

HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT INTERACTS WITH FARMERS AT ICAR–KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (KVK), VELLORE, TAMIL NADU

Date: 25 October 2025

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, visited the ICAR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Vellore, functioning under the administrative control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), on 25th October 2025. During his visit, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with nearly 500 farmers and beneficiaries representing various flagship programmes and schemes such as the PM-Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY), National Pulses Mission, National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLD) on Pulses, and Demonstrations on Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) and Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM) implemented through the KVK system. The Minister personally interacted with farmers to understand the benefits derived, field-level challenges, and suggestions for improving agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sectors. He also visited exhibition stalls set up by various stakeholders showcasing technologies, innovations, and success stories for the benefit of participating farmers.

The interaction was organized through two “Kisan Choupals.”

In Choupal–1, the Minister interacted with PM-DDKY farmers from Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Thoothukudi, and Ramanathapuram districts. He highlighted that under PM-DDKY, the Government is working towards converging 36 central schemes across 11 ministries to bring holistic benefits to the farming community. The Minister appreciated the efforts of KVKs and local institutions in aligning these programmes for maximum outreach and farmer benefit. Farmers practicing natural farming, Mundu chilli cultivation, and CFLD initiatives on oilseeds and pulses shared their positive experiences during the session.

In Choupal–2, the Hon'ble Minister emphasized the importance of the National Pulses Mission in achieving self-reliance in pulse production. He noted that Tamil Nadu, being a pulse-deficit state, stands to gain significantly through this initiative by way of improved varieties, better management practices, value addition, and assured marketing support. He lauded the contributions of the National Pulses Research Centre, Vamban (TNAU), for developing and releasing high-yielding pulse varieties suited to the region.

Addressing farmers' concerns, the Hon'ble Minister assured that the Central Government will extend support to combat pest and disease challenges in coconut and address issues arising from the glut in mango production by promoting value addition and processing industries. He further stated that efforts are underway to expand the PM-KISAN Scheme coverage in Tamil Nadu to ensure all eligible farmers are included. Expressing his admiration for Tamil Nadu's farmers, Shri Chouhan appreciated their diligence, cultural values, and commitment to agriculture. He conveyed his heartfelt affection for the farming community of the state and assured that he would revisit Tamil Nadu soon to continue dialogues on Natural Farming and other agricultural initiatives.

The event was graced by Dr. R. Thamizh Vendan, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU; Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ICAR–ATARI, Hyderabad; Ms. D. Inita, Joint Secretary, GoI, Directors of Extension Education from TNAU and TANUVAS; senior officials from the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and allied sectors, along with KVK scientists and

representatives from ICAR institutes. The interaction reflected the Government's continued commitment to farmer-centric policies, convergence of development schemes, and promotion of sustainable, technology-driven agriculture in Tamil Nadu and across the country.