



MILLETS (Shree Anna) Newsletter

Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer . Warangal

265 Issue-November 2025

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

ICAR-IIMR Hosts PM-KISAN Webcast and Millet Awareness Drive

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad organized the live webcast of Hon'ble Prime Minister's release of 21st instalment of PM-KISAN as part of the nationwide programme. The event aimed to disseminate the significance of PM-KISAN scheme and create awareness among farmers on improved agricultural technologies and millet-based interventions promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The live telecast of Hon'ble Prime Minister's address was arranged at the institute



premises, where 300 Tribal & Scheduled caste (SC) farmers witnessed the release of Rs. 18,000 crores under PM-KISAN to nearly 9 crore eligible farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer. The message of Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized farmer welfare, financial empowerment and national agricultural development goals. The programme began with a brief introduction on the objectives of PM-KISAN by Dr Tara Satyavathi Director ICAR-IIMR. This was followed by an orientation session for farmers on scientific millet production practices, improved millet varieties, soil health management, post-harvest technologies and value-added millet products. Scientists from ICAR-

IIMR interacted with the farmers and explained how technological advancements, agri-based entrepreneurship and millet value addition can play a key role in improving farm income. In addition to the institute-level programme, ICAR-IIMR facilitated the conduct of the live webcast at the 30 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad located in Andhra Pradesh (AP), Telangana, and Karnataka, mobilized about 1500 farmers at the village level and organized the viewing of the PM event at their respective FPO facilities. The FPOs also conducted farmer scientist interactions, technology demonstrations, and awareness activities on millet cultivation, processing, and market linkages.



Farmers appreciated the timely financial support under PM-KISAN and the continued technical assistance provided by ICAR-IIMR and its FPO network. Scientists, technical staff, administrative staff, and all employees of ICAR-IIMR actively participated in making the programme successful. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Dr. A. Kalaisekar, Dr. Sangappa, Dr. A. Srinivas, Shri K. Srinivasa Babu from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad organized and coordinated this visit at the institute.

One-Day Workshop with Industry Stakeholders on Ethanol and CBG Production

A one-day workshop on Promotion of Millets, especially Sorghum and Pearl Millet, for Ethanol and Compressed bio gas (CBG) Production was organised at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research in collaboration with the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE), New Delhi on 13th November 2025. The workshop saw active participation from about 40 delegates representing academic institutions and industries. The programme served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, practical insights, and dialogue among researchers, experts, and industry stakeholders on the use of sweet sorghum, high biomass sorghum, low-lignin sorghum, and forage pearl millet as promising feedstocks for ethanol and compressed biogas (CBG) production. A field visit to ICAR-IIMR's sorghum and forage pearl millet experimental plots offered participants first hand exposure to advanced crop varieties and technologies. The programme concluded with a collective commitment to strengthen collaboration among ICAR-IIMR, IFGE, and industry partners to accelerate research, technology dissemination, and large-scale adoption of biofuel and bioenergy solutions. The workshop was coordinated by Drs. A V Umakanth and Amasiddha.

Educational visit

A team of 44 students from V.P.M.'s B. N. Bandodkar College of Science (Autonomous), Thane, Maharashtra visited ICAR-IIMR on 26-11-2025 to gain practical exposure about millets. They were provided exposure to different analytical equipment used for food/nutrient analysis, processing and



value addition of millets. The visit was facilitated by Drs. VM Malathi, R Venkateswarlu, J. Stanley and A. Srinivas.

A total of 12 post graduate students of College of Veterinary Science PVNRTVU, Hyderabad visited ICAR-IIMR on 13 November 2025 to gain knowledge on principles and Instrumentation used in biochemical analyses. They also visited Nutri-hub to understand millet processing and value addition activities undertaken at IIMR. The visit was coordinated by Drs. R. Venkateswarlu, VM Malathi and J Stanley.

PPV&FR Authority Certificate of Appreciation to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi under Ministry of Agriculture and



Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India on 12th November 2025, awarded ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad 'Certificate of Appreciation' for registration of Sorghum and other small millets varieties with PPV&FR Authority during the past one year. The registration of these varieties is expected to contribute to the growth of millets farming in the country through adoption of high yielding varieties.

Institute Bio-safety Committee (IBSC)

The first meeting of the newly constituted Institute Bio-safety Committee (IBSC) was held on 12th November 2025 under

the chairmanship of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR and Chairman, IBSC, to discuss the implementation of the biosafety measures at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. The



members who attended the meeting were Dr. V. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad (DBT-Nominee), Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad (External Expert), Dr. Nuzhath Fatima (Biosafety Officer), Dr. Jinu Jacob, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad (Member Secretary) and Dr. D. Balakrishna, Dr. B Venkatesh Bhat, Dr. P. Rajendrakumar (Internal Experts, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad). The committee reviewed the biosafety compliance of genome editing research projects proposed to be implemented at ICAR-IIMR and observed that everything is in place and adhering to the guidelines from DBT.

