



ICAR-IARI, ASSAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Issue 1
January-March 2026

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From the Director's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to present the January-March 2026 issue of the newsletter of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Assam, reflecting a highly dynamic and impactful quarter marked by notable progress in research, education, infrastructure, and farmer-centric outreach across the North-Eastern region.

A major highlight of this quarter was the successful organization of Kisan Mela 2026, which brought together more than 1,500 farmers, farm women, rural youth, and stakeholders under the theme of Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture. The event served as an effective platform for showcasing innovative technologies, promoting eco-friendly practices, and strengthening farmer-scientist interactions. In addition, the institute conducted 33 extension activities including capacity-building programmes, field days, awareness initiatives, and input distribution programmes across Assam and neighboring states. Nine live drone demonstrations were also organized to showcase the use of agri-drones for precision spraying in crop fields. The institute continued to place strong emphasis on education and skill development through experiential learning modules, skill enhancement courses, field exposure visits, and diploma training in aquaculture. NSS programmes, cultural events, and co-curricular activities contributed to the holistic development and social responsibility of students. Progress in student welfare and campus facilities, including operationalization of the hostel mess and the introduction of an ambulance service, further strengthened the support system for students and staff.

The scientific contributions of our faculty remained commendable during this quarter. Scientists were involved in the publication of 30 research papers in collaboration with various institutes, along with preparation of leaflets, manuals, and popular articles aimed at effective knowledge dissemination among stakeholders. These efforts are strengthening the academic and extension profile of the institute and positioning it as an emerging centre of excellence in agricultural science in the region.

As we move forward, it is essential to further intensify our efforts in promoting natural farming, climate-resilient technologies, and sustainable production systems, while strengthening research, seed systems, and livelihood-oriented interventions for nutritional and economic security. Continued collaboration with institutions, stakeholders, and farming communities will remain key for achieving these goals.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all scientists, staff, students, farmers, and collaborators for their dedication and teamwork. With collective effort and shared vision, I am confident that ICAR-IARI, Assam will continue to contribute meaningfully to the transformation of agriculture in the North-East.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao
Director

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Assam



HIGHLIGHTS

Kisan Mela 2026 Showcases Natural Farming and Sustainable Agricultural Innovations in NEH Region

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam successfully organized Kisan Mela-2026 on 28th February 2026 at its campus in Dirpai Chapori, Gogamukh, Dhemaji, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI with the theme "Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture." The event witnessed participation of more than 1,500 farmers, farm women, rural youth, extension personnel, and stakeholders from across the NEH region. The programme commenced with registration, followed by inauguration and visit to 32 exhibition stalls representing Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, and other states. The stalls showcased natural farming technologies, organic inputs, millet-based innovations, farm mechanization tools, value-added products, and drudgery-reduction technologies. The inaugural session included lighting of the ceremonial lamp, rendition of Vande Mataram, and the ICAR song. The event highlighted the importance of natural farming for ecological sustainability and enhanced farm income, along with the Institute's commitment to agricultural development in the region. Institute publications were released during the programme, and distinguished dignitaries appreciated the farmer-centric initiatives and emphasized adoption of scientific and sustainable

practices. Focus was laid on strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), value addition, and community-based approaches. The programme also included felicitation of innovative farmers and symbolic distribution of agricultural inputs. A Farmers-Scientist Interaction Session facilitated direct dialogue on crop production, natural farming, millet mechanization, and sustainable technologies. The event concluded with valedictory remarks and a cultural programme. Kisan Mela 2026 served as an effective platform for technology dissemination, strengthening farmer-scientist linkages, and promoting sustainable agricultural development in the NEH region. The Chief Guest of the programme was Shri Ranaj Pegu, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Welfare of Plain Tribe and Backward Classes, Government of Assam with Shri Narendra Shivaji Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Public Health and Medical Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Krishnakantha Borah, Sangathan Mantri, North East, Bharatiya Kisan Sangha; Shri Rahul Javir, IAS, District Commissioner, Dhemaji; and Shri Jadav Pegu, ACS, Principal Secretary, Mising Autonomous Council as Guest of Honours.

Inspiring Future Administrators: IARI Director's Address to IAS Probationers on Agri R&D for Viksit Bharat

The Director of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) interacted with 170 IAS Probationers of the 2025 batch at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, on 5th March 2026. He delivered a lecture on Agricultural R&D



and policy pathways aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, highlighting the role of science-led agriculture, innovation, and evidence-based policymaking in national development.

RAC Meeting Reviews Research, Academic and Outreach Progress

The unified Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of IARI New Delhi, IARI Assam and IARI Jharkhand was held on 23–24th February 2026 at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The committee reviewed the progress of research, academic, and outreach activities across the three campuses. Detailed discussions were held on ongoing programmes, and valuable suggestions were provided to further strengthen research quality, academic delivery, and extension effectiveness.



Precision Farming Begins with Laser Land Leveling

Laser land leveling is being carried out in the farm fields of ICAR-IARI, Assam to improve field uniformity for

better water management, enhanced crop growth, and efficient input use. The activity supports precision land preparation and promotes scientific, resource-efficient farming practices on the campus.



Life-Saving Ambulance Facility Launched at IARI Assam

An ambulance facility is now available at the IARI Assam campus to address medical emergencies for students and staff. The vehicle is equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), oxygen cylinder, and essential patient monitoring systems to provide immediate life-saving support during critical situations. This initiative strengthens campus health preparedness and ensures timely emergency response when needed.



EDUCATION AND STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

Skill Enhancement Session on Hand-Made Soap Preparation

Students learned the step-by-step process of preparing hand-made soaps as part of a skill enhancement course at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Assam. The practical session introduced

participants to basic ingredients, safety measures, and formulation techniques for producing eco-friendly soaps. The training was led by Dr. Sumalatha Reddy A., who guided students through hands-on preparation and highlighted opportunities for value addition and small-scale entrepreneurship.



Experiential Learning Programme

The 4th year students of B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture are currently undertaking the Experiential Learning Programme (ELP). Based on the strength of established facilities and faculty expertise, the students have taken up three modules viz., Food processing, Poultry production technology, and Dairy products technology. ELP is a versatile programme tailored to train and inculcate entrepreneurship in students. The students themselves learn by doing every trick of successfully establishing an agri-based business, starting from project planning through raw material procurement and execution to sales and marketing.



Vibrant Hostel Day Celebrations Foster Unity and Talent

Hostel Day 2026 at the Graduate School of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam was celebrated from 14-27th March with enthusiastic student participation in sports, indoor games, creative contests, fitness events, cooking challenges, and cultural

activities. The fortnight-long programme promoted teamwork, leadership, and hostel camaraderie through events such as tug of war, hostel olympics, kabaddi, kho kho, treasure hunt, and cooking competitions. The celebrations concluded with a grand Cultural Evening on 27th March featuring music, dance, ethnic elegance, and prize distribution, offering a refreshing break from academics while strengthening unity, creativity, and holistic development among students.



NSS Outreach and Student Engagement Activities at IARI Assam

Clean Campus Drive Led by NSS Students at IARI Assam

Students actively participated in a “Keep Clean Campus” drive under the National Service Scheme (NSS) at IARI Assam on 3rd January, 2026. The initiative focused on maintaining cleanliness across academic, hostel, and common areas of the campus while promoting environmental responsibility and civic sense. The programme was coordinated by Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate.

