



MILLETS (Shree Anna)

Newsletter

Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer . Warangal

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ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

Strengthening FPO leadership and market linkages through kharif planning workshop at ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad

Bringing together FPO leaders, experts, and institutional stakeholders, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad organized a two-day workshop on "Kharif Planning and Marketing Linkages for Millet Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)" during 7-8 April 2026. The programme focused on Kharif crop planning, quality seed supply, leadership development of Board of Directors, and strengthening livelihood opportunities for Karnataka millet FPOs. During the inaugural session, Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi emphasized market-driven crop planning and millet value addition, while Mr. Simon Pasala highlighted the role of CSR in strengthening FPOs through infrastructure, capacity building, financial access, and market



linkages. The technical sessions conducted during the workshop focused on strengthening various dimensions of FPO development and improving preparedness for the upcoming Kharif season. A dedicated session on FPO progress review and Kharif action planning was facilitated by Dr. Sangappa, wherein participants assessed the current status of their FPOs and developed structured, location-specific action plans aligned with market demand and seasonal requirements. The workshop also enabled FPO leaders to explore new opportunities in processing, branding, and market access, while strengthening their ability to function as organized and efficient farmer collectives.

ICAR-IIMR organizes workshop on Kharif planning, millet value addition, and market linkages for FPOs

To strengthen millet-based Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research organized a two-day workshop on "Kharif Planning and Marketing Linkages for FPOs" during 9-10 April 2026 for four ICAR-IIMR-promoted FPOs. Around 20 participants attended the programme, which focused on Kharif planning, enterprise development, millet value addition, and market linkages. Experts from various institutions delivered technical sessions on FPO development, processing technologies,



branding, packaging, and entrepreneurship. Mrs. Latha Sistla highlighted CSR support for FPO empowerment, while Dr. Veeresh Wali discussed millet value addition and business opportunities. Participants also visited GMRK Foods for a hands-on demonstration of Millet Chikki Technology. Dr. Vikas Kumar conducted a session on product development, branding, and packaging solutions for FPOs, focusing on innovative approaches for developing market-ready products and strengthening market presence. Representatives from SELCO Foundation shared sustainable solutions for decentralized millet processing and rural entrepreneurship. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa and the FPO NEST team of ICAR-IIMR.

FPO review meeting focus on seed planning, business development and market linkages

With the objective of enhancing seasonal preparedness and strengthening business management practices, the FPO-NEST team conducted review meetings with ICAR-IIMR-promoted FPOs supported by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) and WDD during 22–25 April 2026. The team interacted with the Boards of Directors to review progress and finalize Kharif action plans focusing on crop planning, seed demand, production estimates, aggregation, and market linkages. Discussions also emphasized timely access to quality seed, collective procurement and marketing, value chain development, millet processing, and value addition. The FPO-NEST team guided FPOs in preparing demand-driven business plans and strengthening coordination, institutional efficiency, and sustainable business growth.

Cold Storage Facility Inaugurated at Giri Siri Tribal FPO to Strengthen Tribal Farmers' Market Access and Post-Harvest Management

A cold storage facility was inaugurated at Giri Siri Tribal FPO on 7 April 2026 to strengthen post-harvest management and improve market opportunities for tribal farmers. The inauguration was attended by the District Collector, Paderu Horticulture Officer, NABARD



District Development Manager (DDM), and representatives from Cool Crop, EESL Foundation, ESAF, SABALA NGO, local governance bodies, and

around 50 farmers. The facility will enhance storage of perishable fruits and vegetables, reduce post-harvest losses, enable better price realization, and support bulk aggregation and organized marketing through the FPO. This initiative is expected to strengthen the agricultural value chain and promote sustainable livelihoods for tribal farming communities.

Lead Lecture on Millet Entrepreneurship and Value Addition Delivered at Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Science Congress-2026

Dr. Sangappa, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, delivered a lead lecture on "Entrepreneurship Development in the Millet Sector" during the Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Science Congress-2026 held on 9 April 2026 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research. He highlighted opportunities in millet processing, value addition, product diversification, branding, and entrepreneurship for improving farmers' income and nutritional security. The lecture also emphasized the role of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), startups, and institutional market linkages in strengthening the millet value chain and promoting sustainable agribusiness development.

Training programme for SC farmers on balanced fertilizer use and millet value addition under GCoE-SCSP

With the objective of promoting scientific nutrient management and millet-based value addition, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad organized a two-day training programme under the GCoE-SCSP component for members of the Tekmal Farmers Producer Cooperative



Society during 20–21 April 2026. The programme focused on balanced fertilizer use, soil health management, and millet value addition for sustainable livelihoods. Dr. R. Mahender Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), delivered a lecture on improved crop production and balanced fertilizer management. Participants also visited the bakery unit at PJTSAU and the Shree Anna Processing Unit for demonstrations on millet bakery products and

jowar roti preparation. ICAR-IIMR provided a roti-making machine to the FPO to promote entrepreneurship and community-level value addition. During the valedictory session, Dr. Shyam Prasad, Director (I/c), ICAR-IIMR, highlighted the role of such capacity-building programmes in improving scientific farming and farmers' income. The programme was organized by Dr. Sangappa, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator of FPO Projects, along with the FPO team of ICAR-IIMR.