Participatory varietal selection cum Field day on Millets at Koraput, Odisha

ICAR – Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad and Dept. of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Odisha jointly organized one day "Farmers Participatory varietal selection cum Field Day on Millets" on 27th November, 2025 at Kundra Block, Koraput, Odisha. The farmer's participatory varietal selection cum Field day program aimed at integrating indigenous knowledge of the farmers along with scientific approaches to identify locally adapted, superior varieties enhancing adoption and resilience in rainfed tribal areas of the region. A set of 40 traditional and nationally released finger millet varieties were raised under the farmer's package of practices (less /no external inputs) at Kundra, Koraput for the above program. Team of ICAR-IIMR scientists, Drs. Srinivasa Babu, Ganapathy KN, Sooganna, Sangappa under the guidance of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR along with WASSAN (Mr. Biswa), MSSRF demonstrated and facilitated farmers participatory varietal selection in finger millet. A total of 50 tribal farmers including woman farmers participated in the program. Farmer – scientists interaction session was organized where farmers were appraised on improved production technologies, processing and value addition technologies in millets.

Celebration of Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas)

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad celebrated the "Constitution Day" on 26th November, 2025. The programme commenced with the administration of the Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) pledge by Dr. (Mrs). C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad, to all staff



members and students. All attendees took the oath, reflecting their collective commitment to uphold the principles and values enriched in the Constitution.

The regional stations of ICAR-IIMR located at Solapur, Maharashtra (Centre for Rabi Sorghum) and Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan (RRS on Pearl Millet) also celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) by taking pledge and conducting programmes to commemorate the Constitution Day.

Commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, commemorated 150 years of the



National Song "Vande Mataram" through a series of activities conducted during the Launch Week (7-14 November 2025).

The programme was formally launched on 7 November 2025 with a Mass Singing of "Vande Mataram" at the Conference Hall, Administrative Building, ICAR-IIMR. Dr. Shyam Prasad, Director In-charge, inaugurated the event and highlighted the historical importance and national relevance of the song. A total of 73 participants, including scientific, technical, administrative, supporting staff, research scholars, students, and project staff, participated. The event concluded with a group photograph in front of the "I LOVE MILLETS" display.

Similar mass singing programmes were organized at Regional Station, CRS, Solapur, and IIMR-Regional Research Station on Pearl Millet, Gudamalani, Barmer, with enthusiastic participation from all categories of staff. At CRS, Solapur, the programme also included a reading of the Council's message and a brief presentation on the historical background and patriotic significance of *Vande Mataram*.

Overall, the week-long commemoration successfully fostered patriotic awareness, cultural pride, and collective participation, making the celebration of 150 years of *Vande Mataram* meaningful and memorable across ICAR-IIMR and

its regional stations.

IIMR supports tribal advancement during Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada-2025 through Tribal FPOs

Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada was a nationwide two week observance held from 1 to 15 November 2025 and it celebrated the rich tribal heritage and the contributions of tribal communities across India. This year's celebration marked the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda



and honoured his legacy as a revered tribal freedom fighter and social reformer. The Pakhwada concluded with Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th November, a day dedicated to strengthening tribal identity, dignity and empowerment. As part of the national initiative, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh FPOs promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad actively participated by organising daily activities focused on socio-economic development, education, skill enhancement, livelihood improvement, entrepreneurship promotion, health and nutrition awareness, culture and heritage preservation, infrastructure improvement, good governance, digital inclusion and sustainable development. These programmes also included public outreach in tribal areas, branding of tribal products, promotion of direct market access for tribal farmers and the establishment of seed banks to conserve indigenous crops. Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO projects, Shri K. Srinivasa Babu, Scientist and Dr. Rafi (Agribusiness Expert), Ms. Meghana from FPO-Nest guided the tribal FPOs in planning and organising these activities effectively. Through these efforts, the FPOs encouraged tribal farmers to adopt improved millet cultivation practices, strengthen collective action and pursue opportunities in processing and entrepreneurship for sustainable livelihood enhancement.

