

# SPARK BULLETIN

Monthly Momentum of Zone - X KVKs

Voicing the vision of KVKs- One Story at a Times

JULY 2024



ICAR – Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute  
(ATARI), Zone – X, Hyderabad

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From the Director, ICAR-ATARI's Desk



डॉ. शेक एन. मीरा  
Dr. Shaik N. Meera  
निदेशक/ Director



भाकृअनुप - कृषि तकनीकी अनुप्रयोग अनुसंधान संस्थान (अटारी)  
**ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI)**

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute  
DARE (Ministry of Agriculture & FW, Govt. of India)  
क्रीडा परिसर/CRIDA Campus, संतोषनगर/ Santoshnagar, हैदराबाद/ Hyderabad-500 059

## Message

Greetings,

I am delighted to publish July Month publication of SPARK BULLETIN - Monthly Momentum of Zone-X KVKs which showcases the extension interventions of ICAR-KVKs Zone-X – Hyderabad.

This edition of spark bulletin, highlights a diverse range of activities and achievements that reinforce our commitment to agricultural development and rural empowerment. The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of KVKs, Agri Intex 2024, and the release of 109 new crop varieties by ICAR mark significant milestones. Our initiatives, including skill training, organic farming promotion, Agri-entrepreneurship development, and advanced technological interventions like drone applications, continue to strengthen farming communities. The KVKs also organized exhibitions, melas, exposure visits, and stakeholder meetings to support agri-entrepreneurship, skill development, and market linkages.

I extend my acknowledgement to all the Directors of Extension, Programme Coordinators, Senior Scientists & Head of ICAR- KVKs and Scientists for their contribution and making SPARK news bulletin more informative.

**(Shaik N Meera)**

**Chronicle of July Activities at ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad****Review- Action plan meeting for SRFs, YPs and Administrative staff on 18th July, 2024**

A review meeting for SRFs, YPs, and administrative staff was held on July 18, 2024, to assess their work performance and contributions. The meeting focused on evaluating the outputs of their past work, the knowledge and skills gained in their respective areas, and their potential and capabilities. It also provided an opportunity for staff to showcase their expertise, align their personal goals with organizational objectives, and enhance their growth prospects. The discussions aimed at fostering mutual success while strengthening the overall efficiency and impact of the organization's projects.

**▶▶ Launch programme of Integrated Tribal Development Project at KVK, Ariyalur**

The launch event for the Integrated Tribal Development Project, funded by NABARD and implemented by ICAR-KVK Ariyalur, took place on 22 July, 2024, at D.R. Marriage Hall, Suthamalli, Ariyalur District. The project aims to support 492 Scheduled Tribe (ST) families from nine villages in Udayarpalayam taluk of Ariyalur district. Key interventions include on-farm activities such as milch animal rearing, goat and poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, home gardens, and capacity-building programs for ST women using advanced technologies.

Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, presided over the event, encouraging participants to utilize the KVK's technology and support services to enhance their income, employment, and livelihoods. Dr. Anand, Chief General Manager of NABARD, Chennai, emphasized the project's entrepreneurial opportunities. Other dignitaries included

Dr. Jayalakshmi, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Mr. Sivakumar, Assistant Manager of TAHDCO, Mr. K. Sankara Subramanian, LEAD Bank Manager, and Mr. Vignesh, Assistant Director of the District Industries Centre. The project, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 4.26 crore, including Rs. 3.61 crore from NABARD, will run for four years. Beneficiaries received inputs such as livestock, first aid kits, agricultural tools, kitchen garden seeds, and tailoring machines. Mrs. B. Usha, President of the Udayarpalayam Tribal Development Scheme, delivered the vote of thanks.



**Distribution of tailoring machines to the Beneficiaries**

**Distribution of livestock to the Beneficiaries**



## ➤ Visit to Lucky Mushroom Farm at Udayarpalayam, Ariyalur District



Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, recently visited Lucky Mushroom Farm, operated by Mrs. Sujatha, a pioneering women entrepreneur in Udayarpalayam, Ariyalur District, on 22 July, 2024. The farm specializes in mushroom cultivation and produces value-added products such as Mushroom Idli powder and Mushroom soup powder, packaged in FSSAI-certified standing pouches. Mrs. Sujatha harvests around 100 kg of mushrooms each month, earning a monthly income of Rs. 35,000. Her entrepreneurial success has been widely recognized, including receiving the Best Women Entrepreneur award from the District Collector on World Women's Day, highlighting her significant contributions to the local economy.

**▶ Visit to cashew processing unit at Udayarpalayam, Ariyalur District**

Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, visited a medium-scale cashew processing unit (60 MT of cashew nuts procured annually) at Udayarpalayam, Ariyalur District, on 22 July, 2024. The unit is managed by SC women beneficiaries. In his interaction with the women, Dr. Meera suggested adopting vacuum packing and improved branding strategies to enhance the unit's market reach. He emphasized that by implementing these measures, the unit could ensure 300 days of wages, enabling each worker to earn approximately Rs. 80,000 annually. This recommendation is expected to significantly boost both the income and employment opportunities for the women involved in the cashew processing initiative.

### Tamil Nadu

#### ICAR- KVK, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu

##### Integrated Tribal Development Project

In Ariyalur district, around 10,000 Scheduled Tribe (ST) people of Irula community face significant socio-economic challenges. The KVK in collaboration with CREED NGO and NABARD Chennai, has launched the Integrated Tribal Development Project to improve the livelihood of 492 ST families in the T.Palur and Jayankondam Blocks for four years promoting diary, goatary, poultry, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping and home gardening; imparting skill development training on tailoring and beautician centers; tutoring school children, and establishing nutrition centers. The event was launched by Dr. Shaik N Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI on July 22, 2024.



#### ICAR- KVK, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

##### Awareness Programme on Soil and Water Conservation

ICAR KVK, Coimbatore NGO organized an awareness program on soil and water conservation at Karacherry village in the Kinathukadavu block for 486 farmers aimed at empowering them with knowledge and resources for sustainable agriculture, benefitting their livelihood and environment. The event was chaired by Mr. Elangovan, President of COODU. Mr. Kathiresan, Secretary highlighted their initiatives in the village. Mr. Venkatachalam, JDA, Coimbatore, discussed on effective soil conservation methods. Dr. Raviraj of TNAU presented advanced soil conservation techniques. Mrs. N. Suganthi, SMS Soil Science, shared the technologies to improve crop production through enhanced soil and water management. Ms. Janapriya, Agricultural Engineer, informed about government schemes.



#### ICAR- KVK, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

##### Cross learning by Coimbatore FPO Members

Forty FPO Members from Coimbatore district visited KVK on July 5, 2024, to learn about groundnut, sesame, castor, cashew, jackfruit and mango. Dr. K. Natarajan, PC, talked on the roles of individuals in business activities and leadership qualities for success. Lectures on support of incubation centers to FPOs and role of DABD, TNAU, Coimbatore and MABIF, Madurai in promoting agribusiness were arranged. The visitors were taken to demonstration and IFS units at KVK to enhance their knowledge and skills in agribusiness and foster collaboration among farmers in the region.



### ICAR- KVK, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu

#### Field diagnostic visit in Sugarcane

Field diagnostic visit was conducted along with Assistant Director of Agriculture, Harur and Cane Development Officer, Subramania Siva Cooperative Sugar Mills, Gopalapuram on July 22, 2024 as part of a broader effort to support local farmers and offering effective solutions to enhance agricultural productivity. Entomologists from TNAU identified white grub infestation in the crops showing withering symptoms ranging from 3 to 5%, likely due to a prolonged dry spell and recommended strategies for white grub management and improve crop health. This collaborative effort underscores the commitment to improve farming practices in the region.



