national seed programme.

The recognition acknowledges ICAR-IIMR's exemplary achievements in breeder and quality seed production, promotion of newly released millet varieties, development of seed infrastructure, technology dissemination, and capacity building of stakeholders. The Certificate of Excellence specifically recognizes the dedicated efforts of the team comprising Dr. B. Venkatesh Bhat, Dr. Sooganna, and Shri Raghunath Kulakarni, whose collective contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening the millet seed system and ensuring the availability of high-quality seed to farmers across the country.

Girisiri FPO Showcases Value-Added Products at SARAS All India DWCR Mela, Vizianagaram

The SARAS All India DWCR Mela, held during 1–5 May 2026 at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, provided a platform for promoting rural livelihoods, women SHGs, FPOs, and rural enterprises. Girisiri Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), promoted by ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR–IIMR), showcased a range of millet-based value-added products, attracting appreciation from visitors and stakeholders for their quality and innovation. The event enabled the FPO to strengthen market linkages, interact with buyers, and explore new business opportunities. In recognition of its outstanding participation, Girisiri FPO received a Certificate of Appreciation and a memento on 5 May 2026. The participation was guided by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist & PI of FPO Projects, along with Shri K. Srinivasa Babu.

Strengthening Millet Value Addition and Entrepreneurship for Rajasthan FPOs

To explore advanced millet processing technologies and enterprise opportunities, five progressive farmers and



two District Agricultural Officers from Rajasthan visited ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR–IIMR), Hyderabad, on 7 May 2026. The visit focused on millet processing, value addition, branding, and market linkages. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, FPO NEST Team, shared insights on processing technologies, packaging, and entrepreneurship for enhancing FPO income. Participants also visited the Nutri-Hub facility to learn about millet startups and government support schemes, followed by discussions with Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi on future technical collaboration and capacity-building programmes for FPOs.

Millet Development through TSP, SCSP & NER Interventions under AICRP

The Annual Group Meeting (AGM) on “Review of Research Progress and Technical Programme Formulation” under the AICRP on Sorghum and Small Millets was organized virtually by ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research during 7–8 May 2026. The meeting reviewed research progress for 2025–26, evaluated ongoing activities, and finalized the technical programme for 2026–27. Scientists from AICRP centres

across the country presented their achievements and future plans. During the meeting, Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR–IIMR, presented the progress and impact of TSP, SCSP, and NER initiatives, highlighting technology dissemination, capacity building, quality seed distribution, climate-resilient production technologies, and market-oriented interventions that enhanced millet productivity, nutritional security, and livelihoods among tribal, Scheduled Caste, and North Eastern farming communities.

Training Session on Operationalisation and Management of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) for FPOs

To strengthen the capacity of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in establishing and managing sustainable Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), the National Rural Livelihoods Mission Resource Cell (NRLMRC), NIRDPR, Hyderabad organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme for 52 Agricultural Project Managers (APMs) and District Project Managers (DPMs) from Andhra Pradesh. On 12 May 2026, Dr. Sangappa from ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research delivered a technical session on the operationalization and management of CHCs, sharing the successful experience of Tekmal Farmers Producer Company Limited. The session covered business planning, machinery utilization, maintenance, service scheduling, revenue generation, record keeping, and key implementation challenges. The Tekmal FPO case study served as a practical model for replication, highlighting the role of CHCs in improving farm mechanization, reducing cultivation costs, and enhancing service delivery to small and marginal farmers.

Promoting Millet-Based Entrepreneurship through FPO and Startup Collaboration

As part of the Entrepreneurship Foundation Program in Millet (EFPM) organized by Nutrihub, ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research during 19–22 May 2026, Dr. Sangappa delivered an expert lecture on “Linking Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to Start-ups: Experience of ICAR–IIMR Hyderabad” on 22 May 2026. The session highlighted ICAR–IIMR’s initiatives in connecting FPOs with startups through incubation support, market linkages, capacity building, processing technologies, branding, and value addition. Participants gained insights into collaborative models that strengthen millet enterprises, generate rural employment, enhance farmer incomes, and promote sustainable agribusiness development.

Solar Battery System Installed at Premasai FPO to Strengthen Sustainable Operations

A solar battery system was installed at Premasai Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) on 22 May 2026 to ensure reliable power supply and improve operational

efficiency. The installation was supported by SELCO Foundation under its CSR initiative in collaboration with ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR–IIMR), Hyderabad. The system will provide uninterrupted electricity for office operations, digital transactions, record management, and farmer services while reducing dependence on conventional energy and lowering electricity costs. It also promotes clean energy adoption and sustainable rural development. The Board of Directors appreciated the initiative for strengthening FPO infrastructure and service delivery. The installation was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa and the FPO team under the guidance of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR–IIMR, and Shri K. Srinivasa Babu.

Scientific Nutrient Management for Sustainable Millet-Based Farming Systems at Palamuru FPO

Recognizing the importance of efficient nutrient management for sustainable crop production, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Hyderabad, Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna), organized an awareness programme for members of Palamuru Farmers Producer Organization (FPO), promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 25th May 2026. The programme focused on balanced fertilizer application, soil-test-based nutrient management, integrated nutrient management practices, and sustainable millet cultivation to improve soil health and farm productivity. As part of the GCoE-SCSP initiative, tarpaulins were distributed to Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers to support post-harvest management and reduce grain losses. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, along with the FPO NEST team and witnessed active participation from farmers.

