

ICAR–IARI Conducts ICAR-Sponsored CAFT Training Programme on Managerial and Communication Competencies of Extension Professionals

The ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi successfully organized an ICAR-sponsored Centre of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT) Programme on “*Enhancing Managerial and Communication Competencies of Extension Professionals for Achieving Professional Excellence*” at the Division of Agricultural Extension. The three-week intensive training programme was conducted from 05 to 25 January 2026 with the objective of strengthening managerial, communication, and digital competencies of agricultural extension professionals from across the country.

Emphasizing the critical role of managerial efficiency, effective communication, and digital innovations in strengthening India’s agricultural extension system, Dr. R. N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR–IARI, New Delhi, called upon extension professionals to adopt emerging tools and technologies for greater field-level impact. Addressing the valedictory session of the ICAR-sponsored Centre of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT) Programme, he highlighted the growing importance of ICTs, digital platforms, AR/VR applications, and Large Language Models in making extension services more responsive, inclusive, and future-ready. He encouraged participants to translate the competencies gained during the training into innovative and result-oriented extension interventions.

The training programme was attended by 25 extension professionals from 12 States and Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Punjab, Telangana, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. The diverse representation facilitated rich cross-learning and sharing of experiences across regions and institutions.

The CAFT programme was structured into two major modules. **Module I, Communication Competencies for Extension Professionals**, focused on digital extension approaches, multimedia content development, participatory video production, scientific communication, ICT-enabled extension, AR/VR applications, and the use of Large Language Models in agriculture. **Module II, Managerial Competencies for Extension Professionals**, emphasized leadership development, team building, conflict and stress management, research and project management, transactional analysis, and experiential learning through exposure visits.

The programme followed an interactive and experiential learning approach, combining lectures by eminent experts, hands-on practical sessions, group discussions, case studies, and field visits. These activities enabled participants to enhance both their conceptual understanding and practical skills relevant to modern agricultural extension.



Glimpses of the Valedictory Programme