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**ICAR-CTCRI  
NEWS**

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute  
Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram 695 017  
Kerala, India

## National Science Day

The National Science Day was celebrated through an online mode on 26 February 2021. Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair, President, Kerala Academy of Sciences and Director, Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF), University of Kerala and Adviser, Kerala Biotechnology Commission (KSCSTE) was the Chief guest and he delivered a talk on the NSD theme "Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills and Work"

## International Women's Day

The International Women's Day, 2021 was celebrated at the Institute on 08 March, 2021 on the theme "Women leadership in Agriculture: Entrepreneurship, equity and empowerment". The programme commenced with a march of all staff with placards displaying the theme, led by Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A). A separate facility was inaugurated for women cell along with an upgraded sick room. As a part of the event, a meeting was also conducted. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. M. L. Jeeva, Chairperson, Women cell, ICAR CTCRI. In his presidential address, the Director talked about the important role of women in different spheres of society. He stressed the need to develop women leadership in Agriculture and

also highlighted the significant contribution of women in agricultural activities.

A special talk was delivered by Dr. Vasuki IAS, Director of Agriculture, Thiruvananthapuram. She talked about the different challenges faced by women and emphasised that they should develop leadership qualities. She also said that children should be groomed from childhood itself for gender equality and sharing of responsibilities.

The Chief Guest honoured women farmers hailing from different districts of Kerala for popularising the tropical tuber crops technologies and its value addition. Six scientists and 3 students of ICAR-CTCRI were also honoured. Mrs. Sujathakumari, CTO delivered the vote of thanks. A total of 180 participants attended. The meeting ended with the National Anthem.

## World Water Day

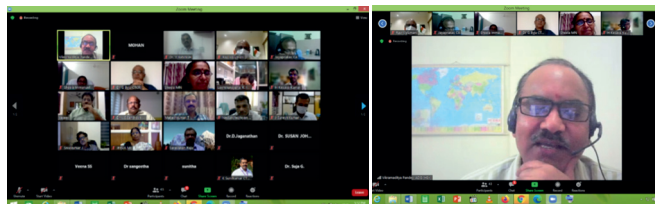
The Institute observed World Water Day 2021 on 22 March, 2021. Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board was the Chief guest and he delivered a talk on the theme: 'Valuing Water'. Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A), Dr. S. Sunitha, Principal Scientist welcomed the gathering. Scientists, staff and students of the Institute and beneficiary farmers of SCSP programme under All India Network Project on Organic Farming participated in the programme. Three progressive farmers, who are adopting effective water conservation measures and micro irrigation for cultivation of horticultural crops were felicitated during the occasion.



World Water Day Inauguration

## Institute Review Committee Meeting

The 47th Annual Institute Research Council (IRC) was held from 4-6 May 2021 through online mode under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A). All the scientists from HQ and RS attended. Dr. C. Mohan, member secretary, IRC welcomed the chairman and members of IRC. In his inaugural address, Dr. V. Ravi congratulated all the scientists for their scientific contributions. Dr. C. Mohan presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) of the 46<sup>th</sup> IRC proceedings. Dr. G. Suja, member secretary, RACVIII, presented the RAC recommendations. The Heads of Divisions/Sections presented the overall achievements. The achievements of eight Institute projects and the activities completed in the previous year (2020-2021) were presented by the respective activity leaders, which included 42 activities under five Divisions/Sections. The meeting concluded with the plenary session on the third day in which Dr. V. Pandey ADG (HS-1) suggested to have inter institutional collaborations for advanced research and for developing value added products. Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A) and Chairman, 47th IRC, thanked the DDG and ADG for their constant support and guidance for the Institute activities. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. C. Mohan.