Integrated Farmer Collective - Dravida Farmers Producer Company Limited Inaugurated at Telangana

Dravida Farmers Producer Company Limited (DFPC), an integrated Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) supported by ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR–IIMR), Hyderabad, was inaugurated on 26 May 2026 at Gangapur Village by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, ICAR–IIMR, in the presence of farmers and local stakeholders. The FPO brings together 2,450 farmers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Jammu & Kashmir to promote collective farming, input procurement, value addition, and market linkages. Member farmers cultivate millets, pulses, oilseeds, paddy, cotton, and horticultural crops, with special emphasis on climate-resilient millets. Established under the leadership of Mr. Veershetty Biradar, CEO, the FPO will receive technical support from ICAR–IIMR for improved crop production, quality seed systems, processing, branding, and market development. The initiative is expected to enhance productivity, increase farmers' income, and strengthen sustainable millet-based value chains through collective action.



Promoting Soil Health and Sustainable Agriculture Through Balanced Fertilizer Use

To promote sustainable agriculture and nutritional security, ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR–IIMR), Hyderabad organized an awareness programme on millets and balanced fertilizer use on 26 May 2026 at the Shree Anna Processing and Training Unit. The programme focused on scientific crop management, efficient nutrient use, and climate-resilient millet cultivation. Dr. Amasiddha and Er. P. Hemshankari emphasized soil test-based fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management, and balanced use of organic and inorganic nutrients to improve productivity, reduce cultivation costs, and maintain soil fertility. Farmers were encouraged to adopt these scientific practices for higher yields, better soil health, and enhanced profitability.



Invited Talk on Plant Transformation

Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta, Senior Scientist (Plant Physiology) delivered a talk as invited speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (ICBAB-2026), held from 28th to 30th May 2026 at JUIT Waknaghat, Solan on “Robust Plant Transformation: A Foundation of Genome Editing in Chickpea, Rice Bean, and Pearl Millet”.

Dignitaries Visits



Shri. Gyanendra Tripathi, Secretary, ICAR visited advanced phenomics and Instrumentation facility of ICAR-IIMR on 24 May 2026



Shri. Sandeep Sarkar, Finance Secretary, ICAR interacted with staff of ICAR-IIMR on 25 May 2026

Execution of Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory Authority		Witnessed by
			ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
14.05.26	Zester Food Private Limited, Maharashtra	Licensing of three millet value added technologies- multi-grain atta, multimillet instant idli mix and finger millet jaggery cookies	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Atish Kumar, Founder	Dr. J Stanley
14.05.26	Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research, Lucknow	Collaborative research, capacity building, promotion of millets & students research and training	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. Sanjay Singh, DG, UPCAR	Dr. Amasiddha B
14.05.26	CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad	Collaborative research of millets	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy, Director	Drs. AV Umakanth & Amasiddha
15.05.26	M/s. GN Gopal Agro Foods Private Limited, Andhra Pradesh	Collaborative research, capacity building, promotion of millets & value addition	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Ms. Sunita Gandham, CEO	Dr. Amasiddha B
15.05.26	Sri Prakash Educational Society, Andhra Pradesh	Facilitating students training and post-graduate research	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. K. Narendra Babu, Head	Dr. Amasiddha B

Trainings organised for Farmers

S. No	Name of training program	Sponsoring organization	Duration (with dates)	No. of participants	
				M	F
1	Hands-on-training on Millet Value Addition at Shree Anna Processing & Training Unit	FPO Project	6 th May 2026	18	8

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	As nominated by ICAR, New Delhi, participated in the virtual meeting on millet cooperation with the Sultanate of Oman, Muscat	Embassy of India, Sultanate of Oman, Muscat.	Embassy of India, Sultanate of Oman, Muscat.	Online	04.05.2026
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Inaugurated the launching of Nationwide Campaign: "One Meal a Day with Millets" organized by Millets Marvel in the presence of Shri Janampalli Anirudh Reddy, MLA, Jadcherla Constituency.	Millets Marvel	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	-	04.05.2026

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
3	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Interaction meeting with CSU delegation (Australia) during their visit to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	-	15.05.2026
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the meeting with Dr. SB Barbuddhe, Director, ICAR-National Meat Research Institute, Hyderabad for a collaborative research project.	ICAR-NMRI, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	-	15.05.2026
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the combined 61 st AGM of ICAR-AICRP on Pearl millet, 56 th AGM of ICAR-AICRP on Sorghum and 37 th AGM of ICAR-AICRP on Small millets, Co-chaired Session-1 on the Review of Progress and Achievements of ICAR-AICRP on Pearl millet and ICAR-AICRP on Sorghum and Small millets.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad & UAS, Dharwad.	UAS, Dharwad	Physical	18.05.2026
6	IK Das	Annual Workshop of Millets	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad & UAS, Dharwad.	UAS Dharwad	Physical	18-20 May 2026
7	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Interaction meeting with: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Govt. of India, Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Telangana during their visit to ICAR-IIMR	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	-	21.05.2026
8	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the 3 ^d Zonal meeting on Administrative and Finance matters at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.	ICAR, New Delhi.	ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.	Physical	24.05.2026
9	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Interaction meeting with Sh. Gyanendra D. Tripathi Additional Secretary (DARE) & Secretary (ICAR) during his visit to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	-	24.05.2026
10	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Interaction meeting with Shri. Sandeep Sarkar, Additional Secretary, DARE & Financial Advisor, DARE/ICAR during his visit to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.	-	25.05.2026

ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR)
Global Centre of Excellence on Millets(Shree Anna)
All India Research Project on Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Small Millets

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