

Raitha Mithra : Celebrating Five Years of Farmer-Friendly Science

THE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTRE, Directorate of Extension and Directorate of Research, UAS, Bangalore jointly celebrated the 5th Anniversary of 'Raitha Mithra', the popular question-and-answer column published in Vijayavani daily, along with a farmer workshop on 'Amazing Insects of Soil' on 17th September, 2026. The programme was inaugurated by



Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture inaugurating 'Raitha Mithra' anniversary

Shri P.M. Narendraswamy, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, GoK and presided over by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of UAS-B. Shri Channegowda, Chief Editor, Vijayavani, was the Chief Guest. On the occasion, the dignitaries released a five-year compendium of 'Raitha Mithra' question-and-answer columns and inaugurated the 'Seed Chatbot App', a digital initiative designed to provide farmers with timely and convenient access to seed-related information. A special technical workshop focused on soil arthropods, their diversity, ecological significance and role in sustaining soil health. was organized. An exhibition on soil arthropods offered farmers practical insights into soil biodiversity. More than 250 farmers and participants benefitted from the programme, which fostered meaningful interaction among farmers, agricultural scientists and extension personnel. The event underscored the value of scientific agricultural information, soil biodiversity, quality seed and digital advisory services in advancing sustainable farming. The programme was coordinated by Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Director of Extension and Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research of UAS, Bangalore.

Biofuel Awareness and Plantation Programme

UAS, BANGALORE in collaboration with the Honda India Foundation organised a 'Biofuel Awareness and Plantation Programme' at Kolavanahalli village, Nandi hobli, Chikkaballapura taluk on 10th September, 2026. Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) students of the College of Agriculture, GKVK participated in the programme, which promoted awareness on biofuels, soil conservation, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore presided over the programme. He stressed on soil conservation, efficient use of agricultural residues and the potential of biofuel crops, while emphasizing that bioenergy development should complement food production. Dignitaries, including Shri Mahesh Patri, Tahsildar, Chikkaballapura; Shri L. Shivashankar Naik, Managing Director, Karnataka Bioenergy Board and Mr. Takayuki Suzuki, EVP-Plant Head, Honda India Foundation, highlighted the importance of sustainable farming, bioenergy and community participation. RAWE students interacted with farmers and created awareness on biofuel crops, plantation, biomass utilization and sustainable agricultural practices. The programme strengthened collaboration



Vice-Chancellor inaugurating the programme along with other dignitaries

among farmers, academia, government agencies and industry towards renewable energy adoption and sustainable rural development. The programme was coordinated by Dr. V. Govinda Gowda, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agril. Extension; Dr. R. Muthuraju, Professor of Agril. Microbiology and Dr. N. Manjula, Professor of Agril. Extension.

Visit of DDG (Education), ICAR to UAS, Bangalore

UAS, BANGALORE had the distinct honour of hosting Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik, Deputy Director General (Education) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the 24th September, 2026. During his visit, Dr. Malik engaged in high-level deliberations with the Vice-Chancellor and senior Officers of the University and later interacted with students also. The comprehensive discussions centered on progressive paradigms in agricultural education, strategic curriculum enhancement and the cultivation of emerging, globally competitive opportunities for students. Demonstrating a meticulous commitment to scholarly standards, the



Deputy Director General interacting with Officers at Central Instrumentation Facility

Deputy Director General undertook an extensive inspection of premier academic infrastructures like state-of-the-art classrooms, the central library, advanced research laboratories and the Examination Centre, where he meticulously reviewed the academic provisions and examination frameworks. The visit concluded on a highly inspiring note, reaffirming a shared vision for academic rigor, institutional brilliance and transformative agricultural research, between ICAR and UAS, Bangalore.