NSS Cleanliness and Awareness Drive at Gogamukh

First-year B.Sc. (Agriculture Hons.) students of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Assam carried out NSS activities on 7th February, 2026 focused on cleanliness and public awareness in and around Gogamukh. Students actively participated in cleaning public spaces and interacting with local residents to promote hygiene and civic responsibility. The programme was coordinated by Dr. S. Manivannan,



Dr. Ansheef Ali, Dr. Ch. Jamkokhai Mate, and Mr. Jitender Singh Gaite, fostering a spirit of community engagement and social responsibility among the students.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle Promotes Health and Eco-Friendly Living

As part of the Fit India Movement, NSS unit of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Assam organized "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" on 14th February, 2026 to encourage physical fitness, eco-friendly transport, and awareness against obesity. Slow cycling and fast cycle races were conducted separately for girls and boys, generating enthusiastic participation from students. The event was coordinated by Dr. S. Manivannan.

NSS Meeting at IARI Assam Graced by Regional Youth Affairs Leadership

An NSS meeting was held on 7th March 2026 at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Assam in the presence of Shri D. Carthigueane, Regional Director (NER), Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India, as Chief Guest. Shri N. C. Deuri, Youth Officer, attended as Guest of Honour, while Dr. A. K. Balange was also present on the dais. The programme was coordinated by Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr. Ch. Jamkokhai Mate.

NSS Participation in 9th North East Youth Festival 2026 at Dimapur

The NSS Unit of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Assam proudly participated in the 9th North East Youth Festival 2026 held at Dimapur,

Nagaland from 17-22th March 2026. The festival was jointly organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, National Service Scheme (NSS), and MY Bharat. A team of 10 participants (4 boys, 5 girls, and 1 Programme Officer) represented the institute in this prestigious event. From the staff side, Mr. Sanjay Kumar accompanied the students and coordinated the activities throughout the festival.

Aquaculture Skill Immersion: Field & Industry Exposure for Diploma Students

Field Exposure Visit to Aquaculture Farm for Practical Learning

Eighteen students of the one-year Skill Enhancement Diploma in "Freshwater Aquaculture and Fisheries Management" from IARI Assam visited Madhukalya Aquatic Farm on 13th February 2026. Interacting with proprietor Shri Bikul Goswami, they learned pond aquaculture, eco-hatchery systems, seed production, plankton culture, integrated fish farming, feeding, packaging, and induced breeding. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah.

Entrepreneurship-Oriented Aquaculture Field Visit at Bihpuria

On 5th March 2026, one-year Skill Enhancement Diploma students visited Bihpuria for exposure to integrated fish farming and aquaculture entrepreneurship. An interaction led by Mr. Shivam Sarmah connected students with local entrepreneurs and academicians, and a visit to traditional temple ponds showcased unique aquatic ecosystems. The programme



was coordinated by Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah and supported by Mr. Sushant Kumar.

Industrial Exposure Visit to Mahabahu Fisheries

On 9th March 2026, one-year Skill Enhancement Diploma students visited Mahabahu Fisheries Pvt.

Ltd. for hands-on learning in hatchery operations, feed preparation, water quality analysis, and seed production. Interactions with proprietor Mr. Anup Sharma and live demonstrations enriched practical understanding. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah and supported by Mr. Sushant Kumar.

EXTENSION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Field Day Highlights Profitable Rice–Mustard System in Rice Fallows

On 6th January 2026, IARI Assam conducted a Field Day in Dhemaji to demonstrate crop diversification in rice fallows. Short- and medium-duration rice varieties (CR-307, CR-310, CR-311, CR-801, CR-802, CR-901) grown over 30 ha yielded 5.2 t ha⁻¹, enabling timely sowing of mustard (PM-25) on residual moisture, which produced 2.0 t ha⁻¹. Farmers appreciated the higher income, better land use, and lower risk, and suggested adding summer moong for further intensification. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lohit Kumar Baishya, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, and Dr. Chethan C. R., showcasing a scalable, climate-resilient model for Assam's rice fallows.



Hands-on Training on Hygienic Fermented Fish Products

A three-day hands-on training programme on “Hygienic and Safe Production of Ethnic Fermented Fish Products of Northeast India for Entrepreneurship Development” was conducted at IARI Assam from 8–10th



January 2026 under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI. Coordinated by Dr. A. K. Balange, the programme trained over 50 participants in the scientific preparation of Namsing, fish momos, and fish pickle with emphasis on hygiene, quality control, and value addition. The training also highlighted entrepreneurship opportunities in fish processing.

Capacity Building on Scientific Goat Farming for Enhanced Farm Income

A three-day training programme on “Scientific Management Practices for Profitable Goat Farming” was organized at IARI Assam from 15–17th January 2026 with participation of 30 farmers. Held under the guidance of Ch. Srinivasa Rao, the programme promoted scientific goat husbandry through sessions on housing, feeding, breeding, vaccination, and post-harvest management, along with hands-on feed formulation and visits to the Goat Farm and Fodder Unit. The event featured Dr. Anil Kumar Pegu at inauguration and Dr. Konkona Dutta with Dr. Arindam Chakrabarty at valediction. It was coordinated by Dr. Bornalee Handique, Dr. A. K. Balange, Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Dr. Azhaguraja M., Dr. A. K. Srivastava, and Dr. D. Baruah, assisted by Mr. Sushant Kumar Singh.



Field Day Highlights Scientific Goat Management for Farmers

A Field-Day on “Scientific Approaches to Goat Management” was conducted at the Goat Farm of IARI

Assam on 16th January 2026 with participation of 30 goat-rearing farmers. The programme strengthened farmers' practical understanding of animal health care, disease prevention, vaccination schedules, and first-aid measures under local conditions. Anil Kumar Pegu served as the resource person and provided technical guidance during the field interaction. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Bornalee Handique, Mr. Dau Ruhi Pde and Mr. Sushant Kumar.



Awareness-cum-Training Promotes Organic Farming for Sustainable Livelihoods

A one-day "Awareness-cum-Training and Input Distribution Programme on Organic Farming" under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, was held on 19th January 2026 at Gogamukh Panchayat Office, Dhemaji by IARI Assam. A total of 105 farmers participated and learned about bio-input use, pest and disease management, certification, market opportunities, and soil health improvement through resource recycling. An interactive scientist-farmer session addressed field challenges, and each participant received 30 kg vermicompost and 1 kg organic fertilizers to support immediate adoption. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. P. K. Mishra, Dr. Akshay Kumar H. M., Dr. Sunny Arya, Mr. Kishore Chandra Sahoo, Dr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Umakanta Dash, and Dr. L. K. Baishya.



Organic Farming Training for Small and Marginal Farmers

A three-day training programme on Organic Farming was organized from 19–21st January 2026 at IARI, Assam for small and marginal farmers of Northeast India, particularly Assam, to promote organic production. A total of 100 farmers from nearby districts participated. During the programme, organic inputs including *Trichoderma viride* (100 kg), enriched organic manure (825 kg), and vermicompost (1000 kg) were distributed. The training was led by Course Director Dr. Sunil Mandi and coordinated by Dr. L. K. Baishya, Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate, Mr. Umakant Dash, Dr. Sunny Arya, and Mr. Bhagirath Das.

Training on Advanced Potato Technologies Benefits Tribal Farmers in Assam

A two-day training programme on "Advances in Potato Production Technologies" was jointly organized by IARI Assam and ICAR–Central Potato Research Institute, RS Shillong, during 20–21st January 2026 at Mingmang Badati (Dhemaji) and Ratanpur Miri (Majuli). A total of 100 tribal farmers (69 women, 31 men) participated, focusing on scientific potato cultivation in rice fallow areas to enhance productivity and income. Quality seed tubers of Kufri Chandra Mukhi, Kufri Sangam, and Kufri Pukraj were distributed in advance, followed by field inspections and location-specific advisories. Vegetable seeds of cucumber, beetroot, and French bean were also provided to promote crop diversification. The



programme was coordinated by Dr. N. Sailo and Dr. Alemwati Pongener.

