



भा.कृ.अनु.प. - भा.कृ.अनु.सं., झारखंड ICAR – IARI, JHARKHAND सूचना पत्र | NEWSLETTER

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From Director's Desk

It is my pleasure to present the January-March 2026 issue of the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Jharkhand. This quarter has been marked by significant achievements in research, education, extension and capacity building, reflecting our continued commitment to sustainable agricultural development in the Eastern Plateau and Hill region.

A key highlight of this quarter is the institute received the Outstanding Stall Award at the Kisan Mela-cum-Agricultural Exhibition 2026 at Ranchi, showcasing its technological advancements and farmer-centric innovations.

On the research front, the institute made notable contributions in crop improvement, microbial mediated soil health improvement and livestock

research. Key studies included molecular characterization of flowering genes in onion, structural and ultrastructural analysis in rose and marigold, evaluation of microbial inoculants for improving wheat productivity under reduced nitrogen, and integrated management of acidic soils. Initiation of studies on Sahiwal cattle performance under regional conditions and indigenous goat characterization in Jharkhand further strengthen sustainable animal production systems. Applied research on Mahua harvesting techniques also reflects the institute's multidisciplinary approach.

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The institute strengthened its extension outreach through Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) programmes, benefiting many farmers through distribution of quality inputs and capacity-building initiatives.

Academic activities remained vibrant, with successful conduct of postgraduate programmes, student achievements in national-level placements, and exposure visits that enhanced experiential learning. The awarding of degrees during the 64th Convocation and various student accomplishments reflect the institute's strong academic foundation and commitment to human resource development. The institute also actively organized and participated in key events such as ICAR-TEZ Sports tournament, Republic Day, Saraswati Puja, International Women's Day, Kisan Mela and Students' Annual Sports Meet 'Abhyudaya', fostering holistic development and community engagement.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the faculty, staff, students and editorial team for their dedicated efforts. ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand remains steadfast in its commitment to scientific excellence, farmer empowerment, and innovation-driven agricultural growth for a resilient and prosperous future.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Jharkhand conferred with prestigious Vasvik Industrial Research Award 2025

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director have been conferred the Vasvik Industrial Research Award 2025, in recognition of his pioneering contributions to climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management. His work has significantly advanced sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in the areas of soil health improvement, efficient water use and adaptation to climate variability. A major milestone in his career is his leadership in rainfed dryland research and technology development in India, a sector that accounts for nearly 50% of the country's agricultural area. Through innovative research, technology development, and effective dissemination, he has played a crucial role in enhancing the productivity and resilience of dryland farming systems. Dr. Rao's achievements continue to inspire the scientific community and contribute substantially to strengthening sustainable agriculture and national food security.



Fig 1. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, receiving the VASVIK Industrial Research Award 2025

ICAR-IARI Jharkhand Wins Outstanding Stall Award at Kisan Mela-cum-Agricultural Exhibition 2026, Ranchi

Institute participated in the Kisan Mela-cum-Agricultural Exhibition 2026 held at ICAR-NISA, Ranchi during 08-09 March 2026. An exhibition stall was installed to showcase technologies and innovations. Dr. Ranjit Singh and Dr. Himani Priya represented the institute. Institute received the Outstanding Stall Award in this Kisan Mela-cum-Agricultural Exhibition.



Fig 2. ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand displaying technologies and receiving the Outstanding Stall Award at Kisan Mela-cum-Agricultural Exhibition 2026, Ranchi

(Ranjit Singh and Himani Priya)

Studies begin in Sahiwal cattle at ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand: A Cornerstone of Profitable Dairy Farming

Sahiwal breed of cattle is one of the most recognized dairy breeds in the world, found in Indian States like Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. Sahiwal cows are well-known for their heat tolerance, making them ideally suited for tropical and sub-tropical climates. They can withstand high temperatures and are resistant to common tropical diseases, especially tick-borne diseases. Cows typically exhibit a reddish-brown-colored coat. They may have darker shades, especially around the neck, head, legs and tail. Body weight of the adult cows ranged from 300 to 350 kg, while in bulls it ranged from 400 to 450 kg. Sahiwal cows are highly valued for their high milk yield and quality. On average they produce 2200 - 2400 liters of milk per lactation, but it may reach up to 3000 liters of milk per lactation.

Milk has a high butter fat content, making it valuable for preparation of different dairy products. It is true that these cows are resistant to different common tropical diseases, but they may suffer from tick borne diseases like anaplasmosis, babesiosis etc. and metabolic diseases like milk fever. These infections make them weak, affecting overall health and production performance. Conditions like foot rot are also common, particularly in wet and unhygienic situations. Cows are heat-tolerant, but extremely high temperatures or humidity affect their milk production. Infertility or breeding issues also occur in poorly managed herds, often caused by poor nutrition or improper care and management. Indeed, managing Sahiwal cow requires a significant level of expertise and effort. These cows are powerful feeders and require a good quantity of fresh forage and liberal clean water. Keeping this in view, studies have been initiated to evaluate their production and reproduction performances under agro-climatic conditions of Jharkhand/eastern region of India.