### ICAR- KVK, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

#### Skill training programme on organic cultivation (Small Unit)

A skill training program on organic cultivation (Small Unit) was organized from 1st to July 31, 2024 for 25 rural youth. Thirty technical sessions on planning, crop selection, transitioning to organic practices, growing seasons, building soil organic matter, quality assurance, certification procedures, annual production plan for rooftop vegetable cultivation and twelve practical sessions on nursery techniques, organic inputs preparation, bio-fertilizers usage and soil testing were organized. Hands on training was imparted on bio inputs production for seed treatment, Agni Astram and 3G solution (ginger, garlic, green chilies). Exposure visits to were arranged to organic farms and soil testing lab.



### ICAR- KVK, Erode, Tamil Nadu

#### Regional mela on Traditional seed conservation and Food festival

A Farmers Regional Mela on traditional seed conservation and food festival was held on July 20, 2024 in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Farmers Protection Forum and Organic Farmers Federation. About 72 farmers and entrepreneurs showcased organic farming and value-added products, traditional livestock breeds and 450 traditional paddy varieties. Dr. P. Alagesan, SS and Head, emphasized the government initiatives for natural and organic farming. A debate on future of organic farming was organized for students and organic farmers, 20 farmers and farm women were honored, a traditional food cafeteria on millets was organized. Over 5,000 participants attended the event.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu

#### Exhibition on Organic farming and Organic fair

An Organic Farming and Organic Fair was organized at Collectorate of Chengalpattu on July 26, 2024 aimed at promoting organic farming practices and supporting local farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural methods. About 276 farmers and farm women participated. Dr. K. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor arranged exhibits on organic agriculture and fisheries technologies, bio-pesticides, fodder slips, paddy varieties, millet seeds, insect traps, panchakavya, vermicompost, and fish amino acids. Literature on organic farming practices in agriculture and fish farming were distributed. The program was inaugurated by Thiru S. Arunraj, IAS, District Collector.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

#### Awareness programme on PM-KUSUM scheme

An awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme was organized on July 25, 2024 in which 24 farmers participated. Dr. S. Suresh, Programme Coordinator, highlighted the scheme's importance and encouraged farmers to take advantage of its benefits. Dr. R. Latha, SMS (PBG), explained the scheme's objectives, focusing on renewable energy sources like wind and solar power to reduce diesel consumption and protect the environment. Scientists of the KVK actively supported and motivated farmers to use KVK's resources.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Karur, Tamil Nadu

#### ASCI Skill training on Organic Cultivator

A 210-hour ASCI Skill Training on "Organic Cultivation (Small Unit)" for 25 participants in Porundalur village, Thogamalai block, Karur district was inaugurated by Mr. Madan Kumar, Assistant Director of Agriculture on July 9, 2024. Mr. M. Thirumurugan, SMS (Agronomy) and KVK scientists taught on soil health management, seed-to-harvest organic practices, and marketing strategies. Demos on input production was conducted, Hands on training on production of vermicompost, panchakavya, herbal insect repellents, and natural extracts was imparted. Participants visited Auro Orchards, Puducherry. Five trainees started organic inputs production and three initiated vermicompost production, inspiring others in the community to adopt sustainable organic farming practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu

#### Skill Training Programme on Organic Cultivator (Small Unit)

A 210-hour ASCI Skill Training Programme on "Organic Cultivator (Small Unit)" under NSDC was organized for 25 farmers and farm women aimed at empowering farmers with the knowledge and skills required for successful organic farming and entrepreneurship covering theoretical and practical aspects of organic cultivation, organic inputs preparation, soil health management, agronomic practices, pest and weed control and soil and water conservation. The participants also learnt marketing strategies and entrepreneurship skills to establish organic farming ventures. Hands-on experience in organic inputs production was provided to improve farm productivity and sustainability. In the feedback session, participants shared their insights and experiences.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

#### Recognition for Publications and Database

On the 54th Foundation Day of TNAU, Coimbatore, on June 23, 2024, the KVK was awarded the prestigious "TNAU Best KVK Award-2023" for its outstanding performance among TNAU KVKs. The KVK excelled in scientific and popular publications, SCSP project, farmer database, promoting direct seeded rice, and implementing VBSY Programme. Led by Dr. E. Subramanian, PC, the dedicated team of scientists achieved this milestone. At Zone-X level, the KVK has secured first place for SCSP project and publication in journals; third place in farmers database maintenance and recognition for promoting direct seeding. These achievements highlight the continued commitment of the KVK in empowering farmers of Madurai district.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

#### Tree Plantation Drive on Celebration of ICAR's 96th Foundation Day

A Tree Plantation Drive was organized to celebrate ICAR's 96th Foundation Day on July 16, 2024. Forty tree seedlings were planted and 375 saplings of teak, rosewood, and sandalwood were distributed to farmers. Dr. K. Chandrasekar, SMS (Plant Protection), raised awareness on the significance of the Foundation Day and the importance of tree planting. Mr. K. Ragu, SMS (Horticulture), coordinated the distribution and planting activities. The event was supported by Mr. V. Gnanabharathi, PA (Technical), and Mr. R. Vedharethinam, Farm Manager. This initiative aimed to promote environmental sustainability and engage the community in tree conservation efforts.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

#### Agri Intex - 2024

KVK, Namakkal participated in the Agri Intex 2024 from July 11-15, 2024 at CODDISIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore. Fodder production technologies and fodder seeds were showcased featuring grass, cereal, legume, and tree fodder technologies. Fodder seeds were exhibited and sold, including COFS 29 multi-cut sorghum (36.2 kg), CO 31 (44.5kg), CSV 33 MF (60.6 kg), Fodder maize-African Tall (92 kg), Hedge Lucerne (60.6 kg), Lucerne (25.95 kg), Stylosanthus (26.5 kg), Fodder cowpea CO 9 (35 kg), Anjan grass (50 kg), Agathi (22.05 kg), and Subabul (14.55 kg). A total of 410.85 kg of seeds were sold, amounting to Rs. 1,78,554. In total, 845 farmers purchased seeds, while 5,000 farmers gained valuable knowledge about green fodder production.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu

#### Skill Development Training on Floral Arrangement and Bouquet

Skill development training on floral arrangement and bouquet making was conducted for rural youth by ICAR-TNAU KVK Nilgiris on July 3, 2024, The session began with an explanation of the different types of flowers and fillers commonly used in floral works. Participants were introduced to the major types of floral arrangements and the various styles of bouquets available in the market. Following the theoretical session, the participants engaged in hands-on training to practice the skills they had learned. A total of 30 participants attended this practical and informative session.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Perambalur, Tamil Nadu

#### Vocational Training on Processing and Value Addition in Millets

A 5-day training on millet processing and value addition was organized during July 23-27, 2024 by Ms. S. Kokilavani, SMS for 20 SHG women. The participants learned to make millet-based biscuits, laddu, health mix, and savories. They gained knowledge on packaging, machinery, marketing, and FSSAI licenses. The training was aimed to increase millet consumption, enhance farmer's income, and promote nutritional security. Participants received certificates, empowering them to start local enterprises. This initiative supports the Government's efforts to popularize millet-based products, contributing to India's nutritional security and rural development.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu

#### Krishi Sakhis on Natural Farming

A 5-day training on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis was organized from July 29 to August 2, 2024. Thirty farm women participated. Experts delivered lectures on natural farming techniques, water management, soil health, pest management, and organic inputs. Practical sessions covered soil sampling, beneficial insect identification, and crops-livestock integration. The program aimed to promote sustainable agriculture, empowering farm women with knowledge and skills in natural farming. Participants gained hands-on experience, enhancing their livelihoods and contributing to rural development. The initiative supports environmentally friendly farming practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