A new pathway for tribal livelihoods through Girijana Bazar market access

A pioneering initiative to enhance market access for tribal



Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) products began with

the launch of Girijana Bazar, a mobile marketing unit introduced by ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) Hyderabad. The unit was inaugurated on 12th November 2025 by Dr C. Tara Satyavathi, Director ICAR–IIMR, Hyderabad in the presence of tribal FPO members and staff. Dr C. Tara Satyavathi along with Dr Sangappa Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO projects, Shri K. Srinivasa Babu Scientist and Dr Rafi Agribusiness Expert led this innovative initiative to connect tribal producers with urban consumers. They were supported by Mr Sai Prashanth, Mrs Chandini, Ms Meghana, Mr Shiva and FPO-NEST team in guiding the tribal FPO members to make use of the mobile service. The mobile unit served as a unique platform to showcase and sell a variety of millets, tribal products and other cultural traditional fruits which are rich in nutrition. During the launch Dr Sangappa explained that the purpose of Girijana Bazar was to take naturally available tribal products to the growing urban markets of Hyderabad so that farmers could gain better visibility and improved incomes.

Recognizing leadership in millet extension earns Young Scientist Award for IIMR Scientist

The Society of Extension Education Agra conferred Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist, IIMR with the “**Young Scientist Award**” during the 2nd International Extension Education Congress at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This honour reflected his contribution in advancing the millet ecosystem and supporting community-based enterprises that empower tribal and smallholder farmers across India.

International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer 2025, Bhubaneswar

The International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer 2025 (ISSWF), was organized by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment, Government of Odisha, in Bhubaneswar. Held from 10–11 November 2025, the symposium focused on the theme “Role of Women in Agriculture Heritage and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity.”

ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research is technical partner for Odisha Shree Anna Abhiyan. The exhibition showcasing millet value-added products, traditional seed diversity, processing technologies, women-led SHG enterprises, FPO initiatives, and start-up innovations was organized alongside the symposium. The exhibition stall was coordinated by Shri. K. Srinivasa Babu and Dr. Sangappa, Senior



Scientists, ICAR–IIMR, Hyderabad. The exhibition drew significant attention and was visited by distinguished dignitaries including the Shri. Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon’ble Union Agriculture Minister, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, the Hon’ble Governor of Odisha, and Shri. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Ministers of the State. The leaders appreciated the innovation, effort, and community participation showcased at the stalls, particularly acknowledging the strong role of women farmers and grassroots groups in shaping Odisha’s millet revolution. Their visit underscored the growing national momentum behind millets and reaffirmed Odisha’s position as a frontrunner in millet-based development, nutrition security, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Technical Session on MAHARSHI

A Technical Session on “MAHARISHI (A G20 Outcome): Harnessing the Value Chain Potential of Millets” was organized by the MAHARISHI Secretariat, in association with International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer 2025 at Odisha. The session was graced by experts, including Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR); Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Empowerment, Government of Odisha; Dr. Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE); Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Former Chief Scientist, WHO & Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF); and Dr. Yvonne Pinto, Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

The panel discussion led to the resolution that there is need for a collective, whole-of-society approach to strengthen millet value chains one that places women entrepreneurs at the forefront of processing and market development. Keeping in view the urgency of transitioning toward climate-resilient, low-input, and ecologically balanced farming systems that protect both farmers and the planet. The deliberations summarized in realizing the importance of developing decentralized, value-added agri-systems to create rural employment, enhance incomes, reduce postharvest losses and gender equality.

New Joining

Dr. Somanath Nayak, Scientist (Agronomy), joined the ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Regional Research Station on Pearl Millets, Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan, with effect from 28 October 2025 (Forenoon). Dr. Nayak’s joining is expected to strengthen the agronomic research and development activities of the station, particularly in the area of pearl millet improvement and sustainable millet-based farming systems in arid and semi-arid regions.



The millets family warmly welcomes Dr. Somanath Nayak and wishes him a productive and successful tenure at ICAR-IIMR.

Recognitions

Dr. P. G. Padmaja was conferred with the Dr. B. Vasantharaj David Award in recognition of her excellent research contributions on the bio-ecology of insect pests of millet crops and their management, with special reference to host plant resistance.

This prestigious honor was bestowed by the Applied Zoologists Research Association (AZRA), during the XIX AZRA International Conference on “Environmental Shift: Impact on Animal Biota, Food, Feed, Nutritional Security & Human Health”, held on 12 November 2025 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Execution of Memorandum of Agreement / Understanding