Fig 3. Sahiwal cattle at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Jharkhand

(S K Mahanta, Vandana and Shilpi Kerketta)

RESEARCH

Molecular characterisation of flowering locus t (FT) genes in diverse bolting cultivars of onion (*Allium cepa* L.) genotypes

The study was initiated to characterize flowering genes in diverse bolting cultivars of onion to understand the molecular basis of bolting. Bolting in onion is regulated by FLOWERING LOCUS T (FT) genes, which produce FT proteins in leaf phloem that are transported to the shoot apical meristem. There, FT forms a complex with 14-3-3 proteins and the bZIP transcription factor FD (florigen activation complex), activating floral meristem identity genes and inducing flowering. Bulb formation, a photoperiod-driven process, follows a similar regulatory mechanism. Seven FT gene paralogs were identified in the onion genome using tBLASTn with previously reported protein sequences. These were distributed across chromosomes 1 (four paralogs), 2 (two paralogs), and 4 (one paralog). Gene structure analysis was performed using FGENESH and ExPaSy tools. Parologue-specific primers were designed and validated using genomic DNA and cDNA, with reduced amplicon size in cDNA confirming successful amplification and absence of genomic DNA contamination. Expression analysis of FT genes across onion cultivars with varying bolting behaviour was conducted to elucidate their regulatory role. The study will provide valuable genomic resources and support the development of FT-based molecular markers for improving bolting resistance in onion breeding programmes.

(Raj Kumar, Krishna Prakash, Vivekanand L. Hamade, Yogesh P. Khade)

Histological characterization of vegetative and floral organs in rose (*Rosa* spp.) cv. Pusa Alpina

Histological study was conducted on key vegetative and floral organs of rose (*Rosa* spp.) cv. Pusa Alpina to document internal tissue organization relevant to breeding and reproductive studies. Fresh, healthy samples of leaf, petal, anther, and ovary were processed using standard paraffin microtomy, sectioned, stained, and examined under a compound microscope. Leaf showed distinct epidermis, mesophyll, and vascular bundles, while petals with thin epidermis with loose parenchyma. Anther displayed well-defined wall layers with pollen grains, and ovary revealed pericarp, placenta, ovules, and vascular tissues. This study establishes a baseline anatomical reference for future research in rose breeding, reproductive biology, and ornamental crop improvement.



Fig 4. Rose genotype (*Pusa Alphana*) stained by Periodic acid Schiff stain a) Cross section of ovary with ovules, b) Cross section of anther c) Cross section of leaf d) Cross section of petal (scale-100 µm)

(Shantesh Kamath, Narendra Singh and Krishna Prakash)

Ultrastructural changes in marigold flowers at different developmental stages

The study aimed to examine ultrastructural changes in marigold (*Tagetes erecta* L.) cv. Arka Bhanu flowers across different developmental stages (Stage II-V) using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Flower samples were systematically collected, and petal segments were prepared through fixation in 70% ethanol, followed by drying and mounting on stubs for SEM observation. The analysis revealed distinct stage-wise structural variations. Early stages (Stage II) showed loosely arranged, expanding cells with smooth surfaces and high turgidity. Advancing to Stage IV and V, progressive senescence was evident through cell distortion, cuticle disruption, surface wrinkling, and eventual collapse with loss of turgor. These findings provide insights into cellular, and surface modifications associated with flower development and senescence, contributing to a better understanding of post-harvest behaviour and ornamental quality in marigold.

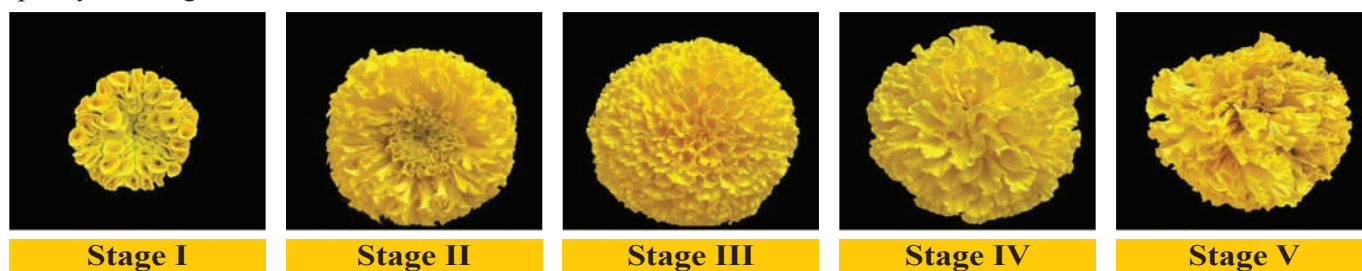


Fig 5. Sequential developmental stages of marigold flower (*Tagetes erecta* L.) cv. Arka Bhanu

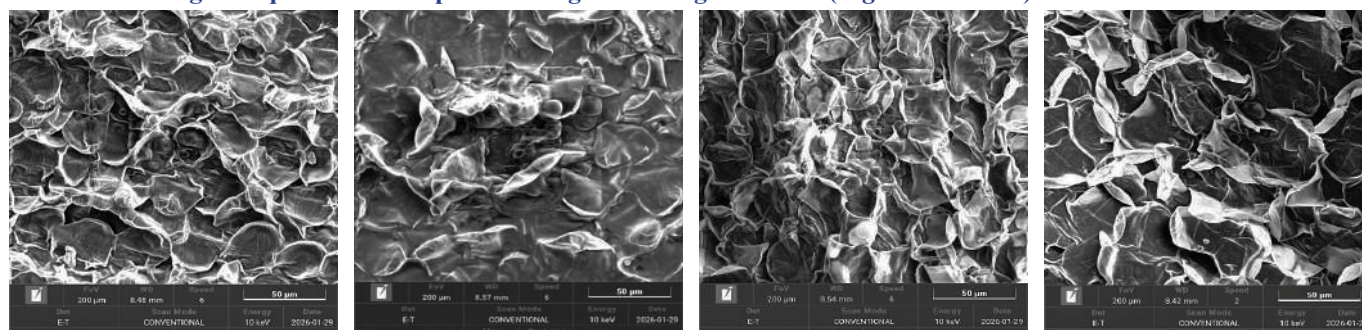


Fig 6. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis of petal surface architecture during flower developmental stages