Training on the PGS-India Processing Module

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION, College of Agriculture, GKVK in collaboration with Regional Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (RCONF), Bengaluru organised a training on the PGS-India Processing Module and Web Portal operation for the Natural Farming Certification System on 28th September, 2026. Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Dean (Agri.), CoA, GKVK inaugurated the programme and highlighted the importance of certification, quality management and compliance in enhancing consumer acceptance and market value. Shri R.S. Harish Srivathsa, Regional Director, RCONF, stressed third-party certification and food safety regulations for better processing and business opportunities. Dr. Usha Ravindra, Professor and Head, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, presided over the programme.

DAESI Certificate Distribution Programme

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, College of Agriculture, GKV, Bengaluru organised the first batch (TP No. 3095) of Diploma in Agricultural Extension



Vice-Chancellor addressing the DAESI candidates

Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) programme and has successfully completed its course, which was inaugurated on 26th March, 2025. The certificate distribution ceremony was held at the Directorate of Extension, GKV on 29th September, 2026. Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore inaugurated the programme and addressed the DAESI students. In his address, he emphasized the importance of accurately diagnosing pests and diseases and recommending appropriate solutions. He also stressed the need to educate farmers on organic farming practices as part of sustainable agriculture. Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Dean (Agri.), CoA, GKV, presided over the function. Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Director of Extension, UAS-B, was the Chief Guest. The programme was also attended by Dr. R. Narayana Reddy, State Nodal Officer, SAMETI (South); Dr. V. Govinda Gowda, Professor & Head and Coordinator, DAESI Programme and Dr. H.K. Ramappa, Facilitator.

Sunflower Field Day

AICRP ON SEED (CROPS), UAS, GKV, Bengaluru in association with the Department of Agriculture, Kolar organized a Sunflower Crop Field Day on 10th September, 2026 at Avani village, Mulbagal taluk, Kolar district, under the 2026-27 ATMA programme, commemorating the 'International Year of the Woman Farmer'. The event focused on promoting sustainable oilseed cultivation and crop



Director of Research and participants during the Field Day

diversification. Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research inaugurated the event by emphasizing farm resilience, while Dr. V. Shivananda, Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK highlighted integrated pest management. Dr. K. Vishwanath, Special Officer (Seeds) introduced about high-yielding UAS varieties to reduce edible-oil imports, Dr. K.S. Somashekar, Agronomist provided scientific agronomic guidance and Smt. Anees Salma, Deputy Director of Agriculture outlined departmental support through Raitha Samparka Kendras. Featuring live field demonstrations and an interactive Farmer-Scientists session, the programme successfully equipped participants with practical tools for sustainable farming and agri-entrepreneurship.

Preserving Genetic Wealth : Soybean Germplasm Diversity Day

ALL INDIA COORDINATED RESEARCH PROJECT ON SOYBEAN, GKV, Bengaluru in coordination with ICAR-NBPGR (New Delhi) and ICAR-NSRI (Indore), successfully hosted Soybean Germplasm Diversity Day on 17th September, 2026, under the Consortium Research Platform on Agro-biodiversity. Presided over by Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, the event was inaugurated by Dr. D.K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR & Director of ICAR-NBPGR; Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor of UAS-B and Dr. K.H. Singh, Director of ICAR-NSRI. Highlighting the critical role of genetic resources in crop improvement, the event showcased nearly 5,300 diverse soybean germplasm accessions from the National Gene Bank currently being grown for characterization and multiplication at ZARS, GKV, Bengaluru. The gathering brought together Breeders, Scientists and University Officers from across institutions to strengthen collaborative management, concluding with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. T. Onkarappa, Principal Scientist and Scheme Head of AICRP on Soybean.