Training on Mechanized Millet Cultivation Promotes Smallholder-Friendly Technologies

A three-day training programme on “Mechanized Millet Cultivation: An Affordable Solution for Smallholder Farmers in the NEH Region” was conducted under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, on 20-22nd January 2026 at IARI Assam in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad. The programme, attended by 50 farmers, focused on mechanized millet cultivation tailored for small and marginal holdings. Shri Jadav Pegu, Principal Secretary, Mising Autonomous Council, graced the inaugural session and emphasized the importance of farm mechanization. Technical sessions covered improved varieties, cultivation practices, nutrition, and affordable machinery, followed by demonstrations and interactive discussions. Inputs including foxtail millet seeds, fertilizers, vermicompost, fungicides, and row makers were distributed to support field adoption. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lohit Kumar Baishya, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate and supported by Mr. Dipanjan Panda and Mr. Kishan Singha Ray.



Fish Farming Training and Input Distribution Strengthen Aquaculture Practices

A three-day training-cum-input distribution programme on fish farming was held from 28-30th January 2026 at Udalguri, jointly by IARI Assam and the Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam, with participation of 30 farmers. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Nagen Kalita, with Dijen Choudhury and Mohakshi Dutta Hazarika as Guests of Honour. Sessions covered seed production, feed, water quality, fish health, and financial schemes, with inputs from experts of



Fisheries, KVK, NABARD, veterinary services, and local entrepreneurs. Six progressive farmers were felicitated. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah and Mr. Apurba Bhuyan.

Awareness Programme on Safe Pesticide Use Promotes Sustainable Farming

A three-day awareness programme on safe pesticide usage was held from 29-31st January 2026 at IARI Assam with participation of 125 farmers. Sessions covered label reading, correct dosage, safe handling, storage, health risks, and environmental impacts, with emphasis on IPM, biopesticides, and cultural practices. Practical demonstrations on sprayer calibration and safe spraying were conducted, and essential inputs were distributed. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate, Dr. Lohit Kumar Baishya, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Gaibi Palmei, Dr. Sunil Mandi, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. P. K. Mishra, and Dr. Sunny Arya.



Training on Biosecurity and Climate-Resilient Livestock Farming Enhances Farmer Capacity

A three-day training programme on “Biosecurity Measures and Climate Resilience in Livestock Farm” was held from 2-4th February 2026 at IARI Assam with participation of 25 farmers from Bordoloni and



Gogamukh. Sessions covered climate impacts on animal health, biosecurity practices, vaccination, deworming, and heat-stress management, including demonstration. Inputs such as sprayers, disinfectants, masks, gloves, and gum boots were distributed to support adoption. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Manish Pandey (Course director), Dr. A. K. Srivastava (Course Co-director), Dr. Deepiyoti Baruah, Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde. and supported by Mr. Sushant Kumar.

Training on Climate-Resilient Agricultural Technologies Strengthens Farmer Livelihoods

A three-day farmer training programme under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI on “Building Climate Resilience through Innovative Agricultural Technologies: A Livelihood Approach” was conducted from 4–6th February 2026 at Naharbari, Dhemaji, Assam with participation of 140 farmers. The training emphasized climate-resilient practices, improved resource management, and adoption of suitable technologies under local conditions through interactive and practical sessions. The programme was led by Dr. L. K. Baishya as Programme Leader and Dr. Rahul Singh as Course Director, coordinated by Dr. Prabhat Pramanik, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Ch. Jamkokhai Mate, Dr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Umakant Dash, and supported by Mr. Chandan Maji & Mr. Dipanjan Panda.



Field Day Showcases Climate-Resilient Agricultural Technologies to Farmers

A Field Day on “Capacity Building of Farmers through Innovative Agricultural Technologies for Climate Resilience” was organized on 5th February 2026 at Naharbari, Dhemaji with participation of around 50 farmers. The event demonstrated climate-resilient practices, resource management approaches, and sustainable technologies suited to local conditions through field-based demonstrations and interactive discussions. Farmers engaged directly with scientists to clarify queries and understand practical adoption of resilient technologies. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. L. K. Baishya, Dr. Prabhat Pramanik, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Ch. Jamkokhai Mate, Dr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Umakant Dash, supported by Sh. Chandan Maji & Sh. Dipanjan Panda.



Training on Watershed Management Supports Hill Livelihoods in Arunachal Pradesh

A three-day programme on “Watershed Management for Sustainable Livelihood for Hill Ecosystem” was conducted from 5–7th February 2026 at Darka Village, West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh, with participation of 100 farmers, nearly 90% women. The training focused on soil and water conservation, integrated farming, and women-led livelihood opportunities in hill agriculture. The programme was organized by ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam in collaboration with ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Arunachal Pradesh Centre, Basar. Technical sessions covered watershed practices, agronomy, and fruit science. Farmers received inputs such as organic manure, seeds, tools, mineral mixture, and poultry chicks. A Field Day on 7th February demonstrated best practices. The programme was led by Dr. P. k. Mishra as

course Director and coordinated by Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, and Dr. Sunil Mandi, with local support from Shri Nyaki Lollen.



Training on Profitable Dairy Farming Enhances Farmer Skills in the NE Region

A three-day training programme on “Profitable Dairy Farming in Northeast Region” was held from 5–7th February 2026 at IARI, Assam with participation of 50 farmers from Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. Sessions covered scientific breeding, feeding, housing, health care, vaccination, and dairy entrepreneurship, along with hands-on exposure at a commercial dairy farm. A training manual was released, and inputs such as cattle feed, mineral mixture, milking buckets, weighing machines, and basic veterinary supplies were distributed. The programme was coordinated by Dr. A. K. Srivastava (Course director), Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah, Dr. Manish Pandey, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Azhaguraja M., Dr. Bornalee Handique, and Mr. Sushant Kumar.



Awareness and Skill Development Programme Motivates Students Towards Agricultural Careers

A one-day programme on “Promotion of Agriculture through Awareness and Skill Development among School Students” was conducted on 9th February 2026 at Mingmaang Nalbari Senior Secondary School, Dhemaji. Over 300 students participated and were introduced to agricultural education, value-addition

entrepreneurship, and higher education pathways including CUET. An agriculture quiz enhanced engagement and learning, with active support from teachers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Rahul Singh, Mr. Chandan Maji, inspiring students to view agriculture as a dynamic career option.



Capacity Building on Soil Health and Sustainable Farming

A three-day “Awareness-cum-Training on Sustainable Farming for Soil Health Improvement” was held under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI from 9–11th February 2026 with participation of 161 farmers. Soil Health Cards were distributed to 100 farmers along with inputs like: vermicompost, vermi-beds, nano-urea, and hand tools, and an Assamese leaflet on organic soil management. Demonstrations included low-cost biochar preparation from crop residues and a drone-based foliar application and field monitoring showcase. The programme was led by Dr. L. K. Baishya and coordinated by Dr. Prabhat Pramanik, Dr. Sunil Mandi, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Kokai Mate, Dr. Sunny Arya & Mr. Kishan Singha Ray.



Skill Development Training on Manufacturing of Traditional Indian Dairy Products (TIDPs)

A three-day training on “Manufacturing of Traditional Indian Dairy Products (TIDPs)” was held

from 09–11th February 2026 at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam with 22 participants, including women farmers and UG students. Inaugurated by Dr. Amjad K. Balange under the guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, the programme emphasized value addition through preparation of dahi, khoa, paneer, chhana, and traditional sweets, along with sessions on quality control, FSSAI guidelines, packaging, and feeding management. Dr. M. B. Chaudhary (Course Director), Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Bornalee Handique, Dr. Azhaguraja M., Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah, Dr. A. K. Srivastava & Mr. Sushant Kumar coordinated the programme. The valedictory session featured Dr. Padmeshwar Pegu and Sh. Prashant Kumar.