(Shantesh Kamath)

Field evaluation of microbial inoculants to improve wheat productivity

A field evaluation conducted during Rabi 2025-26 assessed the performance of microbial inoculants in wheat (var. HD3271) under conventional tillage (CT) and zero tillage (ZT) systems. Fourteen treatments integrating RDF, reduced nitrogen (75% N + 100% PK), and microbial consortia (C1- C5) were evaluated in random block design. Microbial inoculants used were as C1: *Cyanobacterial consortium* (BF1 - BF4); C2: *Biofilm consortium* (AnTr); C3: *Pseudomonas nitroreducens*; C4: *Azotobacter* (W5) and C5: *Biofort*. The study was designed to address the increasing need for sustainable nutrient management and reduced dependence on chemical nitrogen fertilizers. Microbial inoculants such as cyanobacterial consortia (C1) and biofilm-based formulations (C2) are known to

enhance nitrogen fixation, phytohormone production, and soil biological activity. Measurements of germination, vigour indices, plant biometric parameters, chlorophyll content, leaf and root IAA, soil urease and dehydrogenase activities depicted increased values in inoculated treatments as compared to un-inoculated control. By integrating reduced nitrogen inputs with beneficial microbes, the study aims to maintain or improve yield attributes and nutrient uptake. This approach supports climate-resilient agriculture by improving input-use efficiency and soil health under contrasting tillage systems.



Fig 7. Field evaluation of microbial inoculants in wheat crop under conventional and zero tillage

(Himani Priya, Ranjit Singh, Radha Prasanna, Akash A., Manoj Chaudhary, Asha Kumari)

Management of acid soils

Acidic soils, common in eastern, northeastern, and coastal regions of India, are characterized by low fertility, iron toxicity (lowlands), aluminum toxicity (uplands), nutrient depletion (Ca, Mg, K), and deficiencies of B, Mo, and Si, along with high phosphorus fixation. Management practices include liming to correct soil acidity, balanced use of P, K and silicate, and organic fertilizers, as well as the cultivation of tolerant cultivars. A field experiment evaluated two rice genotypes, Uma and Vasundhara (Moncompu), under eight nutrient management treatments *viz.*, i) NPK (RD), ii) NPK (RD) + Silixol spray (at vegetative, booting and grain filling stage), iii) NPK (RD) + Rice husk ash, 250 kg ha^{-1} during land preparation, iv) NPK (RD) + Dolomite 250 kg ha^{-1} 30 days after transplanting, v) NPK (RD) + Silixol spray (at vegetative, booting and grain filling stage) + Dolomite 250 kg ha^{-1} , 30 days after transplanting, vi) NPK (RD) + Rice husk ash, 250 kg ha^{-1} during land preparation + Dolomite 250 kg ha^{-1} , 30 days after transplanting, vii) Potassium silicate solution- Four sprays at 15 days interval starting from 15 DAT (days after transplanting) and viii) RDF + Dolomite + Potassium silicate solution (Four sprays at 15-day intervals starting from 15 DAT). Results from the first year indicated no significant differences in overall yield; however, the treatment combining NPK (RD) + Silixol spray (at vegetative, booting, and grain filling stages) + dolomite (250 kg ha^{-1} at 30 DAT) recorded superior performance in Vasundhara, with maximum tillers (22/hill), panicle length (21 cm), straw yield (37.96 q ha^{-1}), and grain yield (27.47 q ha^{-1}). Plant height ranged from 94.2 to 102.6 cm. The experimental soil was acidic (pH 5.42), non-saline (EC 0.66 d Sm^{-1}), low in available phosphorus (21.39 kg ha^{-1}), and medium in organic carbon (0.57%), nitrogen (282 kg ha^{-1}), and potassium (170 kg ha^{-1}), with sandy loam texture. These findings highlight the importance of integrated nutrient management, particularly the combined use of silicate and liming materials, for improving crop performance in acid soils.

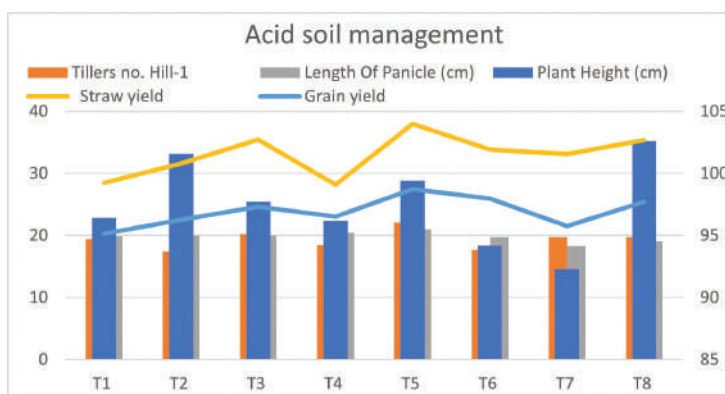


Fig 8. Effect of treatments on yield and its attributes in rice crop

(Manoj Chaudhary and Dipak Kumar Gupta)