#### Stake Holders meet for chilli cultivation, value addition and marketing

A collaborative meeting on chili cultivation and marketing was held on July 8, 2024 with Tamil Nadu Food Processing and Export Promotion Corporation (TNAPEX). Producers, farmers, FPOs, and government agencies discussed export-quality chili cultivation, financial support, and organic practices. KVK will provide quality seeds and technical guidance, while TNAPEX formulated an organic marketing policy. The goal is to promote 100 acres of quality chili production and export with FPOs and exporters, boosting farmers' livelihoods.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Salem, Tamil Nadu

#### Tribal Kisan Mela under ICAR TSP 2024

A Tribal Kisan Mela TNAU was organized on July 25, 2024 at Yercaud under ICAR-TSP component. Dr. P. P. Murugan shared the initiatives take by ICAR KVK in empowering the tribal farmers and transfer of new improved farm technologies. An exhibition on tribal based farm Products was arranged to display the farm and value-added products. An exclusive Farmers- Scientist interaction was organized to discuss the field oriented problems and their solutions. The tribal farmer collectives were provided pepper ladder, coffee pulper under ICAR-TSP component for post-harvest operations. Totally 105 tribal farmers participated and benefitted.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu

#### Training Programme on Vermicompost Production Technology for rural youths

A training on Vermicompost Production Technology was conducted under the ARYA Project (2024-25) at KVK, Kundrakudi, Sivaganga District, on July 30, 2024. Aimed at attracting rural youth to agriculture, the program had 25 participating farmers and farm women. Dr. S. Sendur Kumaran, Senior Scientist & Head, inaugurated the event, highlighting the benefits of vermicomposting for soil health. Dr. L. Vimalendran explained the ill effects of chemical farming, composting techniques, and marketing strategies. As a part of the training programme vermicompost and pamphlets were distributed for the benefit of the farmers.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Theni, Tamil Nadu

#### Skill Training on Mushroom Production Techniques

A mushroom cultivation training was organized for farmers to impart comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in mushroom cultivation and value addition. Mr.P. Maheswaran, PC spoke on the importance of mushroom enterprise. Dr. V. Karthik Pandi (SMS, Plant Protection) taught on mushroom biology, spawn and bed preparation. Participants visited an oyster mushroom unit at Hanumanthanpatti Village, where Mrs. Prema shared production techniques and marketing trends. Hands-on training on milky mushroom cultivation, bed preparation, and casing were given. Mrs. Sinduja demonstrated value addition and mushroom-based soup, cake, idly powder, cookies, and chapati flour preparation. Dr. Karthik Pandi discussed pest and pathogen control measures.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu

#### Krishi Sakhis training programme

A five days residential training programme was organized to 30 Krishi Sakhis on natural farming with the support of TNSLRM, Chennai July 22-26, 2024. Dr. S. Banumathy, PC inaugurated the programme and briefed the importance of natural farming. Dr. R. Agila, SMS (Agrl. Extension) and Dr. K. Sivagamy, SMS (Agronomy) were the master trainers. Lectures on principles of natural farming, soil health management, ICM, IFS, pest and disease management, value addition and marketing were covered. the identified champion farmers demonstrated the preparation of Bijamrit, neem astra, karpoorakaraisal, egg amino acid and fish amino acid.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Thiruvanamalai, Tamil Nadu

#### Seminar on Fish farming and value addition

A seminar on Fish Farming and Value Addition was organized on July 30, 2024 in association with the Department of Fisheries and Fisherman Welfare. Eminent speakers from CIBA, CIFT, and Fisheries Department shared insights on profitable and sustainable fish farming, market avenues, and job opportunities. Experts addressed farmers' queries and explained Government schemes and production technologies. A demonstration on value-added fish products, such as fish chutney powder, was also conducted. Thirty-one pioneering farmers and farm women attended, gaining knowledge on the scope and opportunities in fish farming.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu

#### Visit of Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Thanjavur

Th. S. Murasoli, visited the KVK on July 9, 2024. The Hon'ble MP was briefed on the activities of the KVK and various schemes implemented. The KVK team presented the recent technologies and crop varieties released from TNAU, highlighted the seed production targets and the distribution process of seeds to farmers. The Hon'ble MP visited the exhibits on technologies and products of the KVK, inspected the demonstration units and reviewed the publications of the KVK. The Hon'ble MP congratulated the KVK team for good work and encouraged to work for the benefit of farmers.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

#### Skill Training for PVFPCL on Value Addition in Palmyrah

An off-campus training programme on value addition in Palmyrah was organized during July 26, 2024 at Killikullam Agribusiness Incubation Forum (KABIF), VOCAC&RI, Killikulam, Vallanadu village, Karunkulam Block of Thoothukudi District for 32 participants. Dr.M.Theradimani, Dean VOC AC&RI was the chief guest. EDP on value addition in Palmyrah was organized for Perunthalaivar Vazhai Farmers Producer Company Ltd., (PVFPCL), Kootampuli farmers and rural youth. Hands on training on processing of Neera through micro filtration was given. Mr. Arun CEO, KABIF explained on the availability of machineries and marketing promotion activities at KABIF to promote the neera processing.



### ▶▶ ICAR- KVK, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

#### Training programme for Krishi Sakhis on Natural Farming

Two numbers of five days residential training programme on Natural Farming was organized for 60 Krishi Sakhis. Master trainers and champion farmers shared expertise on eco-friendly practices, seed certification, and organic marketing. Hands-on training and field exposure enabled farm women to adopt sustainable agriculture. The program aimed to enhance livelihoods, promote environmental conservation, and support government initiatives. Post evaluation exams assessed participants' knowledge. This initiative empowers rural women, contributing to a healthier environment and sustainable agriculture practices.



### ▶▶ ICAR- KVK, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

#### Vocational Training Programme on Clean Milk Production

A seven days training on "Clean Milk Production" was conducted July 22-29, 2024. The programme covered dairy animal management, udder care, disease management, green fodder production, and value-added milk products. Participants gained practical experience through visits to TANUVAS and KVK's dairy unit. The training empowered dairy farmers with knowledge and skills for clean milk production, enhancing livelihoods and contributing to industry growth. This initiative supports government efforts to improve dairy farming practices and promote rural development.



### ▶▶ ICAR- KVK, Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

#### Training program on natural farming for Krishi Sakhis

A training program on natural farming for 30 Krishi Sakhis from Tiruppur District was held from July 15-19, 2024. Coordinated by Dr. P. Kalaiarasan (SMS, Plant Nematology) and Dr. P. Thukkaiyannan (SMS, Agronomy), the event featured dignitaries like Dr. P. A. Saravanan, Mr. Bommuraj, and Mrs. Sharmila. Experts from KVK conducted sessions on natural farming, pest management, soil health, and bio-input preparation. Champion farmers shared insights, and Dr. M. Senthilkumar discussed certification and marketing. The valedictory function, led by Dr. P. P. Murugan, highlighted natural farming's future. Participants from Pongalur and Kundadam blocks shared positive feedback on the training's impact.



### ICAR- KVK, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

#### Training programme on Organic farming in Leafy vegetables

A training program on Organic Farming in Leafy Vegetables was organized on July 23, 2024. Dr. A. Thirumurugan, Programme Coordinator, addressed the farmers, while Dr. R. Jagadeesan, Associate Professor (Horticulture), explained the importance of leafy vegetable farming, harmful effects of inorganic cultivation, and traditional leafy vegetables in Vellore District. The participants were taught on organic inputs, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and marketing channels. Fifty farmers, including SHGs and FPOs, from Vellore district participated, gaining knowledge on organic leafy vegetable cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing strategies.