On-Farm Biochar Demonstration Promotes Residue Recycling

A field demonstration on biochar production from maize residues and rice husk was conducted on 10th February 2026 at Dhemaji with participation of 52 farmers at the field of progressive farmer Mr. Girija Prasad Doley. Farmers received hands-on training on low-cost biochar preparation and its role in improving soil fertility, carbon sequestration, and sustainable residue management. The programme was organized by Dr. Prabhat Pramanik under the guidance of the Director and leadership of Dr. Lohit K. Baishya, with support from Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Sunil Mandi, and Dr. Sunny Arya.



Climate-Smart Agriculture Training Strengthens Farm Resilience at Boginadi

A three-day training on Climate-Smart Agriculture was held under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI from 18–20th February 2026 at Boginadi, Assam with participation of about 53 farmers. Sessions emphasized climate-resilient crop management, efficient resource use, and sustainable practices to maintain productivity under climate variability. Interactive discussions helped farmers understand location-specific adaptation and practical use of climate-smart technologies. The programme was conducted under the course direction of Dr. Sunny Arya with coordination support from Dr. L. K. Baishya, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Sunil Mandi, Mr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. P. K. Mishra, and Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate strengthening preparedness for resilient farming.



Nutrition Gardening Training Enhances Household Nutritional Security at Joyrampur

A three-day training on “Nutrition Gardening for Household Nutritional Security” was conducted from 21–23rd February 2026 at Joyrampur village, Dhemaji, with participation of 130 farmers. The programme promoted homestead vegetable production, improved summer crop practices, IPM, and low-cost bio-input use. Participants received an IARI Summer Vegetable Kit (amaranthus, bottle gourd, sponge gourd, okra, cowpea, brinjal, cucumber, muskmelon), along with vermicompost, neem oil, Trichoderma, essential tools, and an Assamese technical manual. The programme was coordinated by Mr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Lohit K. Baishya, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Prabhat Pramanik, Dr. Rahul Singh, Mr. Kishore Ch. Sahoo, and Mr. Raghavendra H. R, with Mr. Sanjay Kumar, strengthening adoption of nutrition-sensitive agriculture.



Gender-Sensitive Farm Mechanization Training Empowers Women Farmers at RRS Gerua

A three-day training programme on “Empowering Women Farmers through Ergo-Refined Agricultural Tools and Drudgery Reduction Technologies” was conducted under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI from 23–25th February 2026 at RRS, Gerua, with participation of 100 women farmers from 30 villages. The programme focused on reducing drudgery through gender-sensitive tools such as ergo-refined knapsack sprayer (ICAR-DWR), rotary weeder, improved sickle, and wheel hoes, supported by hands-on practice in use and maintenance. Vegetable seed kits and ergonomic sprayers were distributed to promote field adoption, and mushroom cultivation training was included to enhance livelihood options. The programme was coordinated by Dr. L. K. Baishya, Dr. Kanchan Saikia, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. P. K. Mishra, and Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, with Mrs. Sikimoni Baruah, Dr. Tolan Kr. Borah, Mr. Dibakar Khan, strengthening women’s capacity.



Skill Development on Improved Livestock Production and Health Management Practices

A three-day training programme on “Scientific Management of Livestock” was conducted under the visionary guidance from 23–25th February 2026

with participation of 50 farmers from 21 villages of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts. Sessions covered breeding, feeding, housing, reproduction, health care, disease control, vaccination, fodder production, and integrated farming systems, along with exposure visits to a commercial dairy farm and KVK, Dhemaji. A training manual was released, and farmers were sensitized on scientific feeding, timely vaccination, deworming, and overall animal health management. To encourage adoption, inputs such as cattle feed, weighing machines, milking buckets, mineral mixture, povidone iodine, and cotton rolls were distributed. The programme was led by Dr. A. K. Srivastava, with coordination support from Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah, Dr. Manish Pandey, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Azhaguraja M., and Dr. Bornalee Handique & Mr. Sushant Kumar.



Skill Enhancement on Scientific Feed Management for Aquaculture

A three-day training on “Feed and Feeding Management in Aquaculture” (23–25th February 2026) trained 25 participants from Dhemaji on fish nutrition, ration calculation, feed formulation, and use of local ingredients. Hands-on demonstrations on feed preparation and feeding practices improved understanding of feed efficiency and fish productivity.



The programme was coordinated by Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde as organizing secretary, with Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah and Dr. Bornalee Handique as Co-Organising Secretaries; Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Dr. Manish Pandey, and Dr. Azhaguraja M as Coordinators, supported by Mr. Sushant Kumar.

Training on Developing Value-Added Products from Agricultural Crops Empowers Women Farmers

A three-day training programme on “Training on developing value-added products from agricultural crops” was conducted from 25–27th February 2026 at ICAR–IARI, Assam under the guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director. The programme emphasized the potential of value addition in reducing post-harvest losses, improving shelf life, and enhancing farmers’ income. Technical sessions covered processing, preservation, packaging, and product diversification with a focus on women’s entrepreneurship and nutritional security. Hands-on demonstrations included preparation of roselle juice, soy paneer (tofu), and chocolate-flavoured soymilk. The valedictory session encouraged participants to initiate small enterprises using the acquired skills. Certificates and hand sealing machines were distributed to all trainees. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Palmei Gaibimei (Course Director), Dr. Lohit Kumar Baishya, Dr. Manivanan, Dr. Alemwati Pongener, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate, Dr. Sunil Mandi, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Sunny Arya, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. A. K. Mishra, and Dr. Mythra.



Training on Modern Pig Farming Practices Concluded in Dima Hasao

A three-day training on “Modern Pig Farming Practices” concluded on 25-27th February 2026 at Dima Hasao, organized by IARI Assam in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dima Hasao. The programme trained 25 Dimasa tribal pig farmers on scientific housing, nutrition, general management, biosecurity, and

climate impacts on livestock. Experts from the Veterinary Department delivered health management sessions, and farmers received inputs including disinfectants, mineral mixtures, multivitamins, and gumboots. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao and Dr. Amjad K. Balange. Dr. Ardhendu Chakraborty served as Training Coordinator, with Dr. Manish Pandey (Course Director) and Dr. A. K. Srivastava (Course Co-Director), supported by Dr. N. Manoranjan Singh, Smt. Parke Gogoi, and Smt. Rashmita Saikia. During the valedictory session, Chief Guest Samiran Roy, along with Guests of Honour Somendra Longmailai and Sanasam Amarjit Mangang, encouraged adoption of scientific pig farming and highlighted financial assistance opportunities for farmers.



Backyard Poultry Farming Training Promotes Sustainable Income Opportunities

A three-day training on “Sustainable Income Generation through Backyard Poultry Farming in the North Eastern Region” was held from 1–3rd March 2026 at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam with 50 participants, including 30 farmers (majority women) and students. Sessions covered suitable breeds, low-cost housing, feeding, brooding, and disease prevention with practical demonstrations. Beneficiaries received chicks, feed, equipment, and supplements for field adoption. The programme was organized by Dr. Azhaguraja M with support from Dr. Bornalee Handique, Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Mr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Manish Pandey, Dr. Arunjyoti Baruah, Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah & Mr. Sushant Kumar.