Integrated field assessment for harvesting material selection for Mahua flower

Based on the field measurements conducted on five selected Mahua trees at IARI Jharkhand Farm, the average canopy diameter was observed in the range of approximately 7-9 m, resulting in a substantial canopy spread area for flower fall. The trunk-to-canopy coverage indicated a wide distribution zone, necessitating the use of appropriately sized and stable collection materials. Different materials, including HDPE cross-laminated tarpaulin sheet, HDPE woven tarpaulin (170 GSM), and woven shade nets (50% and 90% shading), were evaluated under typical pre-monsoon environmental conditions (Early-March to End-March, 2026). During this period, average wind speeds ranged from 2-5 ms⁻¹ with occasional gusts up to 6-10 ms⁻¹, along with intermittent light to moderate rainfall (2-15 mmhr⁻¹). The coefficient of friction of the harvesting materials plays an important role in controlling the movement of fallen Mahua flowers. The 90% green shade net, due to its rough-woven structure, has higher friction than HDPE tarpaulin sheets, which helps reduce sliding in wind and rain, thereby improving flower retention and collection efficiency. Considering these factors, the 90% green shade net (as shown in Fig.1) exhibited superior performance, offering greater resistance to wind loads and rainfall impacts due to its higher density and mesh structure, while also maintaining stability and minimizing displacement. This makes it a suitable option for efficient and hygienic Mahua flower harvesting under such field conditions.



Fig 9. Material selection and trunk-to-canopy netting for Mahua harvesting

(Ranjit Singh, Prabhat Kumar Guru, Nirmal, Mukesh Kumar Tiwari, Srinivasa Raghavan A, Himani Priya, OM Prakash, Pavithra K N, S.K. Giri)

Assessment of morphological traits of indigenous goat genetic resources of Jharkhand

Based on data collected from two blocks of Hazaribagh district, approximately 500 goats were analyzed. The study focused on the phenotypic characterization of local goat populations in Barhi and Katkamsandi blocks. Five distinct strains were identified based on morphometric traits and coat color patterns: (i) completely black, (ii) black coat with a white line on both sides of the nose bridge, (iii) black coat with white spots on the ears and tip of the nose,

(iv) completely white, and (v) light to dark brown coat with white or black lines on both sides of the nose bridge. The head profile across all strains was predominantly straight, with horizontally oriented ears. Wattles were absent in both sexes. Horns were generally small, straight, and exhibited upward, lateral, and backward orientation. The tail was short and held upright. A beard was observed in some adult goats of light to dark brown coat color, present in both males and females.

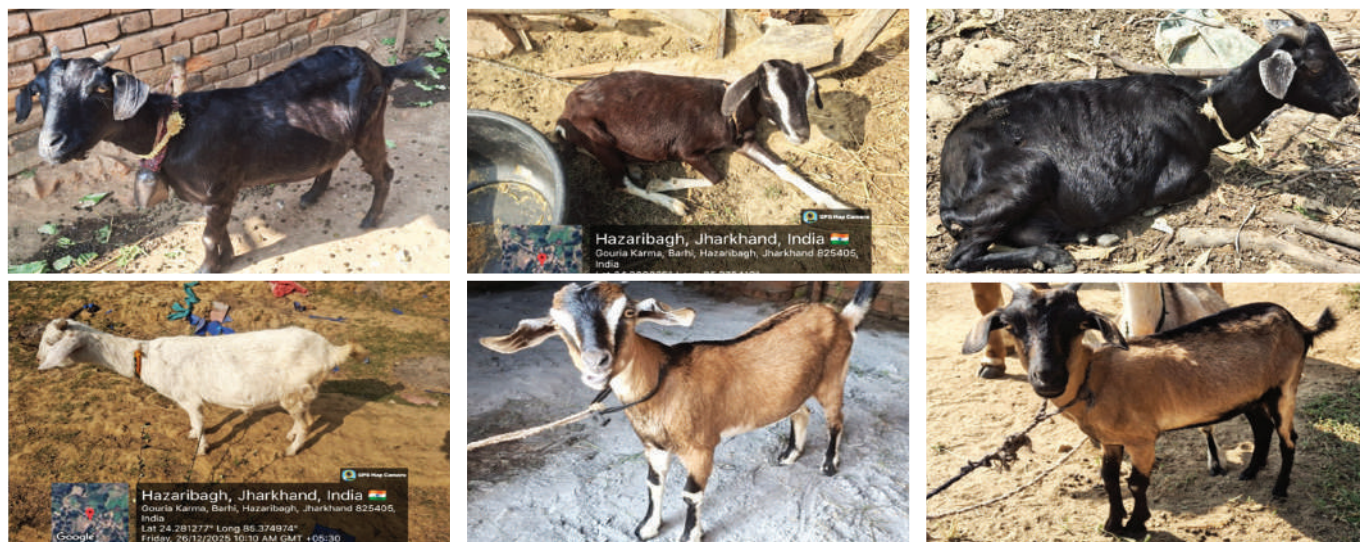


Fig 10. Distinct strains of local goat genetic resources

(Shilpi Kerketta, S.K.Mahanta, Pankaj Kumar Sinha, B.N. Mandal, Vandana, Kannaka)

ACADEMICS AND EDUCATION

Professional achievements of postgraduate students

ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand, proudly shares the achievements of its postgraduate students who have recently secured distinguished positions in national and state-level organizations. These successes highlight the institute's strong academic foundation and commitment to nurturing talent for contributing to agriculture and allied sectors. The institute congratulates the achievers and wishes them great success in their professional journey.