Vice-Chancellor and Officers with the Scientists at the Germplasm

Training and Field Day on Turmeric

A TRAINING PROGRAMME AND FIELD DAY on 'Improved Cultivation Practices and Processing in Turmeric' was organized on 23rd September, 2026 at Sanjeevini Vatika, Department of Horticulture, GKVK under the Central



Vice-Chancellor and Officers during the Field Day

Sector Scheme for the Development of Spices and Aromatic Crops. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor highlighted turmeric's culinary, colouring and medicinal importance and encouraged farmers to adopt scientific production practices. Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Dean (Agri.), CoA, GKVK, presided over the programme. More than 95 participants received expert guidance on turmeric varieties, integrated nutrient management, pest and disease management, and processing techniques. Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, and Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Director of Extension graced the inaugural session. Dr. K.N. Srinivasappa, Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture, coordinated the programme.

Hydroponics in Practice: Hands-on Training

AICRP ON SEED (CROPS), GKVK, Bengaluru, conducted the 7th batch of 'Hands-on Training Programme on Hydroponic Methods and Techniques of Production' from 3rd to 5th September, 2026 at Hydroponics Facility, NSP, GKVK. The programme was attended by participants comprising of farmers, urban growers, agri-entrepreneurs and researchers from Karnataka and other regions. The programme provided a comprehensive theoretical and practical exposure to hydroponic production systems. Dr. K. Vishwanath presented an overview of the principles, history, importance of hydroponics, clarified common truths and myths, and explained practical aspects of hydroponic system setup, nursery management, nutrient-solution preparation, transplanting, harvesting and post-harvest handling. The technical programme also covered artificial intelligence, enterprise opportunities, cost analysis and marketing in hydroponics, efficient hydroponic systems, crop nutrition, nursery management, crop selection, microgreens production and tray establishment.

UAS-B Students at Seva First Innovation Campaign

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, Bangalore participated in the launch of the Seva First Innovation Campaign on



SFIC team interacting with Shri Pralhad Joshi Ji, Hon'ble Minister

25th September, 2026 at IISc, Bengaluru, coordinated by the Directorate of Education. Represented by Dr. B. Mamatha, Associate Professor of SS & AC and five nominated students (viz., Ms. S.H. Varshitha, Ms. K. Sneha Katherine, Mr. B. Ganesh and Mr. P. Pavan Krishna from CoA, GKVK and Ms. C. Chinmayi from CoS, Chintamani), the delegation engaged in the launch of competitive events and idea showcases, aligned with the *Seva Sankalp Abhiyan* and *Viksit Bharat @ 2047* frameworks, highlighting the University's dedication to fostering student innovation and entrepreneurship.

Prof. Sheshshayee Elected as Fellow of INSA

DR. M.S. SHESHSHAYEE, Emeritus Professor, Department of Crop Physiology, CoA, GKVK, has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) effect from 1st January, 2027. This distinguished recognition was conferred by INSA during its Annual General Meeting held on 9th September, 2026, in acknowledgment of Prof. Sheshshayee's outstanding research contributions, sustained dedication and leadership in the field of Crop Physiology.



Shri P.M. Narendraswamy, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, GoK; Vice-Chancellor; Members of BoM and Officers during the inauguration of the new building of Directorate of Extension

Bavarian Delegation Visits UAS-B

THE DELEGATION led by Ms. Ulrike Müller, Head of the Bavarian Parliament State Delegation and Member of the Bavarian State Parliament, Germany visited UAS, Bangalore on 23rd September, 2026 to explore opportunities for academic, research and institutional collaboration between universities and agricultural institutions in Karnataka. The delegation comprised Ms. Marina Jakob, Ms. Nikolaus Kraus, Mr. Benno Zierer, Members of the Bavarian State Parliament; Mr. Roman Althaus, Policy Advisor for Agriculture, Food, Environment and Consumer Protection; Mr. John Kottayil, State of Bavaria India Office; Ms. Priyanka Singh, State of Bavaria India Office and Ms. Manjula Mundakana, Representative of the German Consulate. Discussions with Vice-Cancellor & Officers of UAS, Bangalore focused on agricultural technology transfer, seed systems, research, innovation and institutional cooperation.