IRC meeting held online

## Regional Mass Awareness Campaign on Organic Farming

The programme was jointly organized by AINPOF Centre, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, U. P. on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in virtual mode. More than 1000 people attended the live program including farmers, students, scientists, and other stakeholders. Dr. N. Ravisankar, Principal Scientist & National PI, AINP-OF, Modipuram, gave the introductory remarks. Dr. G. Suja, PI, AINP-OF welcomed the participants. Dr. Peyush Punia, Director (i/c), ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, offered the felicitation address and Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A), delivered the special remarks. The Chief Guest, Dr. S. Bhaskar, ADG (AAFCC), ICAR, narrated the scope and potential of Kerala for scientific organic production of high value crops for export promotion. Dr. G. Suja; Dr. Jacob John, Dr. A. Sajeena, IFSRS, KAU; Dr. P. Subramanian, ICAR-CPCRI; and Shri. G. S. Ajithkumar, Life Concepts, Thiruvananthapuram, dealt the different sessions. Dr. G. Byju, proposed vote of thanks.



View of the online meeting

## H.H. SreeVisakhamThirunal Endowment Lecture

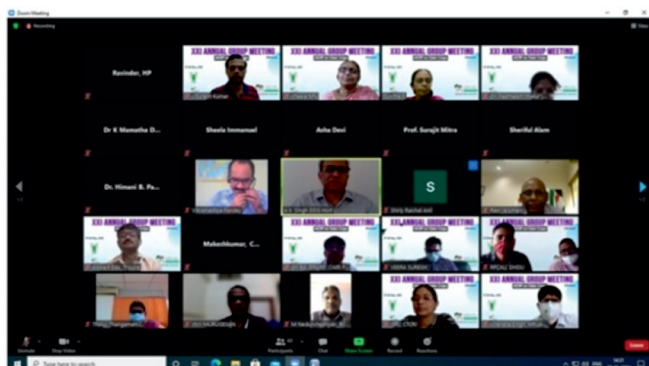
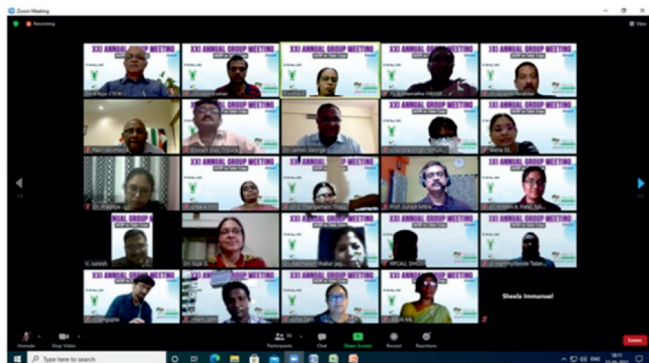
H. H. Sree Vishakam Thirunal endowment lecture was organised on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for the first time via a virtual meeting platform. The endowment lecture is organised every year to commemorate and honour the salient contributions made by His Highness Sree Visakham Thirunal Rama Varma who was the Maharaja of the erstwhile Indian kingdom of Travancore. The Maharajah was instrumental in development of Tapioca cultivation in Travancore. His highness was a keen botanist and on realizing the potential of cassava, he introduced cultivation of the same in Travancore. The cultivation of new found crop spread across the country and it helped Travancore survive a massive famine. Keeping in view of the significant and crucial role played by H. H. Sree Visakham Thirunal in popularising cassava (tapioca) cultivation in Kerala to mitigate poverty, the ISRC has instituted an endowment lecture every year since 2010 as H. H. Sree Visakham Thirunal Endowment Lecture. The August gathering was welcomed by Dr. M. N. Sheela, Secretary, ISRC followed by Presidential address by Dr. V. Ravi, Director (acting). The guest of honour, Prince Adithya Varma from the Royal family of Travancore delivered the felicitation address. Dr. Madhu Subramanian, Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University delivered the Sree Vishakam Thirunal endowment lecture on 'Whither to- Indian Agriculture? A Research Perspective'. The lecture was attended by nearly 100 participants including dignitaries, staff and students. The program concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Visalakshi Chandra C, Joint Secretary, ISRC.

## Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project (Tuber Crops)

Twenty first annual group meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops was held through online at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) during 27-28 May, 2021. Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Hon'ble DDG (Hort. Sci.) inaugurated the programme. Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, ADG (Hort. Sci.), Dr. V. Ravi, Director and Project Coordinator, ICAR-CTCRI and Scientists from 21 AICRP Centres and ICAR-CTCRI Head Quarters and Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar



participated in the meeting. The two day deliberations reviewed the ongoing AICRP programmes. In the plenary session held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, two new cassava (1 for state, 1 for central release) and four greater yam varieties (2 for state, 2 for central release) were recommended for release. The AICRP centre at ICAR- RC-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Bhubaneswar was selected as the best AICRP Centre during 2020-21 based on its various performances.



Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project (Tuber Crops) attending online

### New Technologies generated/in pipeline

#### Patent for ICAR-CTCRI for making Bio pesticides from Tapioca

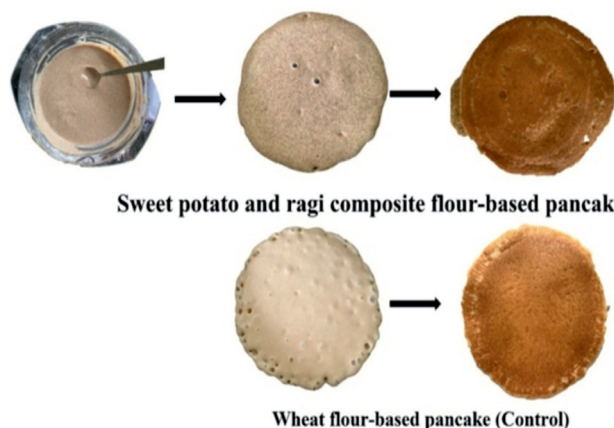
Patent was received for APPARATUS & PROCESS FOR EXTRACTION OF BIOPESTICIDES FROM CASSAVA BIO-WASTES for the term of 20 years from the 5th day of March 2012 in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970 with Patent No.: 368943 for the application No.: 635/DEL/2012 with Date of Filing: 05/03/2012. The Patentees were INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



#### Investigation of nutritional, functional, and rheological properties of breakfast (pancake) mix from sweet potato and ragi based composite flours

In the present study tuber crop (sweet potato) and ancient grain (finger millets) flour was used to develop flour

composites for the development of nutrient rich breakfast mix (pancake mix) using two factors at three levels factorial design. The study investigated effect of different proportions of sweet potato (50, 60, and 70 %) and ragi flour (30, 40, and 50 %) on quality of nutrient rich breakfast mix and resultant pancake product. In addition, characterization of physicochemical, nutritional, functional, and rheological properties of nutrient rich breakfast mix (pancake mix) was carried out to understand the interaction effect of sweet potato and ragi flour. The results showed significantly ( $p < 0.0001$ ) higher fibre content, ash content, and starch content among breakfast mixes and pancake product treatments containing higher proportions of sweet potato and ragi flour compared treatments with lower proportions. Similarly, micronutrient analysis revealed higher levels of Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, and Cu content among breakfast mixes and pancake product treatments with higher sweet potato and ragi flour proportions. Moreover, incorporation of higher levels of sweet potato flour and ragi flour into a breakfast mix showed significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ) effect on functional, physical, and rheological properties of composite flour. Results showed sweet potato and ragi composite flour-based pancakes with improved nutritional, functional, and rheological properties compared to control pancake (wheat-based). Furthermore, pancake prepared from sweet potato and ragi composite flour can be good choice for people suffering from diabetes.



- ❖ INM strategies in Greater yam + Sweet corn system were developed by minimizing the resource use and maximizing the productivity of tuber crops.
- ❖ Physiological efficiency of elite sweet potato genotypes for assessing the N & K efficient genotypes.

### Happenings in brief

- ❖ Dr. K. Laxminarayana, Principal Scientist participated in the Technical Committee meeting of RKVY under the Chairmanship of Director, Agriculture & FP(O) through virtual mode to scrutinize and evaluate the

project proposals under RKVY on 19.05.2021 and 21.05.2021.