### ICAR- KVK, Villupuram 1, Tamil Nadu

#### ASCI Garden Keeper Training

A 26 days Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) Skill Training Programme on Garden Keeping was initiated on July 15, 2024 for 25 farmers. Dr. S. Thiruvarassan, Programme Coordinator inaugurated the training. Topics on site selection, nursery establishment, propagation techniques, and marketing strategies were covered. Farmers were taught stem cutting, grafting, layering, and bonsai making techniques for horticultural crops. The program included disease management and the use of bio-fertilizers. Hands-on sessions enabled participants to practice approach grafting and moringa seed sowing techniques. The training was organized and conducted by Dr. R. Neelavathi, SMS (Horticulture).



### ICAR- KVK, Villupuram 2, Tamil Nadu

#### ASCI Training on Organic Cultivator

A 25 days skill training program on Organic Cultivation sponsored by the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) was conducted for 25 farmers from 26 June to 29 July 2024. Dr. M. Vimalarani, Professor and Head inaugurated the training. The programme included lectures on post-harvest management, organic inputs, and soil fertility, led by Dr. P. Murugan and experts from TNAU and TANUVAS. Participants received hands-on training in organic manure preparation, biocomposting, and visited successful organic farms. The program concluded with a valedictory session.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu

#### Training programme on GCES mobile app in Crop Cutting Experiments of PMFBY

A training program on the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) mobile app for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCE) was organized for 100 extension functionaries jointly with the Department of Economics and Statistics during July 22 and 23, 2024. Tmt. K. Vijaya, JDA and Thiru. K. Jeya Sankar, Zonal Deputy Director of Statistics participated in the inaugural function. Dr. Chelvi Ramessh, Program Coordinator, emphasized the importance of accurate yield recording in determining the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and crop insurance. Sessions on yield loss assessment, crop insurance calculations, and effective use of the GCES app were conducted. The participants gaining valuable insights and practical skills to enhance their capabilities in crop estimation and insurance processes.



## Andhra Pradesh

### ➤ ICAR-KVK, Ananthapuram 1 (Reddipalli), Andhra Pradesh

#### Krishi Vigyan Kendras - Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of KVKs was organized during July 29 and 30, 2024. The Golden Jubilee Torch was received from the PC, KVK Banavasi. The KVKs' evolution, services, and activities like On-Farm Trials and Front Line Demonstrations were highlighted. Dr. S.N. Malleswari Sadhineni showcased the demo units on vermicompost and mushroom production. Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers of Model Oilseeds Village. The torch relay on day two involved women's groups and Anganwadi teachers, promoting KVK's achievements and women's roles in agriculture. A training program for Anganwadi teachers focused on nutritional security and backyard poultry farming was organized. The torch was handed over to KVK Ananthapuram 2 Kalyandurg.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Ananthapuram 2 (Kalyandurg), Andhra Pradesh

#### CFLD on Groundnut varieties Visishta and Kadiri Lepakshi

The Cluster Front Line Demonstrations on Groundnut varieties Visishta (TCGS 1694) and Kadiri Lepakshi (K 1812) was initiated by Dr. M. Harini (SMS - Veterinary), Dr. V. Yugandhar (SMS - Horticulture), and Dr. E. Sireesha (SMS-Plant Protection) in 100 farmers fields covering 40 ha area of Pillalapalli, Brahmasamudram, and Yerrampalli villages. To enhance productivity and sustainability, a comprehensive training program was conducted, focusing on seed treatment and integrated weed, pest, and disease management. This initiative seeks to improve yields of groundnut while promoting sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring better resource management and long term viability for the farming community in the region.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Chittoor 1 (RASS), Andhra Pradesh

#### Awareness cum demonstration on use of drones in agriculture

An awareness cum demonstration programme on drone usage in agriculture was organized on July 11, 2024 at Kadiri Mangalam Village, Vadamalapeta Mandal. The chief guest, Dr. S. Venkateswar, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate, Tirupati underscored the KVK's role in enhancing agricultural practices. Dr. S. Sreenivasulu, SS and Head highlighted the KVKs initiatives in supporting farmers, rural youth, and extension functionaries and emphasized the advancements in spraying using Agriculture Drones. A demonstration on drone-assisted spraying of weedicide was organized in five acres of paddy. The participants included Agricultural officers fostering collaboration for modern agricultural methods within the community.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Chittoor 2 (Kalikiri), Andhra Pradesh

#### Field Day-Cum- IPM Awareness Programme in Tomato

A field day cum IPM awareness program was organized on July 27, 2024 at Kasiraopeta village, Madanapalli in collaboration with ICAR-National Centre for Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi. This initiative focused on validating wide-area adoption of IPM in solanaceous crops across Annamayya district. Dr. K. Manjula, PC, highlighted the importance of bio-pesticides in pest management in tomato. Dr. Ragavendra K.V, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NCIPM, discussed effective IPM strategies. Farmers toured the demo fields on IPM in tomato. Dr. Y. Peeru Saheb, SMS (Plant Protection), explained various IPM practices, including sticky traps, pheromone traps, and Neem oil application. A technical bulletin on integrated crop management practices for tomatoes, providing valuable guidance to farmers was released.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, East Godavari 1 (Kalavacharla), Andhra Pradesh

#### Training program on soil health cards (SHC)

A training program on Soil Health Cards was organized on July 2, 2024 for 62 farmers in partnership with ATMA-East Godavari to create awareness on soil health management for sustainable agriculture. Dr. Y. Jyothirmmai, Project Director of ATMA, explained the SHC scheme, its benefits, and methods of collecting soil samples. Farmers learned interpretation of health cards and fertilizers application to minimize costs and enhance crop yields. Dr. VSGR Naidu, Head, spoke on soil testing for balanced nutrient use. Demonstrations on improving organic matter, water retention, and sustainable farming practices were conducted. The event provided farmers with the knowledge needed to improve soil health and boost agricultural sustainability in the region.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, East Godavari 2 (Pandirimamidi), Andhra Pradesh

#### Awareness Programme on Millet Cultivation

Once a staple food in Rampachodavaram division, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, millets has become a subsistence crop, grown for personal consumption, leading to the gradual disappearance of millet varieties. To revive millet cultivation, bio-fortified ragi varieties Indravathi & Vegavathi and bajra variety ABV-04, were distributed to tribal farmers under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Training on the 'guli ragi' method using natural farming techniques for higher yields with minimal investment was conducted on July 16, 2024. Hands on training on Jeevamrutha, Bheejamrutha, Panchagavya, and Kashayas was provided. Staff of APCNF and 67 tribal farmers participated. The programme was aimed to enhance millet production and promote sustainable farming practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Guntur (Lam), Andhra Pradesh

#### STRY Training programme on vermicompost production

A skill training program on Enriched Vermicompost Production was organized from July 15 to 20, 2024 for 32 rural youth. Dr. M. Ganga Devi, Senior Scientist (Agronomy), was the Course Director. Dr. M. Yugandhar Kumar, PS and Head introduced the topic. Sri Nunna Venkateswarlu, DAO of Guntur distributing training kits and released literature on vermicompost production. The program aimed to equip rural youth with practical skills in enriched vermicompost production, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Kadapa 1 (Utukur), Andhra Pradesh

#### Exposure visit under Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) - KVK- ATMA interface

An exposure visit was organized for 75 students and teachers of Nagarjuna Model School in Kadapa and Gopi Krishna International School in Proddatur on July 12, 2024 by Dr. K. Sai Maheswari and Dr. S. Prasanthi as part of the Atal Tinkering Labs initiative. The students learned about KVK's functions, agricultural & horticultural cropping practices, and farm animals. They explored KVK's demonstration units, the information corner, and the instructional farm, engaging in hands-on learning experiences. This initiative aimed to enhance students' understanding of agriculture and inspire interest in farming and related sciences, fostering a deeper connection between youth and agricultural practices. enriching the overall educational experience.