S. N.	Student Name	Discipline	Academic session	Chairperson	Selected As	Students
1	Mr. Ramakrishna Panda	Environmental Science	2022-2024	Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta	Agriculture Graduate Trainee (AGT), IFFCO in February 2026	
2	Raj Talukdar	Soil Science	2023-2025	Dr. Manoj Chaudhury	Agriculture Field Officer, IFFCO in April 2026	
3	Anish Kumar Raj	Soil Science	2023-2025	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Naik	Junior Associate, Regional Rural Bank in March 2026	
4	Payel Roy	Soil Science	2023-2025	Dr. Manoj Chaudhury	Ph.D. Scholar, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in November 2025	

5	Sourav Bera	Soil Science	2023-2025	Dr. Bibhas Kumar Verma	Ph.D. Scholar, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in November 2025	
6	Madhumita Murmu	Soil Science	2023-2025	Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta	Assistant Agriculture Officer, Govt. of Odisha in March 2026	
7	Ms. Nayanika Guha	Genetics & Plant Breeding	2023-2025	Dr. Somnath Roy	Ph.D. Scholar, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in 2025	
8	Ms. Pooja Belwal	Genetics & Plant Breeding	2023-2025	Dr. Somnath Roy	Ph.D. Scholar, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in 2025	
9	Mr. Vijay Prakash	Genetics & Plant Breeding	2023-2025	Dr. Anima Mahato	Assistant Breeder, VNR Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad in 2025	
10.	Mr. Arun Mahesh Channapur	Genetics and Plant Breeding	2023-2025	Dr. Santosh Kumar	Ph.D. Scholar ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in 2025	
11.	Laxmi Bairwa	Fruit science	2023-2025	Dr Mahesh Kumar Dhakar	PhD, Navsari agriculture University Gujrat in 2025	
12.	Shivam Gupta	Fruit science	2023-2025	Dr Mahesh Kumar Dhakar	PhD in Fruit Science, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat in 2025	
13.	Mageshwari	Fruit science	2023-2025	Dr Vikash Das	PhD, IARI, New Delhi in 2025	

M.Sc. students received master's degree at 64th convocation ceremony 2026

During the 64th Convocation Ceremony of the Graduate school, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi on February 13, 2026, A total of 18 postgraduate students were awarded degrees across four disciplines - Soil Science (5), Genetics & Plant Breeding (5), Fruit Science (4), and Vegetable Science (4), reflecting strong academic excellence and multidisciplinary research contributions.

S.N.	Discipline	Student	Roll number	Chairperson
1	Soil Science	Raj Talukdar	60149	Dr. Manoj Chaudhury
2		Anish Kumar Raj	60150	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Naik
3		Payel Roy	60151	Dr. Manoj Chaudhury
4		Sourav Bera	60152	Dr. Bibhas Kumar Verma
5		Madhumita Murmu	60159	Dr Dipak Kumar Gupta
6	Fruit Science	Shivam Gupta	60147	Dr. Mahesh Kumar Dhakar
7		Laxmi Bairwa	60148	Dr. Mahesh Kumar Dhakar
8		Mageshwari D.	60160	Dr. Bikash Das
9		N. Srikanth	60162	Dr Sunil Umar
10	Vegetable Science	Arunavo Saha	60143	Dr. Rabi Sankar Pan
11		Dharm Veer	60145	Dr. Saheb Pal
12		Sonakshi Sinha	60146	Dr. Krishna Prakash
13		Neeraj Kumar Suryan	60161	Dr. Meenu Kumari
14	Genetics and Plant Breeding	Ms. Nayanika Guha	60153	Dr. Somnath Roy
15		Ms. Pooja Belwal	60155	Dr. Somnath Roy
16		Mr. Vijay Prakash	60156	Dr. Anima Mahato
17		Mr. Arun Mahesh Channapur	60158	Dr. Santosh Kumar
18		Mr. Sangamesh G Shettar	60163	Dr. P. Bhavana



Fig 11. Glimpse of M.Sc. students received master's degree at 64th convocation ceremony 2026

Academic achievement of M.Sc. students' batch 2024-26 at ICAR-IARI Jharkhand

The institute congratulates all the achievers for their hard work and dedication. Their success stands as an inspiration for peers and reaffirms IARI Jharkhand's role in preparing students to excel in research, academics, and professional services for the agricultural and allied sectors.

S.N.	Name	Division	Qualified for	
1	Prateeti Bharali	Soil Science	UGC NET-JRF (Environmental Sciences)	
2	Pratyusha Bhattacharyya	Soil Science	UGC NET (Environmental Sciences)	

3	Yamini Thakur	Genetics and Plant Breeding	CSIR NET-JRF (Life Sciences) and GATE XL	
4	Arijit Chatterjee	Genetics and Plant Breeding	CSIR NET (Life Sciences) and GATE XL	
5	Seshathri	Genetics and Plant Breeding	UGC NET-JRF (Life Sciences)	
6	Shilpa Singha	Vegetable science	UGC NET (2025) (Life Sciences)	

Educational tour cum exposure visits of B.Sc. (Ag.) students

An Educational Tour-cum-Exposure Visit for B.Sc. (Ag.) 1st Year undergraduate students was organized to ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi, ICAR-NBPGR RS, Ranchi and ICAR-NISA, Ranchi, on 23rd March 2026 under the Farming-Based Livelihood Systems curriculum (6th Dean Committee syllabus). The visit formed an integral part of the approved course structure, aligned with practical modules such as field visit of innovative farming system models and visit of agri-based enterprises and their functional aspects. The programme aimed to provide hands-on exposure to integrated farming systems and the functional dynamics of agri-enterprise value chains, thereby enhancing experiential learning among students. A total of 59 students participated in the visit under the guidance of the Course associates, making it a highly informative and enriching academic exercise.



