

A short report: Tribal Community Driven Sustainable Eco Tourism at ICAR KVK MYRADA Arepalayam Campus

ICAR KVK MYRADA with the support of NABARD under NABARD GVN – Tribal Community Driven Sustainable Eco Tourism at MYRADA Arepalayam Campus. Eco-tourism project emphasis on responsible travel and conservation, provides a unique avenue for agricultural extension. It fosters awareness about sustainable practices, promotes local products and livelihoods, and encourages engagement with the natural environment. This Eco-Tourism Centre is a symbol of progress and hope. It signifies a shift towards a more sustainable and equitable future, where agriculture extension, tourism, and community development converge to create a harmonious ecosystem.

On 10th September 2024, the Centre was inaugurated by Dr.Shaik.N.Meera, Director, ICAR–ATARI, Hyderabad, in the presence of Shri.R.Anand, CGM, NABARD, Chennai, Shri.Arvind G.Risbud, Executive Director, MYRADA, Dr.P.P. Murugan, DEE, TNAU, Coimbatore.

On this occasion, Dr.P.Alagesan, Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR KVK MYRADA welcomed the gatherings and explained the objective of My Dhimbam Eco Tourism Project;

- *To promote awareness on conservation of Biodiversity through Eco-tourism*
- *To demonstrate Eco-Friendly farm and forestry models for guiding the visitor on recent development*
- *To develop sustainable farm and forestry enterprises to support for the livelihood of hill dwellers*

During the programme, the delegates inaugurated farm demo units such as poultry and fisheries, vermicompost, immune boosting herbal garden, vertical garden, agro forestry and tribal museum /information center for the benefit of visitors in the Eco tourism center.

The tribal hut: The stay facilities for the guest and visiting tourist also officially inaugurated by the Director of ATARI, CGM, NABARD.

Cultural programme: As part of the programme, tribal cultural event (Silambam and Peenachi Tribal Music) has been organized for the benefit of visitors.

Field visit: In the afternoon, the Director, ICAR ATARI visited KVK promoted Chrysanthemum floriculture unit and Rosemary (Aromatic crop) farmers field and provided suggestions for upscaling of the enterprises.