Date of Agreement	Second Party/ Licensee	Purpose of MoA/ MoU	Signatory Authority		Witnessed by
			ICAR-IIMR	Second party	
03.11.25	Eldorado Agritech Limited, Hyderabad	Licensing of multi cut forage sorghum hybrid CSH 24 MF	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. Linga Srinivasa Rao, Chairman & Managing Director	Dr. Amasiddha B
03.11.25	Sangam Milk Producer Company Limited, Andhra Pradesh	Licensing of 5 millet value added technologies i.e. Finger Millet cookies, Sorghum muffins, finger millet muffins, sorghum instant idli mix and multi-millet idli mix	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. P.Gopalkrishnan, Managing Director	Dr. J. Stanley
03.11.25	Kaveri University, Hyderabad	Collaborative Research	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor	Dr. Amasiddha B
19.11.25	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Govt. of Telangana	Licensing of 13 millet value added technologies i.e. sorghum instant idli mix, finger millet premium cashew cookies, sorghum instant upma mix, finger millet delight bar (nut), sorghum instant Pongal mix, finger millet muffins, little millet instant dosa mix, sorghum puffs, sorghum instant khichdi mix, sorghum namkeen/chivda, sorghum vermicelli, sorghum pasta, finger millet bread	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. PW Johnson, Director	Dr. J. Stanley
19.11.25	Happysun Foods Private Limited, Assam	Licensing of 4 millet value added technologies i.e. Sorghum mankeen/chivda, sorghum extruded snacks, sorghum puffs, sorghum instant khichdi mix	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Mr. Ujjal Barua, Managing Partner	Dr. Amasiddha B
24.11.25	Temple Grains & Wellness Private Limited, Tamil Nadu	Licensing of 5 millet value added technologies i.e. Sorghum instant idli mix, Sorghum vermicelli, Finger millet pasta, Multimillet rava, Finger millet nut delight bar	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director	Ms. Subramanian Rashmi, Director/Founder	Dr. J. Stanley

Trainings/Workshops organized

Name of the Employee	Date	Organized by	Program Details	Type	Mode
Dr. Sangappa & Mrs. Monalisha	07 th November 2025	ATMA Pune & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Awareness on millet value addition and cultivation practices	Exposure Visits cum Awareness Programs	Physical
Dr. Sangappa, Mr. Abbuseth and Mr. Anup	10 th November 2025	ISAP India Foundation & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Adaptation of advanced millet primary processing techniques to Karnataka FPOs	Exposure Visits	Physical
Dr. Sangappa & Mrs. Monalisha	24 th November 2025	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Latest Advances in Millets Production, Processing & Value Addition	Training Program	Physical
Dr. Sangappa	26 th November 2025	ICAR-BCT-KVK & ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Input distribution to SC farmers of Thandava valey FPO	Workshops	Physical

Meetings/Workshops/Trainings/Exposure Visits/ Awareness Programs/Capacity Buildings

S. No.	Name of Employee	Title of the meeting / Workshop etc. (if paper etc. presented, mention the title)	Organized by	Online / Physical	Dates
1	Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta	Training Program on "From Reads to Revelations: Transcriptome Data Decoded" (November 10–14, 2025)	ICAR–NAARM, Hyderabad	Physical	Nov 10–14, 2025
2	Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta	Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025) 3rd to 5th November 2025 under the category of Senior S&T Leaders (above 45 years)	DST, Ministry of S&T Govt of India	Physical	Nov 03-05, 2025
3	Dr. Sooganna Scientist (Seed Science and Technology)	Consultative Meeting on the Draft Seeds Bill, 2025	(PJTAU) and Department of Agriculture, Telangana		28 th November 2025
4	Dr. Sooganna Scientist (Seed Science and Technology)	the Webinar on Perspectives on the Seed Bill 2025	ATPBR in collaboration with Seed Uber and AIH	Online	29 th November, 2025

Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences

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1	Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta	Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025 under the category of Senior S&T Leaders (above 45 years)	DST, Ministry of S&T Govt. of India	Physical	Nov 03-05, 2025
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Training on "Foxtail and Small Millet Production Technologies and Value Chain Development"	Food and Agriculture Organization, New Delhi under FAO project (TCP/RAS/3909)	Online	04.11.2025
3	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	National Conference on Innovative Approaches for Millets Improvement (IAMI 2025)	Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi.	Physical	07.11.2025

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4	Dr. Santosh Kumar Gupta	Training Program on "From Reads to Revelations: Transcriptome Data Decoded"	ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad	Physical	Nov 10-14, 2025
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	International Symposium on Shree Anna & Woman Farmer 2025"	Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.	Physical	10.11.2025
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Panel Discussion on "Women-led Rural Innovation & Entrepreneurship" during the EARTH Summit 2025-26 – Empowering Agriculture, Rural Tech & Humanity	NABARD and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)	Physical	21.11.2025
7	Drs. C Tara Satyavathi, Sooganna	State-Level Consultative meeting on the Draft Seeds Bill, 2025 organized by PJTAU, Hyderabad.	PJTAU, Hyderabad.	-	28.11.2-05
8	Dr. Sooganna	the Webinar on Perspectives on the Seed Bill 2025	ATPBR in collaboration with Seed Uber and AIH	Online	29 th November, 2025

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Global Centre of Excellence on Millets(Shree Anna)
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