Promoting Women-Led Agri-Entrepreneurship through Micro-Processing of Horticultural Produce

A two-day skill enhancement training on “Entrepreneurship Development in Micro-Processing

of Fruits and Vegetables” was on 9–10th March 2026 at Mokokchung village, Nagaland by IARI Assam, marking International Women’s Day and the FAO-designated International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026. Total 60 tribal women from five wards and SHGs participated. Sessions covered food safety regulations, licensing, use of local produce, processing protocols, packaging, labelling, and marketing. Hands-on demonstrations included pineapple and roselle-based beverages. Micro-processing starter kits were provided to five SHGs to encourage enterprise initiation. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Alemwati Pongener, Dr. Dibyendu Deb and Mr. Raghavendra H. R., strengthening women-led agri-entrepreneurship in the region.



Capacity Building on On-Farm Preparation and Application of Natural Farming Inputs

A three-day training programme on “Hands-on Demonstration of Natural Farming Practices” was held from 9–11th March 2026 at IARI Assam with participation of 54 farmers, mostly women and tribal participants. The programme promoted natural farming through practical training on preparation and use of Beejamritha, Jeevamritha, Neemastra, Agniastra, Brahmastra, Ghanajeevamritha, and biochar. Emphasis was placed on low-cost, eco-friendly inputs for soil health and pest management, supported by hands-



on field demonstrations and interactive sessions. The programme was coordinated by Mr. Umakanta Dash, Dr. Lohit Kumar Baishya, Dr. Manish Pandey, Mr. Bhagirath Das, Dr. Mythra R., Dr. Prabhash Mishra, Dr. Prabhat Pramanik, and Dr. Sunil Mandi, strengthening farmers’ capacity to adopt natural farming systems.

Enhancing Livestock Productivity through Balanced Feeding and Nutritional Interventions

A three-day training programme on “Scientific Ration Balancing for Enhanced Livestock and Poultry Productivity” was conducted from 12–14th March 2026 at Kolaptukar, Dollungmukh, Kamle district, Arunachal Pradesh for 35 women SHG members. The training emphasized scientific feeding practices including ration balancing, mash and pellet feed formulation, fodder cultivation, and the role of nutrition in animal health and milk production, supported by hands-on demonstrations. To encourage adoption, inputs such as commercial feed, mineral mixture, dewormer, and liver tonic were distributed. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Bornalee Handique (Organizing Secretary), Mr. Da U. Ruhi Pde, Dr. M. B. Chaudhary & Mr. Sushant Kumar.



Generation through Scientific Goat Farming” at ICAR–IARI, Assam

A three-day training on “Livelihood and Income Generation through Scientific Goat Farming” was held under the visionary guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI from 16–18th March 2026 at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam, jointly organized with ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly under the NEH programme. Twenty-five women farmers participated and received practical and theoretical training on scientific goat management, feeding, fodder production, breeding, housing, and integrated farming systems using locally



adaptable technologies. Dr. Hari Om Pandey served as Course Director. The programme was convened by Dr. Amjad K. Balange with coordination support from Dr. A. K. Srivastava and Dr. Manish Pandey, under the patronage of the Directors of ICAR-IVRI and ICAR-IARI.

Field Day-cum-Awareness Programme on Millet-Based Cropping Systems for Climate-Resilient Agriculture

A Farmers' Field Day-cum-Awareness Programme on foxtail and finger millet cultivation was held on 25th March 2026 at Tajik village, Gogamukh, Dhemaji, Assam



with participation of 100 small and marginal farmers, including women. The programme highlighted improved cultivation practices, irrigation management, and the role of millets in climate resilience, nutrition, and farm income. A progressive farmer shared practical field experiences to motivate adoption. The programme was organized by IARI Assam in collaboration with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad under the guidance of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI and Dr. Tara Satyavati, Director, IIMR and coordinated by Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. P. K. Mishra, and Dr. Lohit K. Baishya, strengthening millet-based farming awareness in the region.

Summary of Training/ Field Day/ Farmers Interaction Meeting/ Input Distribution Programme Organized by ICAR-IARI Assam

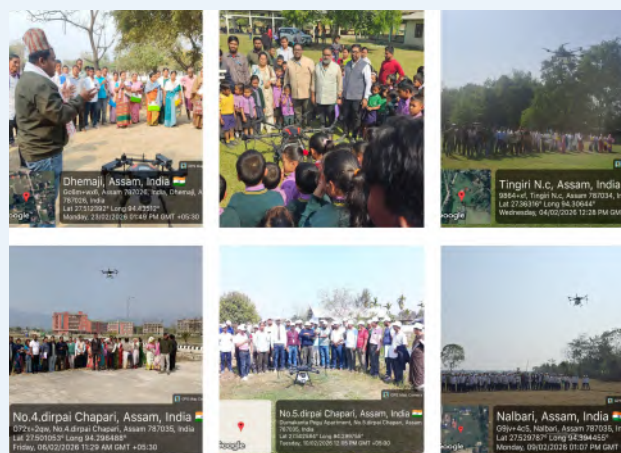
Sl. No	Title of the Event	Venue	Date	No of Beneficiaries.
1.	A Field Day in Dhemaji to demonstrate crop diversification in rice fallows.	Dhemaji District	6 th January, 2026	10
2.	Hygienic and Safe Production of Ethnic Fermented Fish Products of NE India for Entrepreneurship Development	ICAR-IARI, Assam	8 - 10 th January, 2026	64
3.	Scientific Management Practices for Profitable Goat Farming	ICAR-IARI, Assam	15 - 17 th January, 2026	30
4.	Field day on Scientific Management Practices for Profitable Goat Farming	ICAR-IARI, Assam	16 th January, 2026	30
5.	One Day Awareness-cum-Training and Input Distribution Programme on Organic Farming for Sustainable Livelihoods	ICAR-IARI, Assam	19 th January, 202	105
6.	Training programme on Organic farming	ICAR-IARI, Assam	19 - 21 st January, 2026	100
7.	A 2-day training programme on 'Advances in Potato Production Technologies'	ICAR-IARI Assam	20- 21 st January, 2026	100
8.	Mechanized Millet Cultivation: An Affordable Solution for Smallholder Farmers in the NEH Region	ICAR-IARI, Assam	20 - 22 nd January, 2026	50

9.	A 3-day training cum farm input distribution programme on fish farming.	Udalguri, Dhemaji	28- 30 th January, 2026	30
10.	A three-day awareness programme on safe pesticide usage and its impact on agriculture and human health	ICAR-IARI, Assam	29 - 31 st January, 2026	125
11.	Biosecurity Measures and Climate Resilience in Livestock Farm	ICAR-IARI, Assam	2- 4 th February, 2026	25
12.	Three-Day Farmer Training Programme on “Building Climate Resilience through Innovative Agricultural Technologies: A Livelihood Approach	ICAR-IARI, Assam	4 - 6 th February, 2026	140
13.	Field day on Capacity Building of Farmers through Innovative Agricultural Technologies for Climate Resilience	ICAR-IARI, Assam	5 th February, 2026	50
14.	Profitable Dairy Farming in North East India	ICAR-IARI, Assam	5 - 7 th February, 2026	50
15.	Watershed Management for Sustainable Livelihood for Hill Ecosystem	Darka Village, West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh	5 - 7 th February, 2026	100
16.	One day training programme on Promotion of Agriculture through Awareness and Skill Development among School Students	ICAR-IARI, Assam	9 th February, 2026	300
17.	Skill Development in Manufacturing of Traditional Dairy Products.	ICAR-IARI, Assam	9 - 11 th February, 2026	34
18.	A Three-day ‘Awareness-cum-Training Programme on Sustainable Farming for Soil Health Improvement’	ICAR-IARI, Assam	9- 11 th February, 2026	100
19.	A field demonstration programme was organized on the biochar preparation recycling maize plant residues.	ICAR-IARI, Assam	10 th February, 2026	52
20.	A three-day training programme on Climate smart agriculture was organized at Boginadi, Assam.	ICAR-IARI, Assam	18 - 20 th February, 2026	53
21.	Training programme on Nutrition Gardening and Summer Vegetable Cultivation	ICAR, IARI- Assam	21- 23 rd February, 2026	130
22.	Feed and Feeding Management in Aquaculture	ICAR-IARI, Assam	23 - 25 th February, 2026	25
23.	Scientific Management of Livestock	ICAR-IARI, Assam	23 - 25 th February, 2026	50
24.	Empowering Women Farmers through Ergo-Refined Agricultural Tools and Drudgery Reduction Technologies	ICAR, IARI- Assam	23 - 25 th February, 2026	100
25.	Modern Pig Farming Practices	Dima Hasao	25- 27 th February, 2026	25
26.	Training on developing value-added products from agricultural crops	ICAR, IARI- Assam	25 - 27 th February, 2026	30