### ▶ ICAR- KVK, Kadapa 2 (Vonipenta), Andhra Pradesh

#### Training programme on drone technology by Coromandel International Ltd. July 2024

A training program on drone technology in agriculture was conducted in collaboration with Coromandel International Ltd., on July 22, 2024. The sessions covered the benefits of drones, detailed cost estimates, which piqued farmers' interest in adopting this technology. A demonstration on drone operation was organized in a vegetable block, showcasing its capabilities. The training emphasized community engagement with modern practices. Dr. M. Balakrishna, Dr. N. Srividya Rani, Dr. S. Firoz Hussain, and Dr. B.S. Kanthi Sri, along with representatives from Coromandel International Ltd., conducted the event. Fifty-eight farmers and members of FPOs eagerly participated and learnt about this innovative approach.



### ▶ ICAR- KVK, Krishna 1 (Garikapadu), Andhra Pradesh

#### Skill Training Programme (STRY) on Value Addition of Fruits.

A six-day Skill Training Programme (STRY) on "Value Addition of Fruits" was conducted from July 25 to 31, 2024, at KVK with financial support from ATMA, Krishna District, and SAMETI, Guntur. The training aimed to equip 28 rural youth with skills in fruit value addition as an enterprise. Dr. S. Krishnam Raju inaugurated the program, emphasizing FSSAI standards and market demand. Dr. R. Prabhavathi and other resource persons conducted sessions on fruit preservation, product packaging, and small-scale unit establishment. Hands-on demonstrations covered jams, squashes, guava toffees, amchur powder, and pineapple squash. A recipe contest was also organized. On the final day, certificates were distributed by the Programme Coordinator and the CEO of Coromandel Cement. Participants received course materials, meals, and travel support. Feedback was collected, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. I. Venkata Reddy.



### ▶ ICAR- KVK, Krishna 2 (Ghantasala), Andhra Pradesh

#### Golden Jubilee Torch Relay Programme 2024-25

The Golden Jubilee Torch Relay Programme was inaugurated on July 10, 2024, raising awareness among farmers about significant achievements of the KVKs. The event featured discussions on agricultural practices, nursery preparation and weed management in paddy. Seeds of paddy variety MTU-1318 was distributed to Scheduled Caste farmers. "National Fish Farmers Day" was also observed informing participants about various schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to enhance fisheries in the region. Dr. P. Srilatha, PC, Dr. Satyapriya Lalitha, Principal Scientist and Head, ARS, Ghantasala, Dr. Padmavathi, Scientist, ARS were the resource persons. Sixty-three farmers and farm women participated.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Kurnool 1 (Yagantipalle), Andhra Pradesh

#### Brainstorming on Implementing GAP Practices in Cotton to Meet the Global Value Chain

A brainstorming session was organized on July 7, 2024 to explore the viability of cultivating native cotton cultivars using GAP principles to meet the demands of the global cotton value chain. Karin Wilms, Sr. Institutional Business Developer, HNL, Netherlands, Dr. Shyam Kumar Katta, Program Director, PGPL, Hyderabad, Dr. Anamika Priyadharshini, Director, Knowledge Management, Research & Design, PGPL, New Delhi participated and interacted with cotton growers. Presented the cotton value chain and gathered issues and potential strategies for programme implementation. The team visited seed hub, polyhouse, IFS units, vermicompost units, soil testing lab, bio-lab and exhibition stall of the KVK.



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### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Kurnool 2 (Banavasi), Andhra Pradesh

#### Golden Jubilee Celebration of KVKs with Farmers, Farm Women, and Rural Youth

The Golden Jubilee of KVKs was celebrated on July 26, 2024, with 150 farmers, farm women, and rural youth. The event showcased the achievements of KVKs and their role in improving production, productivity, and farmers' income, supporting India's food security. ICM in cotton, tobacco, groundnut, red gram, chilli, onion, and oil palm, pest and disease management in chilli and onion, benefits of closer spacing and High-Density Planting Systems (HDPS) in cotton, seasonal disease management for livestock were discussed.



Importance of soil testing and soil sample collection for agriculture and horticulture crops was taught. Battery sprayers, spades, and tarpaulins were provided to SC farmers under the SCSP. Farmers from nearby villages participated.

### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Nellore 1, Andhra Pradesh

#### Training Programme to Farmers in Collaboration with IFFCO

A training programme for farmers was organized in collaboration with IFFCO as part of the Viksit Bharat – 100 Days Programme at Yellayapalem village, Kodavaluru Mandal. The training focused on three key areas: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Paddy cultivation, the importance and application of Nano Urea, Nano DAP, and Liquid Biofertilizers, and the formation and benefits of Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs). The session aimed to enhance farmer awareness on sustainable practices and collective growth models. A total of 36 farmers actively participated in the programme and gained valuable insights to improve crop productivity and income through modern inputs and institutional support.



**➤ ICAR- KVK, Nellore 2 (Periyavaram), Andhra Pradesh****Awareness Programme on Flower Regulation in Acid lime**

An awareness programme on Flower Regulation in Acid Lime for getting higher yields in off-season was organized for framers of Tirupati and SPSR Nellore districts on July 31, 2024. Dr. B. Govinda Rajulu, PS & Head, spoke on the role of flower regulation to improve summer yields and market value. Dr. D. Thirupal, Scientist (Horticulture), discussed on flower regulation using GA3, Cycocel, and 13.0.45 Fertilizer with GA3. The flower regulators were distributed to farmers for demonstrations. Sri B. Dasharadarami Reddy, District Horticulture Officer, Tirupati, released the pamphlet on "Nimmalo Pootha Niyanthrana". Scientists and officers interacted with farmers, addressing Acid Lime cultivation and challenges.

**➤ ICAR- KVK, Prakasam 1 (Darsi), Andhra Pradesh****Skill Training on Fabric Printing and Dyeing Techniques**

A skill training on Fabric Printing and Dyeing Techniques was conducted on July 10 to 12, 2024. Ms.T. Manasa, SMS (Home Science), delivered an overview of fabric printing and dyeing techniques by traditional and modern methods. Block printing, tie-dye, and hand painting were demonstrated. Natural dyeing process using plant-based ingredients was explained. Tips on design development, colour mixing, and finishing techniques were shared to improve fabric appearance and durability. The training empowered the 35 women to understand these techniques and explore their creativity and entrepreneurial potential in fabric printing and dyeing.

**➤ ICAR- KVK, Prakasam 2 (Kandukur), Andhra Pradesh****Demonstrations on CFLD Groundnut**

As part of the Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) on Groundnut, a programme was initiated on July 5, 2024, at Alagayapalem village, Ulavapadu Mandal, involving 46 farmers. The activity aimed to introduce improved pest and disease management practices to enhance groundnut productivity. Dr. G. Prasad Babu, Head, along with Dr. Jyoti Jadipujari, SMS (Crop Production), Dr. I. Venkatesh, SMS (Plant Protection), and Mr. Mayank, SMS (Horticulture), facilitated the demonstrations. Farmers were provided with critical inputs including IPM kits, bio-fertilizers, and bio-fungicides. Field demonstrations on the installation of pheromone traps and yellow and blue sticky traps were also conducted to manage pest incidence effectively and sustainably.