- Dr. Visalakshi Chandra C. attended International Workshop on Root Architecture Imaging and Analysis for Tropical Tuber Crops” (RAIATTC 2021) conducted online during 20-22 January 2021.
- Dr. Visalakshi Chandra C. attended national webinar on “Nutritional Security: Challenges & Opportunities on Gender Sensitive Agriculture” on 25th March 2021 organized by ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar.
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil participated and presented report of the ICAR-CIP Collaborative work plan activity of sweet potato at the Review meeting of Foreign aided projects by DDG on 24th June 2021
- Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil attended training on Management Development Program (MDP) on Biodiversity & Environmental Laws for Agricultural Researchers (BELAR '21) Organized by ICAR-NAARM during 07-09 June 2021, on virtual platform
- One student Ms Reshma Maria Joseph has joined for Ph.D. and working on *In vitro* tuberisation and gene prospecting for photoperiodic tuberisation in sweet potato on 26th July 2021

### Awards/Recognitions

**Best Oral Presentation Award.** National e- conference “Plant health and food security: challenges and opportunities. March 25-27, 2021, IARI- New Delhi for “Ecoconscious approaches to manage fungal diseases of aroids” authored by Veena.S.S, M. L. Jeeva and A. Asha Devi.

**Panellist:** Brainstorming Session on “Unravelling the Enigma in Etiology and management of Bud rot of oil palm”, ICAR- IIOPR, Pedavegi (16.02.21). (Dr. S. S. Veena)

**External expert** in the selection committee to select field assistant under the scheme NRDC at ICAR-IISR, Calicut (Dr. S. S. Veena)

### Trainings programmes organised

Date	Training	Attended by	Venue
08 January 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	19 participants from RATTTC, Kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
13 January 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	6 participants from KVK, Kottayam	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI

Date	Training	Attended by	Venue
14 January 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	10 participants from Kerala Agricultural Development Society (KADS), Idukki	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
19 February 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	22 participants from RATTTC, Kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
20 February 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	22 SC participants from Kottayam district	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
25 February 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	27 SC participants from Thiruvananthapuram district	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
03 March 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	12 SC participants from Aranmula, Pathanamthitta district	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
06 March 2021	“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	25 participants from Kerala Agricultural University	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI
18 March 2021	T“Post-harvest processing, value addition and entrepreneurship development in tuber crops	9 participants from Kudumbashree-National Resource Organization (NRO), Thiruvananthapuram	Techno-Incubation Centre (TIC), ICAR-CTCRI

❖ Dr. K. Laxminarayana has imparted training on ‘Scientific methods of cultivation and value addition of tuber crops’ to 61 farmers representing from Athagarh block of Cuttack district on 16th March 2021 at Regional Centre of ICAR-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar, being sponsored by ADH, Athagarh, Cuttack.

❖ Dr. K. Laxminarayana organized 5 Nos. of trainers training programmes on ‘Production and value addition of sweet potato’ at Jharmunda village, Teleibani block, Deogarh district on 05th January 2021; Angul district on 07th January 2021; Keonjhar district on 08th January 2021; Bangomunda block, Titilagarh Sub Division of Bolangir

district on 20th March 2021 and Baripada, Mayurbhanj district on 23th March 2021 under RKVY Project “Area expansion of sweet potato in Angul, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha”.

- ❖ Dr. K. Laxminarayana organized a training programme on ‘Production and value addition in tuber crops’ at Baulsingha village, Bhatli block of Bargarh district on 21st February 2021 under the RKVY sponsored project ‘Popularization of climate resilient and nutritionally rich varieties of tuber crops for economic development and nutritional security of farmers of Odisha’.
- ❖ ICAR-CTCRI, Trivandrum, Kerala and its Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar organized ‘Rainbow Diet Campaign for North Eastern Hills Region and promoting tuber crops based rainbow diet for food, nutrition and health security under ICAR-CTCRI NEH Project ‘‘Enhancing food security and sustainable livelihoods in the North-Eastern India through tuber crops technologies’ in collaboration with Multi Technology Testing Centre and Vocational Training Centre (MTTC & VTC) at College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University (I), Lembucherra, Agartala, Tripura on 27th February 2021. Organized a Field Day cum demonstration at Ratanpur village, Gabardi, Sepahijala district, Tripura on 01st January 2021 and demonstrated various food products as developed from tuber crops and demonstrated planting material production practices in sweet potato and use of biopesticides for pests of vegetables. Organized a “Rainbow Diet Campaign” programme at the ICFAI University, Agartala on 02nd March 2021 to promote bio-fortified tuber crops and processed foods among the college students. Delivered a session on “Role of bio-fortified tuber crops and its value-added products for nutritional security and income generation”. Organized capacity building programme on “Rainbow Diet Campaign - Creating Sustainable Entrepreneurship through Seed Villages of Tuber Crops & Nutritional awareness in Arunachal Pradesh” on 08th March 2021 at KVK, Hayuliang, Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh and delivered a session on ‘Prospectus of tuber crops in the livelihood and nutritional security’.
- ❖ One farmer’s training program on Integrated nutrient management in tropical tuber crops was organized on 28 January 2021 under SCSP for 30 farmers of Kizhivilam panchayat of Thiruvananthapuram district and two trainings programs on ‘Soil health management of tropical tuber crops’ and ‘Tuber Crops and its INM’ covering 60 farmers from Neyyattinkara and Vamanapuram blocks of