27.	Kishan Mela On Natural Farming for Sustainable Farming.	ICAR, IARI-Assam	28 th February, 2026	1500
28.	Sustainable Income Generation through Backyard Poultry Farming in the North Eastern Region	ICAR-IARI, Assam	1 - 3 rd March, 2026	30
29.	Entrepreneurship development in micro-processing of fruits and vegetables	ICAR, IARI-Assam	09- 10 th March, 2026	60
30.	Hands-on-Demonstration on Natural Farming Practice	ICAR-IARI, Assam	9- 11 th March, 2026	54
31.	Scientific Ration Balancing for Enhanced Livestock and Poultry Productivity	ICAR-IARI, Assam	12 – 14 th March, 2026	35
32.	Livelihood and Income Generation through Scientific Goat Farming	ICAR-IARI, Assam	16 - 18 th March, 2026	25
33.	A field Day Cum Awareness Programme on Foxtail and Finger Millet Cultivation	ICAR, IARI-Assam	25 th March, 2026	100

Drone-Based Precision Spraying Demonstrations for Modern Agriculture

Nine live drone demonstrations were conducted to showcase the use of agri-drones for precision spraying in crop fields. The demonstrations highlighted uniform spray coverage, reduced chemical usage, and efficient operation over difficult and waterlogged terrains common in the region. Farmers observed how drone-based spraying minimizes human exposure to chemicals, saves time and labour, and ensures timely plant protection, while students gained exposure to scientific, technology-driven agriculture. The activity created strong awareness about the role of drone technology in promoting precision, safety, reduced drudgery, optimal input use, and overall efficiency in modern, sustainable farming practices. All the demonstration were led by Dr. Arpan Bhowmik.



Sl No	Date	Place	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	February 03, 2026	IARI Assam	50 Students
2.	February 04, 2026	Friendship High School, Tingri N. C, Gogamukh, Dhemaji.	170 Students
3.	February 04, 2026	Naharbari, Gogamukh, Dhemaji.	140 Farmers
4.	February 06, 2026	IARI Assam	50 Farmers
5.	February 09, 2026	Mingmang Nalbari H. S School	270 Students
6.	Nalbari, Dhemaji, Assam.	270 Students	52 Farmers
7.	February 10, 2026	Farm area of the progressive farmer Mr. Girija Prosad Doley at No. 5 Dirpai Chapari, Lotak, Gogamukh, Dhemaji, Assam	52 Farmers

8.	February 18, 2026	Boginadi Bazar, North Lakhimpur, Assam	50 Farmers
9.	February 23, 2026	Joyrampur, Dhemaji	134 Farmers

Inspiring Young Minds: School Students Explore Agricultural Science at IARI Assam

- 2nd Jan 2026 – Mingmang Nalbari HSS, Dhemaji: 51 students and 7 teachers visited ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam to explore research facilities and agricultural innovations, with motivation toward agri-careers. Coordinators: Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Rahul Singh, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Mr. Kishore Chandra Sahoo.
- 21st Jan 2026 – PM Shri Laimekuri Sr. Sec. School, Dhemaji: Students were introduced to agricultural research infrastructure, scientific farming, and career avenues. Coordinators: Dr. Amjad Balange, Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Ravi Bhushan Prasad, Dr. Da U Ruhi Pde.
- 21st Jan 2026 – Pub Chauldhuwa L.P. & Pub Chauldhuwa Bodo L.P., Gogamukh: 55 students with teachers toured institute units and learned about modern agricultural practices. Coordinators: Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Sunny Arya, Dr. Akshay Kumar H. M., Mr. Kishore Chandra Sahoo.



- 20th Feb 2026 – PM Shri School, JNV Dhemaji: 80 students, 3 teachers, and 1 assistant gained hands-on exposure to research activities and facilities, encouraging interest in agriculture. Coordinators: Dr. Chethan C. R., Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, Dr. Sunny Arya, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Dr. Rahul Singh.

HAPPENINGS AT IARI-ASSAM

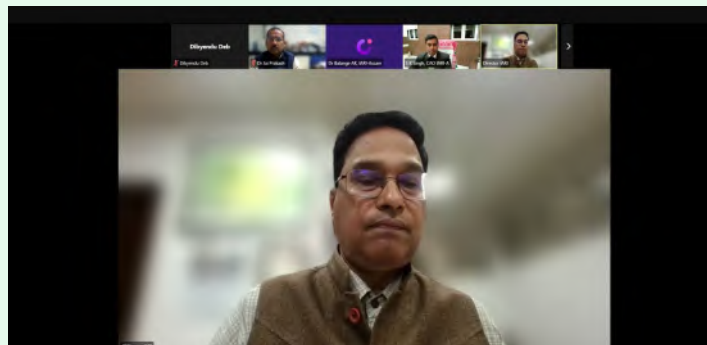
New Beginnings, Renewed Commitment: New Year 2026 at IARI Assam

On the occasion of New Year 2026, the institute extended warm wishes to all. Campus-in-charge Dr. A. K. Balange addressed the permanent and contractual staff, reflecting on the key achievements of 2025 and inspiring everyone to move forward with greater spirit, unity, and dedication for the continued growth of the institute.



Monthly SOC Reviews Strengthen Institutional Progress at IARI Assam

The Staff Officers' Committee (SOC) meeting is convened every month under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Director Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao to review the progress of key institutional activities. The committee assesses ongoing works, budget utilization, PME publications, fellowship matters, and other administrative and research priorities.



These regular reviews ensure timely monitoring, coordinated planning, and effective implementation of programmes for the overall development of the institute.

Showcasing Innovation at Atmanirbhar Dhemaji-2026

IARI Assam is actively participating in Atmanirbhar Dhemaji-2026 at Dhemaji, presenting a vibrant display of value-added products, posters, and informational leaflets that highlight the institute's research, extension, and skill-development activities. The stall serves as an interactive platform for farmers, students, entrepreneurs, and visitors to learn about region-specific agricultural technologies, innovations, and livelihood opportunities promoted by the institute. Live explanations and demonstrations are helping visitors better understand practical applications of these technologies for self-reliance and rural development. The exhibition is coordinated by a dedicated committee chaired by Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, with members Dr. Bhagirath Da, Dr. Raghavendra H. R., Dr. Ravi Bhushan Prasad, Dr. Manish Pandey, Dr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Bornalee Handique, Dr. Sumalatha Reddy A., Dr. Mythra R., Mr. Sushant Kumar, Mr. Kishan Singha Ray, Mr. Dipanjan Panda, and Mr. Saroj Kumar Singh, who collectively facilitating knowledge dissemination and public engagement throughout the event.

gathering reaffirmed commitment to constitutional values and to advancing agricultural research for regional and national development.