ICAR-IIMR Supplies Improved Millet Seeds to Strengthen Climate-Resilient Farming in NEH Region for Kharif 2026

As part of its efforts to promote climate-resilient agriculture in the North Eastern Hill (NEH) region, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research supplied nearly 2

tonnes of improved millet seed on 24 April 2026 for the Kharif season. The initiative aims to expand millet cultivation, enhance productivity, and improve nutritional and livelihood security in the NEH states. Seeds of improved varieties of sorghum, finger millet, foxtail millet, little millet, proso millet, barnyard millet, kodo millet, browntop millet, and fodder sorghum were distributed through collaborations with the College of Agriculture, Pasighat, Rajiv Gandhi University, and the College of Agriculture, Tripura. The programme includes frontline demonstrations, adaptive trials, and farmer training on improved production technologies. Expected to benefit 300–400 farmers, the initiative is projected to increase productivity by 20–30%, reduce cultivation costs, improve fodder availability, and strengthen climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the region under the guidance of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi.

Trainings conducted

S.no.	Name of training program	Sponsoring organization	Duration (with dates)	No. of participants
1	Workshop for Kharif Planning and Market Linkages for Farmer Producer Organization	FPO Project	2 days (7 th to 8 th April 2026)	29
2	Workshop for Kharif Planning and Market Linkages for Farmer Producer Organization	FPO Project	2 days (9 th to 10 th April 2026)	17
3.	Capacity Building Programme on Scientific Nutrient Management and Millet Value Addition Conducted for SC Farmers	FPO Project	2 days (15 – 16 April 2026)	75 SC farmers
4.	Training Program for Dundhubi Farmers Producer Company Limited on Development of Millets Value Added Products	SCSP component of GCoE	2 days (15 th to 16 th April 2026)	27
5.	Awareness program on NABL accreditation for testing and calibration laboratories	ICAR-IIMR and NABL-QCI	1 day (17-04-2026)	33
6.	Awareness on Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Training on Millet Value Addition	SCSP component of GCoE	2 days (20 th to 21 st April 2026)	14

Participation in Meetings/Seminar/Workshops/Conferences etc. – Dr. C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR

S. No.	Name of Employee	Title of the meeting / Workshop etc. (If paper etc. presented mention the title)	Organized by	Venue / Place	Online / Physical	Dates
1	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated online in the Inaugural Session of the 30 Day International Agriculture Winter School Training cum Certificate Program on ICAR & Ministry of Agriculture Framework for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agriculture Natural Farming and Allied Sciences organized by Hindustan Agricultural Research & Welfare Society.	Hindustan Agricultural Research & Welfare Society.	Hindustan Agricultural Research & Welfare Society.	Online	01.04.2026
2	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated online in the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards Notification and Release of Varieties for Agriculture Crops organized by MA&FW, (DA&FW), New Delhi.	MA&FW, New Delhi	MA&FW, New Delhi	Online	06.04.2026
3	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated online in the Webinar under Mission Karmayogi SADHANA Saptah	ICAR, New Delhi.	ICAR, New Delhi	Online	06.04.2026

S. No.	Name of Employee	Title of the meeting / Workshop etc. (If paper etc. presented mention the title)	Organized by	Venue / Place	Online / Physical	Dates
4	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Co-Chaired the online pre-workshop to review Research results 2025-26 of AICRP on Pearl Millet centres and finalization of Technical program for 2026-27 organized by ICAR-AICRP on Pearl millets, Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan.	ICAR-AICRP on Pearl millets, Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan.	ICAR-AICRP on Pearl millets, Gudamalani, Barmer, Rajasthan.	Online	13.04.2026
5	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the 118 th meeting of the Academic Council organized by PJTAU, Hyderabad.	PJTAU, Hyderabad.	Seminar Hall-1, Univ. Auditorium PJTAU, Hyd.	Physical	16.04.2026
6	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Delivered inaugural address during the awareness program on "NABL Accreditation on Testing and Calibration Laboratories" under the 'Gunvatta Yatra' initiative organized jointly by ICAR-IIMR and NABL, Quality Council of India.	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad	Physical	17.04.2026
7	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated Online as Chief Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 3-month International Training cum Internship- "Krishi Navyug-2026" organized by Agriculture Wali Research Foundation, New Delhi.	Agriculture Wali Research Foundation, New Delhi.	Agriculture Wali Research Foundation, New Delhi.	Online	18.04.2026
8	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the M.S. Swaminathan Award ceremony constituted by the Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).	Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited.	Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana in Hyderabad.	Physical	18.04.2026
9	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Inter-Ministerial Meeting for MAGIC 2026 under MAHARISHI organized by ICAR, New Delhi.	ICAR, New Delhi.	ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi	Physical	22.04.2026
10	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Online presentation on MELIA organized by DARE / ICAR, New Delhi.	DARE / ICAR, New Delhi	DARE / ICAR, New Delhi	Online	27.04.2026
11	Dr. C Tara Satyavathi	Participated in the Webinar under BRICS Nation Women's Business Alliance Working Group on Innovative Development on "Emerging Technologies" organized under Innovation and Knowledge Exchange by FICCI – Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi.	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi	FICCI, New Delhi.	Online	30.04.2026

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