Thiruvananthapuram and Pulluruthi block of Ernakulam district by Dr. K. Susan John, Principal Scientist.

- Organized internship training on “Post-harvest processing and value addition in tuber crops” for 13 B. E. (Agricultural Engineering) students from Agricultural Engineering College & Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Kumulur, Tamil Nadu and Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Institute of Research and Technology, Perambalur, Tamil Nadu during May 27 to July 11, 2021.
  - Five B. Sc. (Biotechnology) students from KVVS College, Adoor and 5 B. Tech. (Biotechnology) students from Amrita school of biotechnology were trained on basic molecular and tissue culture techniques and one M.Sc. (Biochemistry) student from A. J. College of Science and Technology submitted thesis on Characterization of sweet potato genotypes for processing traits.
1. Junaitha S.R., Sree Narayana College was awarded M. Sc. Degree in Biotechnology from University of Kerala in the topic Antibacterial Activities of Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas* L.) Under the guidance Dr. N. Krishna Radhika.
  2. Two M. Tech. Students Reshma Suresh and Elsa Joseph, Sahridaya College of Engineering and Technology, Kodakara, Thrissur under A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Technological University, Kerala.
  3. Dr. K. Laxminarayana, Principal Scientist guided two M. Sc. Students, Mr. Aswin, K.V. and Mrs. Anjana, J. M. from the Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the M. Sc. Dissertation works on ‘Organic and inorganic fertilization on fractions of N, P and K in relation to yield of Elephant Foot Yam Black gram System in Alfisols’ and ‘Organic and inorganic fertilization on fractions of N, P and K in relation to yield of *Colocasia* in Alfisols’ for partial fulfilment of M. Sc. (Ag.) degree.

#### Participation in Seminars/ Symposia/ Workshops

Dr. K. Laxminarayana, Principal Scientist has participated in the International Workshop on Root Architecture Imaging and Analysis for Tropical Tuber Crops (RAIATTC) through on-line mode, being organized by ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in collaboration with Louisiana State University, Louisiana, U.S.A. from 20.01.2021 to 22.01.2021.

#### Webinars Conducted Under ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahostav

An one-day online workshop on “How to start a Tuber Crops based Food Processing Business?” was organised by ICAR-



CTCRI Agri-Business Incubator along with SFAC on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. This purpose of the event was to introduce the tuber crops healthy foods developed by ICAR-CTCRI as “healthy alternatives” and create awareness about these foods among various stakeholders. This programme was inaugurated by Dr. Sudha Mysore, CEO, Agrinnovate India, New Delhi in the presence of Dr. M. N. Sheela, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, Dr. G. Padmaja, Emeritus Scientist; Dr. M. S. Sajeev, Head, Crop Utilisation and Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Head, Social Sciences from ICAR-CTCRI, participated.



During her inaugural address, Dr. Sudha Mysore stressed the need for providing consumers with “healthy alternatives” especially during this COVID situation, through start-ups and other farmer-managed businesses. Building on this view, Dr. M. N. Sheela, Director indicated that the healthy foods like Vitamin A rich pasta and gluten-free products developed by ICAR-CTCRI will enable cassava farmers to get assured price. Dr. G. Padmaja, who is the architect of functional food research at ICAR-CTCRI, has informed that tuber crops based healthy foods will serve as “wholesome food” by packing essential ingredients into a common food form. These foods need to be promoted as “grassroot enterprises” to foster development in the rural areas, Dr. Sajeev said. Dr. Sheela Immanuel stressed the need to assist the aspiring entrepreneurs to create sustainable tuber crops enterprises.