### ICAR- KVK, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

#### Vocational training programme on Value addition of Pineapple

A vocational training programme on value addition of pineapple was organized under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) by Dr. B. Suneetha, SMS (Home Science) during July 15 to 17, 2024 for 15 tribal farm women and farmers. The participants were taught on techniques for enhancing pineapple products, preservation methods, processing techniques, and innovative recipes. The program aimed to empower the participants with skills that could improve their livelihoods and promote local entrepreneurship in value-added pineapple products.



### ICAR- KVK, Visakhapatnam 1 (Haripuram), Andhra Pradesh

#### Skill Training Program on Mushroom Cultivation

An in-house skill training programme on mushroom cultivation was organized July from 8 to 12, 2024, for 22 students from AMAL College, Anakapalli to inculcate entrepreneurial skills on mushroom production in rural youth. Mushroom cultivation techniques, site selection, preparation of paddy straw and spawn, chopping and sterilization, bed preparation, casing methods, incubation, maintenance, storage, and marketing strategies were taught. The importance of developing entrepreneurial skills through mushroom cultivation for sustainable income was emphasized by the PA Home Science, encouraging participants to view it as a promising business opportunity



### ICAR- KVK, Visakhapatnam 2 (Kondempudi), Andhra Pradesh

#### Training programme on good agricultural practices in Turmeric

A training programme on good agricultural practices for turmeric was conducted at Hukumpeta of ASR district in collaboration with Digital Green, Hyderabad. The SMS (Horticulture) emphasized the importance of selecting high-quality, disease-free rhizomes and preparing well-drained, loamy soil with a pH of 4.5 to 7.0, planting the rhizomes at 15-20 cm interval at a depth of 5-7 cm, ideally at the beginning of the rainy season. The SMS (Agri. Engg.) discussed turmeric processing techniques to achieve higher recovery rates of turmeric powder, highlighting the benefits of using a turmeric boiler and polisher for improved yield.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

#### ASCI Training programme on vermicompost production

An ASCI training programme on vermicompost production was organized for 40 rural youth from July 26 to 28, 2024. Dr. A. Appalaswamy, Associate Director of Research at RARS Chintapalli, inaugurated the program and discussed the importance of vermicompost in organic farming. Dr. G. Amrutha Veena, SMS (Plant Protection), covered the materials needed for vermicompost preparation and the production technology involved. Participants visited a vermicompost demonstration unit to learn about bed preparation and the selection of earthworm species. On the final day, the skill sector council assessed the trainees through a written exam, viva, and practical evaluations.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, West Godavari 1 (Undi), Andhra Pradesh

#### Training Programme on Water Quality Management in Fish and Prawn Culture

A training programme on water quality management in fish and prawn culture was organized for farmers in Mastyapuri village, Veeravasaram mandal, in celebration of the golden jubilee torch relay program on July 9, 2024. Water quality parameters and their management in fish and prawn ponds was taught. Demonstrations on using pond water quality testing kits to analyze pH, dissolved oxygen, and ammonia levels were conducted. A scientist-farmer interaction session was organized. Demonstrations on use of hermetic bags, telescopic poles with cutting knives, waste management through decomposers, and the application of biofertilizers were also conducted.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, West Godavari 2 (VR Gudem), Andhra Pradesh

#### Micro Entrepreneurship Development Programme (MEDP) sponsored by NABARD

A 15 days MEDP on Processing and Value Addition of Fruits, Vegetables, and Flowers sponsored by NABARD and scheduled between July 22, 2024 and August 5, 2024 was launched. Sri T. Anilkanth, DDM, West Godavari, NABARD, Dr. E. Karuna Sree, Director of Extension, Dr. YSRHU, Dr. A.S. Padmavathamma, Dean of Horticulture participated. Practical sessions and hands-on training were coordinated by Dr. V. Deepthi, Dr.A. Devivaraprasad Reddy, Dr. M. Raghavendra Reddy, and Dr. Venkata Satish Kuchi Scientists of the KVK. Thirty rural and tribal women learned to create products using dry flower technology, preservation, processing, dehydration, and pickling techniques



### Telangana

#### ICAR- KVK, Adilabad, Telangana

##### Awareness Programme on the Importance and Maintenance of Soil Health

An awareness programme on the importance and maintenance of soil health has been conducted at Dharampuri village, Bazarhathnoor mandal, Adilabad district. Farmers learned about soil health prospects and constraints, as well as measures to enhance soil fertility and productivity. We recommended conducting soil analysis to assess fertility status and demonstrated how to collect soil samples, instructing farmers to provide details such as previously sown crops and survey numbers. Soil health cards are distributed to the farmers that outlined nutrient status and corrective measures. For low nutrient levels, we advised increasing the dosage by 25% above the recommended amount, while for high levels, we suggested a 25% reduction. For medium values, the standard dosage was recommended. Additionally, we advised annual applications of vermicompost and FYM to improve organic content. This initiative empowered farmers to optimize nutrient application, ultimately enhancing soil health and productivity.



#### ICAR- KVK, Khammam 1 (Wyra), Telangana

##### Training Programme on Natural Farming

Natural farming promotes a "do-nothing" approach that prioritizes sustainable agricultural practices. On July 20, 2024, KVK Wyra organized a one-day training programme on natural farming in Kurnavalli, Thallada. The event featured scientists Dr. Jessie Suneetha, Dr. V. Chaitanya, and Mrs. P. S. M. Phanisri, alongside department officials and local farmers. Farmers learned about the significance of natural farming, which relies on natural inputs to enhance soil health, crop yields, and livelihoods. The training emphasized the use of organic agents like Trichoderma and Pseudomonas for disease control. Trichoderma, a soil fungus, and Pseudomonas, a rod-shaped bacterium, both produce antibiotics and enhance plant resistance by competing for nutrients. Research indicates that their combination can effectively combat root rot and wilt diseases, reducing infections by up to 97%, while also promoting plant growth and improving nutrient utilization.



#### ICAR- KVK, Khammam 2 (Bhadradi Kothagudem), Telangana

##### Agricultural Inputs distribution programme under Tribal Sub plan

Dr. R. Uma Reddy, Associate Director of Research, RARS, Warangal, PJTSAU has visited KVK, Bhadradi Kothagudem on July 09, 2024 and inspected all the office records, registers, cash books and field note books maintained by individual scientists. Sir has inspected the KVK farm and suggested some improvements. Later, he has attended as "Guest of honour" for the "Agricultural Inputs distribution" programme under Tribal Sub plan conducted at KVK farm and addressed the gathering and motivated them to adopt mechanization in agriculture, crop diversification & sustainable agriculture.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Karimnagar 1 (Jammikunta), Telangana Awareness programme on 'No till Agricultural Practices'

KVK organized an awareness program on "No-Till Agriculture," a sustainable farming practice that enhances soil health, biodiversity, and water conservation while reducing climate impact. This method minimizes soil disturbance by using specialized equipment like disc seeders or agricultural drills to create furrows, plant seeds, and apply fertilizer in a single pass, eliminating the need for traditional ploughing. Fertilizer is applied directly into the furrow, reducing waste. The program saw active participation from district officials, including the DAO, ADAs, AOs, and PD ATMA of Karimnagar, along with the Associate Director of Research from RARS Jagtial, retired ADRs, farmers, farm women, and agriculture graduates.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Karimnagar 2 (Ramagirikhilla), Telangana