Fig 12. Glimpses of B.Sc. (Ag.) students educational tour cum exposure visits

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

SCSP Activities of IARI Jharkhand

Input distribution under SCSP

To increase the area under summer crops in the Hazaribagh district and to enhance the production and productivity of moong and maize crops, quality seeds of improved varieties of summer crops were distributed among the selected farmers belonging to schedule caste community. During January to March 2026 a total of 58 quintal seeds which includes approx. 30 Q Moong seeds and 28 Q of Maize crop seeds 2200 nos. of vegetable seed kits were

distributed among 2100 scheduled caste farmers during the kisan goshti cum training cum input distribution program organized by the institute. In addition, 800 small farm tools and 150 fruit plant saplings were distributed among 250 selected beneficiaries during the training programs organized for the benefit of the scheduled caste farmers. These beneficiaries belong to 10 blocks of Hazaribagh district, one block each of Koderma and Chatra district of Jharkhand.



Fig 13. Glimpses of Input distribution to farmers under SCSP program

B. Training organized and input distribution under SCSP

Sl. No.	Name of the Training	Date	No. of Participants	Block/District	Training Co-ordinators & Organising Secretary
1.	Hands-on training on plant breeding and molecular approaches for seed production and agri-entrepreneurship development	3-23 February 2026 (21 Days)	12 Youths	Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Chatra, Palamu, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Simdega (Jharkhand) Vaishali, Nawada (Bihar) Azamgarh (UP)	Dr. Santosh Kumar & Dr. Krishna Prakash
2.	Integrated pest management	23-25 February 2026 (3 Days)	30 Farmers	Barhi, Tatijhariya	Dr. Asharani Patel, Dr. Srinivasa Raghawan & Dr. Krishna Prakash
3.	Establishment and management of fruit orchards	25 February - 3 March 2026 (7 Days)	30 Farmers	Ichak, Barhi, Katkamdag, Katkamsandi	Dr. Narendra Singh & Dr. Krishna Prakash, Pankaj Kumar Sinha
4.	Mass production & application of biofertilizer and biopesticides in agriculture	9-13 March 2026 (5 Days)	30 Farmers	Tatijhariya, Sadar, Barkagaon, Katkamdag, Mayurhand, Barhi	Dr. Himani Priya, Dr. Ranjit Singh & Dr. Krishna Prakash
5.	Quality seed production of pulse crops	10-12 March 2026 (3 Days)	30 Farmers	Barhi, Chauparan	Dr. Anima Mahato & Dr. Krishna Prakash
6.	Backyard poultry farming	16-18 March 2026 (3 Days)	30 Farmers	Chauparan, Barhi, Tatijhariya	Dr. Shilpi Kerketta & Dr. Krishna Prakash
7.	Scientific cultivation of flower crops	19-21 March 2026 (3 Days)	30 Farmers	Gidhaur, Barhi	Dr. Shantesh Kamath & Dr. Krishna Prakash, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Sinha
8.	Recent advance in dairy farming, processing and marketing strategies	23-25 March 2026 (3 Days)	30 Farmers	Barkattha, Ichak, Barhi	Dr. Vandana & Dr. Krishna Prakash



Fig 14. Glimpses of Farmers training and Input distribution under SCSP program

Tribal Sub Plan Activities of IARI Jharkhand

Training programme on scientific backyard poultry production practices

A three-day training programme on Scientific Backyard Poultry Production Practices for TSP farmers was successfully conducted at the ICAR-Central Avian Research Institute (CARI), Izzatnagar (Bareilly) from March 17-19, 2026. The programme was organized with the objective of enhancing the technical knowledge and practical skills of tribal farmers for promoting efficient, sustainable, and income-generating backyard poultry farming. The objectives were to impart scientific knowledge on backyard poultry production including aspects of housing, feeding, and health management. The training programme was attended by TSP farmers, including women and rural youth, actively engaged in backyard poultry farming.



Fig 15. Glimpses of Farmers training under TSP program

Sonali chicks distributed to trained TSP farmers

strengthen rural livelihoods, a total of 1,600 Sonali chicks were distributed to 23 trained TSP farmers. This initiative aims to enhance backyard poultry production and promote sustainable income generation. Sonali chickens, recognized for their adaptability, hardiness, and good productivity under rural conditions, offer a reliable source

of livelihood. Farmers were also provided with practical guidance for effective management of Sonali birds. The distribution reflects a continued commitment to capacity building, skill development, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices among tribal farmers.