During the webinar, various tuber crops technologies and their products like fortified pasta and noodles, gluten-free cookies, ready-to-cook dehydrated cassava tubers, snack foods, functional ingredients extracted from tuber crops were introduced to the audience through multimedia presentations. Industry-oriented aspects like quality standards of tuber crops for industrial production, government schemes to promote start-ups and MSMEs and interaction with established entrepreneurs were also dealt during this webinar. One hundred thirty-seven participants from 21 states took part in this webinar. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar, OIC- ICAR-CTCRI Agri-Business Incubator and Dr. T. Krishnakumar, Scientist, coordinated the event.

### Exhibitions

The ICAR-CTCRI arranged exhibitions for the benefit of different stakeholders. The exhibitions were conducted as a part of the seminar cum trainings on ‘Improved technologies of tuber crops for increasing farm income’. Following are the details of the exhibitions conducted.

### Kerala

ICAR-KVK, Thavanoor, Malappuram : 9 February  
Kondotty, Malappuram : 10 February  
Vadakkera panchayat, Ernakulam : 12 February  
Puliyoor panchayat, Alappuzha : 4 March

### Andhra Pradesh

Peddapuram, East Godavari district : 10 March

### Tamil Nadu

P. Pothukudi, Tirunelveli : 27 January  
Keelapuliyur, Tenkasi : 29 January  
Thalaivasal, Salem : 18 February  
Kandarakottai, Pudukottai : 19 February

### Odisha

Agri Vision 2021, Bhubaneswar : 14-16 March

### New Joining

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of joining	Mode of appointment
1	Shri. Amit Vengraj	Upper Division Clerk	19.04.2021	Deputation from RC of ICAR-CIFT, Vishakhapatnam

### Promotions

Sl. No.	Name	Promoted from	Promoted as	Effective date
1	Dr. D. Jaganathan	Scientist (RGP 7000)	Sr. Scientist (RGP 8000)	23.06.2018
2	Dr. H. Kesava Kumar	Scientist (RGP 6000)	Scientist (RGP 7000)	01.09.2016
3	Dr. Visalakshi Chandra C.	Scientist (RGP 6000)	Scientist (RGP 7000)	01.01.2019
4	Dr. Senthilkumar K. M.	Scientist (RGP 6000)	Scientist (RGP 7000)	01.01.2019
5	Dr. Vivek Hegde	Scientist (RGP 6000)	Scientist (RGP 7000)	01.01.2019
6	Dr. Vijay Bahadur Singh Chauhan	Scientist (RGP 6000)	Scientist (RGP 7000)	01.01.2019
7	Smt. Sneha S. S.	SSS	Technician T-1	31.05.2021

### Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) Scheme

Financial upgradation under the Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) Scheme was granted to the following Staff with effect from the date and Level in the Pay Matrix as mentioned against their names

Sl. No	Name & Designation	Pay Matrix Level in which present pay is drawn	Level of Pay Matrix to which upgradation is granted	Effective date for granting of MACP I/ II/III
1.	Shri. G. Madhu, Skilled Support Staff	Pay Matrix Level-3 (₹ 21700-69100/-)	Pay Matrix Level-4 (₹ 25500-81100/-)	<b>19.06.2020</b> (MACP III)
2.	Shri. Babuli Sethi, Skilled Support Staff	Pay Matrix Level-3 (₹ 21700-69100/-)	Pay Matrix Level-4 (₹ 25500-81100/-)	<b>29.10.2020</b> (MACP III)

### New Assignments

Dr. M. N. Sheela Director (Acting), ICAR CTCRI w.e.f. 01-06-2021

Dr. M. N. Sheela Head (Acting) Crop Improvement w.e.f. 26-03-2021

Dr. Jeeva M. L., Head (Acting) Crop Protection w.e.f. 26-03-2021

Dr. M. S. Sajeev, Section In Charge, Crop Utilisation w.e.f. 12-05-2021

Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Section In Charge, Extension and Social Sciences w.e.f. 01-05-2021