#### Training programme on chilli pro-tray production technology, value addition and marketing to the women FPO.

A training programme focusing on chilli pro-tray nursery production technology, value addition, and marketing was organized for a women-led FPO on July 26, 2024, at Mutharam village. The FPO, established with support from NIFTEM and NAFED, is actively engaged in chilli production and value addition, with ongoing technical support from KVK. Dr. Kiran Pilli (SMS, Soil Science) provided training on chilli nursery management using pro-trays, including pest and disease control, nutrient management, and land preparation techniques. A hands-on demonstration on seed sowing in pro-trays was also conducted. Dr. T. Vinod Kumar (SMS, Agricultural Extension) highlighted the importance of producing export-quality chilli and developing market linkages. Inputs including 100 pro-trays, 10 hybrid chilli seed varieties, cocopeat, and vermicompost were distributed. The event benefitted 32 farmers and 23 farm women.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Mahabubnagar 1 (Madanapuram), Telangana

#### Promotion of Agri-entrepreneurship among Farmer Producer Organizations

An awareness program aimed at fostering Agri-entrepreneurship was organized among Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) as part of the 100-day activities of KVKs in Pedampalli village, Narayanpet district on July 12, 2024. Dr. G. Bhavani, SMS (Agr. Ext), along with SMS (Home Science), led a program focused on the Mathamahila FPO in Narayanpet district, formed with support from NABARD, Hyderabad. The FPO deals in pulses, paddy, groundnut, sesamum, and small-scale vegetable and fruit cultivation. The session explored agri-entrepreneurial opportunities, such as processing units for groundnut and sesamum oil extraction, seed production in millets and groundnut, vermicomposting, and vegetable marketing. Government subsidy schemes for village enterprises were also discussed.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Mahabubnagar 2 (Palem), Telangana

#### Horticulture exposure visits to SC farmers under SC SP

A horticulture exposure visit was organized for SC farmers under the SC SP 2024-25 on July 1, 2024, to the Centre of Excellence on Vegetables and Flowers, Jeedimetla, and the Centre of Excellence on Fruits, Mulugu, Department of Horticulture. At Jeedimetla, farmers were trained on protected cultivation in naturally ventilated polyhouses, high-tech nursery entrepreneurship, and high-value horticulture-based farming. At Mulugu, they explored ultra-high-density farming techniques for mango, guava, custard apple, dragon fruit, sandalwood, and bamboo. Key learnings included pruning techniques, farm pond technology, mulching, drip irrigation, fertigation, fruit nursery management, horticulture-forestry systems, and integrated farming. The visit provided hands-on exposure, enhancing farmers' knowledge of advanced horticultural practices. A total of 18 farmers participated in the visit



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Mancherial (Bellampalli), Telangana

#### Training Programme on Integrated Weed Management in Direct Seeded Rice

A Farmers-Scientists Interaction cum Training Programme on Integrated Weed Management in Direct Seeded Rice and Integrated Crop Management in major crops like cotton, rice, and vegetables was conducted at Rythu Vedika, Bheemini cluster, Mancherial district, on July 27, 2024. Farmers were briefed on the benefits of Direct Dry Seeding of Rice (DDSR), including reduced irrigation and labor costs, along with increased yields. The session emphasized weather-based agro-advisories and the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The DDSR method, its advantages, and associated challenges such as poor germination, uneven crop stands, and weed management were discussed. Farmers were encouraged to follow digital agro-advisory platforms. A total of 35 farmers participated, gaining insights into advanced crop management practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Medak 1 (Zaheerabad), Telangana

#### Promotion of Shade Net Nurseries for Vegetable Seedlings at DDS KVK, Zaheerabad

DDS KVK, Zaheerabad, Telangana, promoted shade net nurseries for raising vegetable seedlings, ensuring a steady supply of healthy plants to local farmers. The nursery focused on region-specific varieties—Panchaganga for brinjal, US 440, 448, Saho, and Bajrangi for tomato, and Ankursona for chilli. Seedlings were raised in coco-peat-filled protrays for enhanced root development. The KVK's shade net unit, constructed with locally available materials, serves as a low-cost demonstration model for farmers. Training sessions on nursery management are also planned. Seedling production and sales included 10,000 brinjal (4,000 sold), 40,000 tomato (15,000 sold), and 5,000 chilli (3,000 sold). This initiative supports sustainable and profitable farming, fostering future agri-enterprises in the region.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Medak 2 (Tuniki), Telangana

#### Exposure visit of Telangana Oil Palm Federation Members to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Medak

Members of Telangana Oil Palm Federation Limited, Ashwaraopet, visited KVK on July 30, 2024. The delegation, led by the federation's president, explored the Bio-Control Lab, Food and Value Addition Lab, Demonstration Farm, and Organic Input Production Unit. Various organic farming practices adopted for different crops were explained during the farm visit. Scientists emphasized the role of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides in oil palm production, detailing their application for managing Ganoderma, whiteflies, and other pests. "O" forms were provided to facilitate the federation's procurement of bio-inputs. Participants gained insights into organic farming initiatives and the importance of organic inputs for fruit, vegetable, and paddy crops. The exposure visit included regional coordinators, chairpersons of five oil palm FPOs, and farmers from Aswaraopeta.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Nalgonda 1 (Gaddipally), Telangana

#### Celebration of 96th Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.)

The 96th ICAR Foundation Day was celebrated on July 16, 2024 at KVK Gaddipally, with Shri N. Nagaraju, Hon'ble Principal District and Sessions Judge of Nalgonda, as the chief guest. He commended KVK's role in technology transfer to farmers and emphasized the need for adopting advanced agricultural practices. KVK scientists announced that, as per ICAR's decision, the day will now be observed as 'Foundation and Technology Day.' They highlighted how ICAR-developed technologies and improved crop varieties can enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' income. Various KVK products, including paddy seeds, fruit plants, vermicompost, azolla, bio-fertilizers, mushrooms, and silkworms, were exhibited to farmers. The event saw active participation from KVK scientists Ch. Naresh, A. Kiran, Dr. T. Madhuri, and A. Naresh, along with farmers and agriculture students, fostering knowledge exchange and awareness on innovative farming techniques.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Nalgonda 2 (Kampasagar), Telangana

#### Skill Training Programme on Vegetable Nursery Raising Under Shadenet

Three days Skill Development Training Programme on Vegetable Nursery Raising under Shadenet was organized to Tribal farmers under Tribal Sub Plan from 09-11 July 2024 at KVK, Kampasagar. Smt. S. Pallavi, SMS (Extension) explained the need and importance of raising vegetable nursery seedlings under shadenet and effective marketing techniques. Dr.Ch.Naresh Kumar, SMS (Horticulture) delivered lecture on process of sowing seedlings in protrays and other management measures to be taken during nursery. Smt. A. Ramulamma, SMS (Entomology), addressed the gathering on pest and disease management in vegetables. Finally, shadenets were distributed to the tribal farmers of Nellikal village, Tirumalghirisagar (M), Nalgonda District. The programme was successfully organized active participation of 42 farmers.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Nizamabad (Rudrur), Telangana

#### Training programme on nutrient management in turmeric

A training program on nutrient management in turmeric was conducted for turmeric farmers at Morthad. Farmers were educated on nutrient deficiencies, fertilizer doses, and schedules for effective crop management. As part of the Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on "Demonstration of IISR Turmeric Special to Correct Micronutrient Deficiency in Turmeric," selected demonstration farmers received IISR Turmeric Special for the first foliar application at 45 DAS to address early-stage nutrient deficiencies. A total of 23 farmers participated in the program.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Ranga reddy, Telangana