IARI Assam Stall at 10th Mising Youth Festival, Kareng Chapori

From 25–30th January 2026, IARI Assam set up an informative stall at the 10th Mising Youth Festival at Kareng Chapori. The stall showcased value-added products, improved crop varieties, farm mechanization tools, and extension materials highlighting institute activities. Visitors, including youth and farmers, interacted with scientists and learned about technologies relevant to the NEH region and sustainable agriculture. The exhibition is coordinated by a dedicated committee consisting of Dr. P. K. Mishra (Chairman), Dr. Alemwati Pongener (Co-chairman), Dr. M. B. Chaudhary, Dr. Raghavendra H. R., Dr. Da U Ruhi Pde, Dr. Manish Pandey, Dr. Sunny Arya, Dr. Ansheef Ali T. P., Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Mr. Sushant Kumar and Mr. Dipanjan Panda.



Mess Facility Started at Subansiri Girls Hostel

A new mess facility has been made operational at the ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam Subansiri Girls Hostel to ensure safe, hygienic, and nutritious meals for resident students. The initiative aims to improve student welfare, convenience, and overall campus living experience. The facility is equipped to provide regular, balanced meals under proper supervision and hygiene standards. This step reflects the institute's continued commitment to enhancing student

Republic Day at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Assam

Republic Day was celebrated at the Gogamukh campus with flag unfurling and the National Anthem in the presence of scientists, staff, and students. The





amenities and support systems on campus.

Holika Dahan Celebrated by Students

Students of IARI, Assam observed **Holika Dahan** on campus with traditional rituals and collective



participation. The ceremony symbolized the victory of good over evil and fostered cultural unity and harmony among students.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA, TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

Participation in Training/Workshop

Sl. No	Title	Mode	Organizer/Venue	Date & Duration
1	ICAR-Sponsored Winter School on “Omics Era: Genome to Pangenome, Proteome and Metabolome in Animal Science” Participant: Azhaguraja M	Offline	NBAGR, Haryana	Date: 20 th January – 09 th February, 2026 Duration: 21 Days
2	ICAR-sponsored winter school on “Advanced Tools and Techniques for Assessment and Management of Pollutants in the Soil-Plant-Human Continuum” Participant: Machanuru Raviteja	Offline	ICAR- IARI, New Delhi	Date: 24 th February – 16 th March, 2026 Duration: 21 Days
3	ICAR-Sponsored Winter School on “Recent Developments in Rainfed Organic Farming Systems” Participant: Umakanta Das	Offline	CRIDA, Hyderabad	Date: 21 st January – 10 th February, 2026 Duration: 21 Days
4	ICAR Sponsored Short Course on “Soil Spectroscopy and Machine Learning for Precision Agriculture” Participant: Sunny Arya	Offline	ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning Amravati Road, Nagpur	Date: 17 th – 26 th February, 2026 Duration: 10 Days

Paper Presented in Conferences/Seminars/Symposium

- Presentation of a paper entitled “Determinants of Livelihood Diversification in the Rainfed Ecosystem of Northeast India: A Machine Learning Approach” in the 76 Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) on “Data Driven Decisions for Connecting Science with Society Towards Viksit Bharat @2047” during 29-31st January, 2026 at Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, Rajasthan (Arpan Bhowmik)
- Presentation of a paper entitled “Rainfall and evapotranspiration variability assessment in a semi-arid water scarce basin using open access data” in the 4th Roorkee Water Conclave (RWC) – 2026 on Transboundary Water

Cooperation Through Nexus Approach during February 23-25th, 2026” at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, Roorkee. (P. K. Mishra)

- Presentation of a paper entitled “Metabolite and Enzyme- Based Characterization of Rancidity Behavior in Pearl Millet Flour for Nutritional Evaluation” during February 27-28th 2026” at the National Conference at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar. (Ansheef Ali)
- Presentation of papers entitled “Satellite-driven machine learning approach for robust pineapple yield forecasting in Assam’s rainfed smallholder orchards” (Dibyendu Deb), “Exploration of AM fungi on plant growth promotion of chili under drought stress condition” (Mythra R) and “Cheap and eco-friendly method of water treatment using low-cost natural polymer” (Ch. Jamkhokai Mate) during February 16-17th, 2026 at the “International Conference on Himalayan Greenprint: Fostering Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship through Research and Development in the Eastern Himalaya” at College of Agriculture, CAU, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Presentation of a paper entitled “A mid-density genotyping array with ~2K SNPs for pigeonpea improvement” at NCPulses 2026 - jointly organised by Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD), ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur during 10 - 12th February, 2026. (Rachit Saxena).

Involvement in Organization of Conferences

- Dr. Arpan Bhowmik served as one of the Joint Coordinator and Dr. Alemwati Pongener was one of the Executive Members during February 16-17th, 2026 at the “International Conference on Himalayan Greenprint: Fostering Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship through Research and Development in the Eastern Himalaya” at College of Agriculture, CAU, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.

PUBLICATIONS

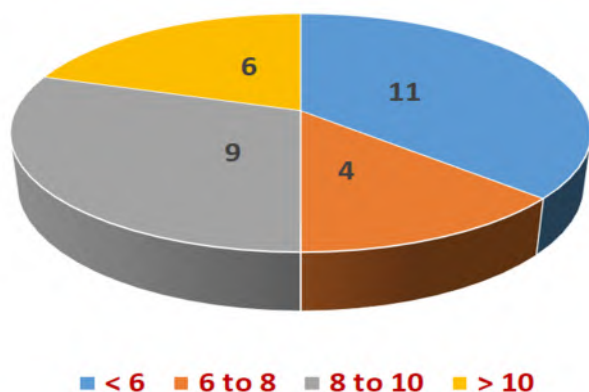
Research papers (More than 10 NAAS Rating)

Sl. No	Details of the Papers	NAAS Rating 2026	Impact factor
1	Dutta, D., Meena, A. L., Ghasal, P. C., Bhanu, C., Choudhary, J., Fagodiya, R. K., Ravisankar, N., Swarnam, T. P., Jat, P.C., Singh, R., Gora, J.S., Subash, N., Mishra, R.P. Kumar, K., Singh, R., Raghavendra, K. J., Bhowmik, A., Maity, P. P., Nalawade, R.D., Prajapati, H., Kumar, S., Gathala, M. K. (2026). Assessing potassium availability and Q/I relationship under long-term fertilization strategies in rice based cropping systems of Upper Indo-Gangetic Plain of India. <i>Soil and Tillage Research</i> , 261 , 107140.	12.80	6.80
2	Krishnapriya, N. P., Ali, A., Nissar, V. M., Mendez, T. T., Suresh, S. K., and Anees, K. (2026). Development of a novel quantitative method for the analysis of hydroxycitric acid and its lactone in different tissues of <i>Garcinia</i> species using LC-MS/MS. <i>Microchemical Journal</i> , 116862.	11.1	5.1
3	Channapur, A. M., Kumar, S., Kumar, B., Singh, P., Abhijith, K. P., Akash, A., ... and Mahanta, S. K. (2026). Genetic dissection of seedling root architecture under aluminium toxicity in tropical maize (<i>Zea mays</i> L.). <i>Frontiers in Plant Science</i> , 16 , 1722162.	10.80	4.80