Dr. M. Nedunchezhiyan Scientist in Charge, ICAR-CTCRI Research Centre w.e.f. 12-05-2021

Dr. Byju G. Head, Division of Crop Production w.e.f. 01-06-2021

### Retirements

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of retirement
1	Shri. C. S. Salimon	Asst. Chief Technical Officer	31.01.2021
2	Shri. P. Krishnakumaran	Finance & Accounts Officer	31.03.2021
3	Dr. V. Ravi	Director (Acting)	31.05.2021

### Transfers

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Date of relieving	Transferred to
1	Shri. Venkatraman Vishwanath Bansode	Scientist (Food Tech.)	25.01.2021	ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur

### Distinguished visitors

- Dr. Vasuki, IAS, Director, Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, Government of Kerala, 8 March 2021.
- Dr. C. George Thomas, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, 22 March 2021.

### Independence Day celebrations

The Institute celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15 August 2020 by observing the Covid-19 protocol. The celebrations were organised by the Institute along with the recreation club of the Institute.

### Recreation club corner

Celebrated New Year and Christmas by strictly following Covid-19 protocol. All the members gathered in Millennium Hall, ICAR- CTCRI. There was a mini cultural programme; distribution of prizes to winners of lucky dip and ceremonial cake cutting. All the staff members, students, RA/SRFs and contractual labourers participated in all the programmes.



- Talk on "The Covid-19 vaccine, myths and facts" 12th March 21 Dr. Amar S. Fettle, State Nodal officer for Covid-19.
- Covid-19 Vaccine - Arranged vaccination (Covaxin) for CTCRI employees at Fort Hospital.
- Club organised farewell functions to Shri. C. S. Salimon (ACTO), Shri. P. Krishnakumaran (FAO) and Dr. V. Ravi, Director (A) consequent to their superannuation. As a token of member's respect and affection to these members, befitting gifts were presented to all during the farewell function.



## Hindi corner

There were two meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) were held during the six months period on 23rd March 2021 and another meeting on 30th June 2021 to review the progress of work for the two quarters January – March and April to June, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. Ravi, the then Director (Acting) and the present Director (Acting) Dr.M.N. Sheela, Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committee, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram through on line and off line modes.

## Forthcoming events

ICAR Central Tuber Crops Research Institute Foundation Day will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.

## Radio/TV talk

- 'Kizhangu varga vilakaludae abhimana sthapanam' streamed on 3rd February 2021 and 4th February 2021 Krishi Darsan, talk by Sheela Dr. M. N. (Janithakashekaram), Dr. Asha K.I. (Pracharathililathacherukizhanguvilakal), Dr. Asha Devi A.(Tissue culture) and Dr. Shirly Raichal Anil (Madhurakizhanguinangal).
- Krishnakumar T. 2021. Working principle of mobile starch extractor. DD Malayalam, 07 January 2020.

## Video production

- Suja G., Jaganathan D. and Ravi V. 2020. Video on 'Profile of ICAR-CTCRI and Technologies of tropical tuber crops' produced in collaboration with Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kulathur, ICAR- CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram.

Average wholesale market price of tuber crops for the month of January-June 2021 (Rs.t<sup>-1</sup>)

Tuber crops	States	Average (Rs.t <sup>-1</sup> )
Cassava	Kerala	12602
Sweet potato	Chattisgarh	17092
	Gujarat	14692
	Haryana	17646
	Karnataka	13407
	Kerala	29851
	Madhya Pradesh	5587

Tuber crops	States	Average (Rs.t <sup>-1</sup> )
	Maharashtra	18221
	Odisha	26058
	Punjab	13128
	Telangana	11225
	Tripura	21773
	Uttar Pradesh	13842
	Uttrakhand	17768
Yam	Kerala	39203
	Madhya Pradesh	5954
Yam (Ratalu)	Gujarat	22111
	Haryana	18635
	Kerala	13896
	Nagaland	40435
	Punjab	22192
	Telangana	14057
	Madhya Pradesh	8783
EFY (Suran)	Gujarat	16002
	Himachal Pradesh	25327
	Karnataka	21535
	Kerala	23511
	Maharashtra	17275
	Punjab	16318
	Uttar Pradesh	19491

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