#### Training program on High Density Planting System (HDPS) in Cotton

A capacity-building and knowledge-sharing program was organized on July 03, 2024 under the special cotton project, "Targeting Technologies to Agro-Ecological Zones – Large-Scale Demonstrations of Best Practices to Enhance Cotton Productivity." The training emphasized the High-Density Planting System (HDPS) to improve cotton yields. Dr. Chandrakant M.H., Head of KVK Ranga Reddy, welcomed participants and encouraged farmers to adopt HDPS, citing its benefits from CICR Nagpur. Dr. Vijay Kumar (SMS) explained the optimized plant spacing (90x15 cm) and the role of drones, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and nano fertilizers in boosting productivity. Representatives from Rasi Seed Pvt Ltd and Seed Works Company introduced pest- and disease-tolerant cotton varieties suitable for HDPS. The program saw active participation from 80 farmers from Chittapur village, fostering awareness and adoption of advanced cotton cultivation practices.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Warangal 1 (Malyal), Telangana

#### Distribution of Assests under SCSP

A distribution program was organized on July 15, 2024 at KVK, Malyal, under DAPSC, where 10 drum seeders were provided to 50 SC farmer beneficiaries. The initiative aimed to promote the Direct Seeding Paddy (DSP) method, addressing labor shortages and reducing cultivation costs. Dr. R. Uma Reddy, ADR, CTZ, RARS Warangal, participated as the chief guest and emphasized the benefits of drum seeders in improving efficiency. Each group of five farmers received a drum seeder. The event was attended by KVK staff, and the beneficiary farmers.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Warangal 2 (Mamnoon), Telangana

#### National Fish Farmers Day

KVK Mamnoon celebrated National Fish Farmers Day, emphasizing the importance of aquaculture and financial support schemes. Dr. N. Rajanna, Programme Coordinator, encouraged farmers to utilize PMMSY schemes and Kisan Credit Cards for financial assistance. He highlighted KVK's role in training, demonstrations, exposure visits, and input distribution. Dr. G. Ganesh, SMS (Aquaculture), introduced advanced technologies like Biofloc, cage culture, and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) to enhance fish productivity, sharing case studies of successful farmers. The program also covered sustainable practices, market linkages, and export opportunities, benefiting 30 participating farmers.



### Puducherry

### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Karaikal, Puducherry

#### Skill Training on Bee Keeper

A skill training program on Beekeeping was organized by KVK from July 2 to 4, 2024, sponsored by the Agricultural Skill Council of India. The training covered key aspects such as bee hive management, colony establishment, handling nectar dearth periods, honey bee life cycles, beekeeping equipment, pest and disease management, honey extraction, and marketing strategies. Expert resource persons from PAJANCOA & RI, Karaikal, and Virudhachalam, along with KVK specialists, delivered lectures and hands-on demonstrations. Practical sessions included hive inspection and honey extraction, and a booklet on beekeeping technologies was provided to participants. On the final day, theoretical, practical, and viva-based assessments were conducted for 40 rural youth, with certificates awarded to the qualified participants. The program aimed to equip trainees with skills for sustainable apiculture-based entrepreneurship.



### ➤ ICAR- KVK, Puducherry, Puducherry

#### Training Programme on "Garden Keeper"

KVK, Puducherry has commenced the Agricultural Skill Council of India Training Programme on "Garden Keeper" from July 29, 2024. The Training Programme has been scheduled for 210 hours which covers various skill imparting topics viz., Nursery Management, Propagation techniques, Pests and disease Management, Nutrient Management, Roof Top Garden etc., Dr. N. Vijayakumar, Programme Coordinator of this Kendra officially inaugurated the programme on July 29, 2024 and Thiru. M. Sandiradarane, Programme Assistant (Agro. Forestry) is the Nodal Officer for organizing this training. A total of 20 Farmers & Farm Women are participating in this month-long programme.



### KVK Spotlight: Monthly Summary of Noteworthy Initiatives (July)



**Diagnostic field visit to vegetable and flower crops**  
(KVK, Mahabubangar 2-Palem, TG)



**Field Diagnostic visit to Tapioca field**  
(KVK, Ariyalur, TN)



**Skill Development Training on Millet Processing, Value Addition & Market Feasibility**  
(KVK, Mahabubnagar, Palem, TG)



**Farmer Scientist interaction on Citrus**  
(KVK, Nellore, Periyavaram, AP)



**M.Sc. Students from Sri Padmavati Mahila University visits to KVK**  
(KVK, Chittoor-1-RAAS, AP)



**Vice-Chancellor and Directors visited KVK Needamangalam to review ongoing activities and progress**  
(KVK, Thiruvarur, TN)



**Diagnostic field visits Banana and Papaya fields**  
(KVK, Erode, TN)



**Field Visit & Monitoring of Chaff Cutter Utilization under SCSP**  
(KVK, Warangal, Mamnoon, TG)



**All India Radio talk on weed management in rice**  
(KVK, Vizianagaram, AP)



**One-day on-campus training programme on dairy cattle management**  
(KVK, Warangal, Mamnoon, TG)



**Exposure visit of farmers to KVK**  
(KVK, Kurnool, Yagantipalli, AP)



**Entrepreneurs Meet**  
(KVK, Theni, TN)



**Workshop on Climate Smart Dairy Entrepreneurship (KVK, Erode, TN)**



**Diagnostic field visit - Leaf curl virus disease in Papaya (KVK, Chittoor, Kalikiri, AP)**



**Celebrated National Mango Day (KVK, Karaikal, PY)**



**Diagnostic field visit to submerged Paddy fields (KVK, Srikakulam, AP)**



**OFT on Assessment of Hand operated Portable grader for millet Processing (KVK, Mahabubnagar-I, Madanapuram, TG)**



**Diagnostic Field Visit for Kharif Crops Affected by Heavy Rains (KVK, Visakhapatnam, Haripuram, AP)**



**Diagnostic Field visit to FLD-para wilt management in Cotton (KVK, Mahabubnagar, YFA, TG)**



**Diagnostic field visit - Redspider mite in Bhenidi (KVK- Tiruchirappalli, TN)**



**Stakeholders interface programme on Improved technologies of tuber crops (KVK, Tirunelveli, TN)**



**Diagnostic field visit in Small Onion (KVK, Perambalur, TN)**



**Diagnostic field visit -Leaf spot in Banana Orchard (KVK, West Godavari, VR Gudem, AP)**



**FFS on Coconut GAP: Soil Drenching with Cocoon for Root Wilt Management (KVK, Kanyakumari, TN)**



**Training on Fish-Based Organic Inputs & Integrated Fish Culture in Natural Farming (KVK, Sivagangai, TN)**



**Diagnostic field visit to Sheep farm (KVK, Kadapa, Utukur, AP)**



**Hon'ble. DC Sri Muzammil Khan, IAS, Visits Direct Seeded Rice Fields (KVK, Khammam, WYRA, TG)**



**Visit of Director of Extension, ANGRAU (KVK, Chittoor, Kalikiri, AP)**



**Visited Mamidivada for Direct Paddy Sowing with Seed Planter (KVK, Visakhapatnam, Haripuram, AP)**



**Training programme for input dealers under DAESI programme (KVK, Anantapur, Reddipalli, AP)**



**Cross Learning by KVK team from RASS-KVK-Chittoor to KVK Vellore (KVK, Vellore, TN)**



**Diagnostic Field visit to old & young Mango Orchards (KVK, Mahabubnagar, Madanapuram, TG)**



**Celebrated National Fish Farmers Day (KVK, Karimnagar, Jammikunta, TG)**



**Method Demonstration on Nanma Bio-Formulation for Pseudo Stem Weevil (KVK, Erode, TN)**



**Diagnostic Visit to Medicinal Plant Nursery Unit (KVK, Villupuram II, TN)**



**Demonstration on uses of drone in spraying pesticides, fungicide, weedicides (KVK, Ariyalur, TN)**

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Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad

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