Fig 16. Glimpses of Farmers training under TSP program

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hostel Days celebration by undergraduate and postgraduate students

Hostel Days were celebrated with great enthusiasm and camaraderie at IARI Jharkhand from 2nd to 4th January 2026, with active participation from both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The celebration aimed to strengthen the spirit of unity, cooperation, and mutual respect among students while providing a platform to showcase their talents and foster a sense of belonging within the campus community. Emphasizing the importance of holistic development, the theme of Hostel Days highlighted the balance between academics, recreation, and interpersonal bonding. As part of the celebrations, students organized a variety of indoor and outdoor sports activities, encouraging teamwork, leadership, and healthy competition. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation by the Hon'ble Director of IARI Jharkhand, recognizing the efforts of the organizers and participants and inspiring continued enthusiasm and unity among the students.



Fig 17. Glimpses of Hostel Days celebration by undergraduate and postgraduate students

IARI, Jharkhand participated in ICAR-Zonal Sports Tournament - (Eastern Zone)-2025

Total 29 sports contingents of IARI, Jharkhand have successfully participated in the ICAR-Zonal Sports Tournament - (Eastern Zone) - 2025 held at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar from 06-09 January 2026. Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta was chief de mission (CDM). All the participants of IARI, Jharkhand played their respective sports events with true sportsmanship. The IARI, Jharkhand received one bronze medal in discuss throw (women) by Dr. Shilpi Kerketta and third place in relay race (Women) Dr. Vandana, Dr Himani Priya, Dr. Pavitra and Dr. Archana.



Fig 18. Glimpses of ICAR-Zonal Sports Tournament- (Eastern Zone) - 2025

Republic Day celebration

The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at IARI Jharkhand on 26th January. The programme commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by the Hon'ble Director of IARI Jharkhand, Dr. Ch. Srinivasan Rao, followed by the National Anthem. Thereafter, undergraduate students showcased their talents through a vibrant cultural programme featuring dance, drama, mime, singing, and painting, reflecting the spirit of unity and diversity. The event concluded with an inspiring address by the Director, appreciating the efforts of the students, followed by the distribution of certificates of appreciation to the participants.



Fig 19. Glimpses of Republic Day celebration

Saraswati Puja 2026 celebration

The auspicious festival of Saraswati Puja was celebrated on January 23, 2026, with great devotion and enthusiasm by the B.Sc. Agriculture students at the institute. The celebration began with traditional rituals and puja, where students offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati, seeking blessings for knowledge, wisdom, and academic success. The Director of the institute graced the occasion, adding significance to the event. The venue was beautifully decorated with flowers and rangoli, creating a serene and festive atmosphere.



Fig 20. Glimpses of Saraswati Puja 2026 celebration

IARI Jharkhand participated in Pusa krishi Vigyan Mela 2026 at IARI New Delhi

ICAR-IARI Jharkhand participated in the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2026, held at IARI, New Delhi, during 25-27 February 2026. An exhibition stall was installed to showcase agricultural technologies and value-added products. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Tiwari and Dr. Ranjit Singh represented the institute and interacted with farmers and stakeholders.



Fig 21. IARI, Jharkhand stall display at Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2026, IARI, New Delhi

(Ranjit Singh and Mukesh Kumar Tiwari)

International Women's Day celebration 2026

International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8, 2026, at ICAR-IARI Jharkhand with great enthusiasm and respect, highlighting the contributions of women in agriculture, research, and rural development. The programme was chaired by Shri Subodh Neeraj, CAO and Shri Prashant Kumar, Comptroller. The event was successfully organized by Dr. Himani Priya and Dr. Shilpi Kerketta. On this occasion, female contractual workers of the institute and women farmers were specially recognized for their dedication and hard work. Prizes and appreciation were awarded to honour their significant role in strengthening the agricultural sector.



Fig 22. International Women's Day celebration

Students Annual Sports Meet - 'Abhyudaya'

The IARI, Jharkhand successfully organised Students Annual Sports Meet 'Abhyudaya' during 17-20 March 2026. Total 20 events for men and 17 events of women were organised. The students actively participated in the events and the students won about 250 medals, certificates and cups. The best player of the year (women) was Ms. Riyanshi Kaushik, roll number: 160116, B.Sc. 3rd Year and best player (men) was Mr. Shishira Santa, Roll No. 160108, B.Sc. 3rd year. Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta was organizing secretary of the event.



Fig 23. Glimpses of Students Annual Sports Meet-'Abhyudaya'

Installation of Multi-Play Children's Park in the premises of Palas Vihar Residential complex



Fig 24. Installation of Multi-Play Children's Park

The Games and Sports Cell of IARI, Jharkhand have developed a dedicated children's park within the Palas Vihar residential complex. Developed as a welfare initiative for the families and staff residing in the complex, the park provides a modern, safe space for recreation and physical activity. The park's centerpiece is a comprehensive multi-play station featuring 13 diverse play elements. Children can enjoy various slides-including spiral, curve, wave, and tunnel options-alongside adventure features like a rock net climber, monkey bar, and bridge. The facility also includes six swings, four see-saws, and spring riders to cater to different age groups. In addition to the play equipment, the area has been upgraded with RCC benches for parents and spectators, while a recent tree plantation drive ensures the park will grow into a lush, shaded environment. This dedicated space marks a significant improvement in the quality of life for the Palas Vihar community.