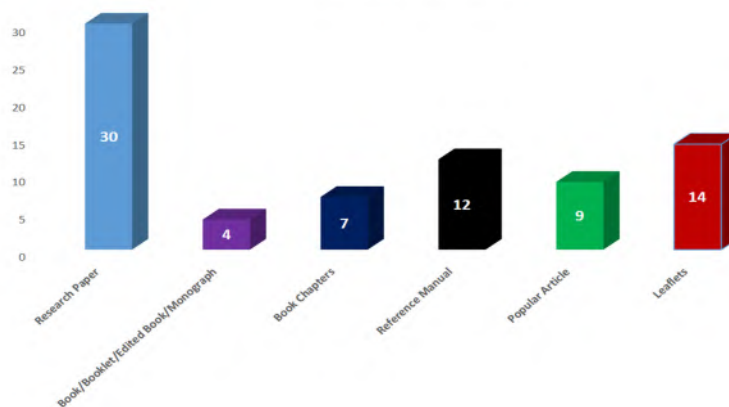
4	Sachin K.S., Veeranna H.K., Dass A., Harish. N, Bhupenchandra I., Rajanna G.A., Sannagoudar M.S., Nithinkumar K., Pratap, V., Niranjana B.N., Sumanth Kumar G.V., Yogi A.K., Praveen B.R., Raghavendra H.R., Kumari K., Devika A.R. and Singh A. (2026). Sewage water and sludge co-implementation effects on soil properties and green chili in Typic Haplustalf of southern India. <i>Frontiers in Agronomy</i> , 8 .	10.10	4.10
5	Heiplanmi R., Parent, L., Srivastava, A. K., Talang, H., Verma, V. K., Ziogas, V., Mawlein, J., Ramesh, T., Hazarika, S. and Baishya, L. K. (2026). Machine learning tools-based diagnosis of soil nutrient constraints to increase the productivity of citrus orchards. <i>Frontiers in Agronomy</i> . 8	10.10	-

Summary of Publications

NAAS Rating wise Distribution of Research Papers



Publication Number



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao

- Vasvik Industrial Award in Agriculture was given to Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao Director IARI for his outstanding contributions in Field Application Orientated Technology Development at Mumbai in Feb 2026.
- IARI Assam Congratulates our Hon'ble director Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao for becoming President of Indian society of soil science w.e.f 1st January, 2026.



Dr. Mythra R

- Awarded the first best oral presentation for the presentation entitled exploration of AM fungi on plant growth promotion of chilli under drought stress condition during international conference on Himalayan GREENPRINTS held at college of Agriculture Pasighat during 16-17th February, 2026.

Dr. S Manivannan

- Member Institute Management Committee (IMC) for ICAR- Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.

Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate

- Received emerging Scientist Award-2025 by Green Planet Agrotech Foundation on 26.02.2026.

Resource Person in Training Programme/Workshops

Name	Name of the institute/ organization, where Serve as Resource Person (Outside IARI-Assam)	Name of the event/Training/ Workshop	Title of the talk (Online/Offline)	Date
Dr. Alemwati Pongener	ICAR-CPRI, RS Shillong	Advances in Potato Production Technologies at Ming Mang Badati (Dhemaji) and Ratanpur Miri (Majuli)	Integration of potato cultivation in rice fallow management (Offline)	20 -21 st January, 2026
	Invited talk at ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur	National Workshop on Scientific Innovations for Sustainable Litchi Production and Value Chain Management” from 04-05 February 2026 at ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur	Innovations in value addition: processing and product diversification in Litchi (Online)	4-5 th February, 2026
	Invited talk at ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur	MSME-Sponsored Advanced Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (A-ESDP) on Processing and Post-harvest Value Chain Management in Litchi organized by ICAR-NRCL, Muzaffarpur from 16-22 February 2026.	Postharvest Management of Litchi (Online)	16-22 nd February 2026
Dr. Manish Pandey	Department of Agriculture, Lakhimpur Govt. of Assam	Inter District Training under CSS-ATMA (Integrated Farming System in North Bank Plain Zone (NBPZ), Assam)	Animal based integrated farming (Offline)	13-14 th March 2026
	Department of Agriculture, Lakhimpur Govt. of Assam	Inter District Training under CSS-ATMA (Selective Breeding in Assam Hill Goats)	Selective Breeding in Assam Hill Goat (Offline)	13-14 th March 2026
Dr. Abhijith K P	College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (CAU-Imphal), Umiam793103, Meghalaya	online lecture series for preparation of ARS, NET and SRF Exam in School of Crop Improvement	Strategies to Crack the ARS Examination and Emerging Trends of Question Patterns	11 th March 2026

Mr. Arunjyoti Baruah	Resource Person at Inter District Training Programme organized by Department of Agriculture, Lakhimpur under CSS-ATMA	Two days training programme on 'Integrated Farming System in North Bank Plain Zone, (NBPZ), Assam' and 'Selective Breeding in Assam Hill Goat'	Title: Integrated Fish Farming (offline)	13-14 th March, 2026
Dr. Arpan Bhowmik	Key invited Speaker at Assam Agricultural University	ICAR Sponsored National-Level Seminar on Up-skilling Students with AI and Big Data Sciences in Education: Building Future-Ready Innovators organised by: Viksit Bharat Cell, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, 785013, Assam during 6-7 February, 2026	Multivariate and Machine learning approach for big data analysis	7 th February, 2026
	Resource Person at Centre for e-Learning, Kerala Agricultural University	Online training programme on Advanced Data Analysis Using R during 19-23 January, 2026	Data Dimension Reduction Techniques (Online)	19 th January, 2026
	Resource Person at Centre for e-Learning, Kerala Agricultural University	Online training programme on Advanced Data Analysis Using R during 19-23 January, 2026	Data Classification Techniques (Online)	19 th January, 2026
	Resource Person at Division of Agricultural Chemicals, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	winter school on "Advances in Analytical Approaches for Evaluation of Food Safety and Quality" during January 28 to February 17, 2026	Application of statistical tool in food quality assessment	12 th February, 2026
	Resource Person at Division of Agricultural Chemicals, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	winter school on "Advances in Analytical Approaches for Evaluation of Food Safety and Quality" during January 28 to February 17, 2026	Hands on practices on application of statistical tools for Data Analysis	12 th February, 2026
Dr. Ch. Jamkhokai Mate	CAU-Imphal	Resource person at Carrier Counseling for B.Sc. (Ag.)	Delivered talks on importance of Agrochemicals Subject to BSC(AGRI) UG for their JRF exam (Online)	17 th January, 2026

Mr. Saroj Kumar Singh	Viswa Bharti University, Shanti Niketan	Training program on Administrative & Financial Management.	Procurement of Goods & Services on GeM	04 th February, 2026
	ICAR - NIASM Baramati	Pre-Examination Training for Limited Department Competitive Examination for the post of Assistant in ICAR Systems	Leave Rules	13 th January, 2026
	ICAR - NIASM Baramati	Pre-Examination Training for Limited Department Competitive Examination for the post of Assistant in ICAR Systems	Rules and Bylaws of ICAR	23 rd January, 2026

Chronicles of Endeavour at IARI-Assam.....



कुछ किस्से, कुछ यादें....

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From the Editors

Greetings from ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Assam!

We are pleased to present the January–March 2026 issue of our newsletter, capturing a productive and engaging quarter at the institute. This edition reflects our sustained efforts in advancing research, education, and outreach for sustainable agricultural development in the North-Eastern region. A key highlight was Kisan Mela 2026, which brought together farmers, scientists, and stakeholders to promote natural farming and innovative practices. Numerous training programmes, field demonstrations, and awareness initiatives further strengthened farmer capacity building across the region.

The issue also showcases student-centric learning and campus life through experiential learning, skill enhancement, NSS outreach, and cultural activities that foster holistic development. Initiatives promoting modern agriculture—such as drone-based precision spraying and improved land management—are also featured.

We sincerely appreciate the contributions of our faculty, staff, students, and partners whose dedication made these achievements possible. We hope this edition offers meaningful insights and inspires continued collaboration for advancing sustainable agriculture.

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