(Dipak Kumar Gupta)

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES/TRAININGS ORGANIZED

IARI, Jharkhand organized one-day training Programme on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program Phase - II

Organized a one-day training Programme on Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program Phase - II on 09th February 2026 as Course Director. A total of 42 staff members, including Dr. Sanat Kumar Mahanta, Campus In-Charge, ICAR-IARI Jharkhand, participated in the training programme. Alongside ICAR-IIAB staff, one representative from KVK Koderma also attended. The programme was designed to foster a more efficient, professional, and service-oriented work culture. Key objectives included: Strengthening the spirit of Jan Seva (Intent to Serve), Enhancing

workplace professionalism and communication, Building teamwork and leadership qualities, Promoting a positive attitude and accountability, Creating Karma Yogi moments to inspire purpose-driven work, Improving efficiency in day-to-day responsibilities, The training was facilitated by two master trainers: Dr. Vaibhav Lohot, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NISA, Ranchi and Shri Rishi Kant Singh, Senior FAO, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack. This initiative marked an important step toward cultivating a collaborative, motivated, and service-focused workforce across ICAR institutions.



Fig 25. Glimpses of Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program Phase - II

IARI, Jharkhand organized ATMA, Jamui, Bihar sponsored five-day farmers' training programme (19-23 Jan 2026)

The five-day farmer training program on “Natural Farming” (January 19-23) was organized under the visionary leadership of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director cum Vice-Chancellor, at the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Gauriya karma, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. The program is sponsored by the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Jamui, Bihar. A total of 20 farmers and one Block Technical Manager, Mr. Naveen Kumar Das from Jamui, Bihar, participated. Dr. S.K. Mahanta, campus in-charge and principal scientist at the institute, addressed the participants, explaining that the indigenous cow is not only a milk-producing animal, but also a key pillar of natural farming, soil conservation, and farmers' income. Training Coordinator Dr. Manoj Chaudhary summarized the importance of natural farming, stating that natural farming is a necessity today, as it benefits soil fertility, farmers' income, the environment, and consumers.



Fig 26. Glimpses of five-day farmer training program on “Natural Farming

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	Event/ Recognition	Details	Date & Venue
1	Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta	Best oral presentation award	Awarded at ESSACCM-2026 organized by National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), New Delhi	January 22-24, 2026, ICAR-RCER, Patna
2	Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta	Rapporteur (Technical session)	Served as rapporteur in the session on “Climate Change and Sustainability” at ESSACCM-2026	January 22-24, 2026, ICAR-RCER, Patna
3	Dr. Dipak Kumar Gupta	Co-chairman (Technical session)	Acted as co-chairman for the session on “Translational Research for Climate Resilience” at ESSACCM-2026.	January 22-24, 2026, ICAR-RCER, Patna
4	Dr. Krishna Prakash	Best oral presentation award	Received at the 4 th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference organized by SHRD, Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with RLBCAU, Jhansi and ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	January 28-30, 2026, RLBCAU, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
5	Dr. Krishna Prakash	Rapporteur (Technical session IV)	Served as Rapporteur during Technical Session IV at 4 th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference	January 28-30, 2026, RLBCAU, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

6	Dr. Vishal Nath	Chief Guest (Invited)	Delivered a lecture on “Export Potential in Agriculture and Horticulture: Value Addition and Processing Opportunities in Fruit Crops” during Diksharambh (Orientation Programme)	February 13, 2026, College of Horticulture, Khuntani, Chaibasa, Jharkhand
7	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Ph.D. (Biochemistry) awarded	Awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Biochemistry) at the 64 th Convocation of ICAR-IARI	February 13, 2026, NASC Complex, New Delhi
8	Dr. Ranjit Singh	Best Agri. engineer award	Conferred with the “Best Agri. Engineer Award” during the Agricultural Global Research & Innovation Meet for Excellence Engagement & Transformation (AGRI MEET-2026)	20-21 February 2026 at Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration (MGSIPA), Chandigarh
9	Dr. Himani Priya	Global achievement award 2026	Conferred with Global Achievement Award 2026 from in recognition of outstanding professional achievements and contributions to agricultural microbiology	Rifacimento International on February 27, 2026
10	Dr. Manoj Chaudhary	Eminent scientist award	Conferred with Eminent Scientist Award at the 13 th International Conference on Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry & Allied Sciences for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem organized by ICFRE-HFRI, Shimla	March 18-20, 2026, ICFRE-HFRI, Shimla



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

- Senior officials from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development visited the institute on 28th January 2026. The delegation included Smt. Deepmala Ghosh (CGM), Sh. Radheshyam Bhagmare (GM), Sh. Pramod Kumar (DGM), Sh. Rakesh Sinha (DGM), and Md. Mozammil Hussain (DDM, Koderma). The visit featured discussions on sustainable agriculture, soil health, and rural development, with emphasis on strengthening collaboration between institutional research and NABARD-supported programmes for improving livelihood security.
- Hon’ble Padma Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Former Director and Vice Chancellor of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, visited ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand (Hazaribagh) on 17th February 2026. During his formal visit, he interacted with B.Sc. and M.Sc. students, faculty members, and scientists, emphasizing the importance of quality education, innovative research, and field-oriented agricultural solutions. He shared his rich experience in agricultural research and institutional development, motivating students to pursue excellence in scientific inquiry and contribute towards sustainable agriculture.



Fig 27. Visit of Senior officials from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development



Fig 28. Visit of Hon’ble Padma Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Former Director and Vice Chancellor of ICAR-IARI

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Transfer of Shri Rajnish Kumar, FAO, ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand

Shri Rajnish Kumar
FAO, ICAR-IARI Jharkhand, was formally
relieved from his duties on January 14,
2026, following his transfer.



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