Bavarian Parliament State delegates with Vice-Chancellor

Training on Composite Fish Farming

THE INLAND FISHERIES UNIT under the NFDB-funded project 'Aquaculture: A Sustainable Solution for Fish Culture and Alternative Livelihood', organized a three-day training programme on 'Composite Fish Farming' from 9th to 11th



Dean (Agri.) inaugurating the programme

September, 2026, in collaboration with the Staff Training Unit, Directorate of Extension, GKVK, Bengaluru. Inaugurated by Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension, the training covered pond preparation, fish-species selection, composite and cage culture, macro-algae cultivation, water-quality and disease management, and freshwater pearl culture. Emphasis was placed on sustainable and low-investment aquaculture practices for small-scale farmers. The programme, coordinated by Dr. Harsha Nayak, was attended by 50 farmers, entrepreneurs and aquaculture enthusiasts from across Karnataka. It concluded with certificate distribution, promoting aquaculture as a viable alternative livelihood

IBT & VA Celebrates National Nutrition Week

NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK-2026 was observed by the Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition, Directorate of Extension, UAS-B on 4th September, 2026 on the theme 'Explore the Power of Nutrition'. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension, who urged participants to include more green leafy vegetables in their diet and highlighted the role of value addition in improving the nutrition, taste and acceptability of foods. Certificates were distributed to



Director of Extension distributing the Certificate

trainees of the 78th batch of the 14-week Bakery Technology Course. Dr. Bharathi S. Mirajkar presented a report on the institute's activities and trainee achievements. Dr. Latha R. Kulkarni delivered a special lecture on balanced diet, healthy lifestyle and appropriate dietary practices. Dr. Ashwini A. and Dr. Prakruthi N. Raj Gangadkar also served as resource persons.

Hands-on-Training : Millet Processing and Mushroom Production

FARMERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (FTI), GKVK in collaboration with other departments organized a three-day paid training program on millet processing and value addition from 16th to 18th September, 2026. A total of 22 participants from across Karnataka explored the booming entrepreneurial potential of millets through comprehensive sessions covering nutrition, hands-on processing techniques, value-added bakery production, and dairy analogues. The programme also featured expert lectures on food safety licensing, branding, and export markets, complemented by insights from a successful millet entrepreneur. During the valedictory function, Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Director of Extension, encouraged trainees to leverage their new skills to establish successful enterprises. FTI also hosted a five-day skill development training programme on mushroom production technologies from 7th to 11th September, 2026. Featuring expert resource persons from the University and the private sector, the programme combined theoretical instruction with hands-on sessions on cultivating oyster, button and milky mushrooms, alongside disease management and marketing strategies. Participants gained practical insights through interactive sessions with successful entrepreneurs and an industrial exposure visit. The programme concluded with a valedictory ceremony in the presence of Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Director of Extension, and Dr. C. Narayanaswamy, Head of FTI.

THE AGRI INNOVATION CENTRE, UAS-B in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka organized a four-day training programme on 'Mushroom Cultivation, Value Addition and Marketing' from 22nd to 25th September, 2026. The programme was inaugurated by



Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Dean (Agri), CoA, GKVK and Smt. A.N. Roopa, Joint Director, KSDA. The training equipped 40 farmers, FPOs, Start-ups and entrepreneurs from across Karnataka with practical knowledge on mushroom production, value addition, processing, marketing and entrepreneurship. Twelve resource persons delivered expert sessions and hands-on training, enabling participants to explore sustainable mushroom-based enterprises and income-generation opportunities.

Patents for Bee Conservation and Solar Technology

TWO PATENTS WERE GRANTED to UAS-B on 18th September, 2026. Patent No. 603160, titled '3D Printed Honeycomb for Indian Honey Bee *Apis cerana indica*', was developed by Dr. Parvathy Nayana, Dr. B.S. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. C.T. Ramachandra, Dr. H.G. Ashoka, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Dr. N.S. Bhat, Er. Dronachari Manvi, Dr. M.K. Prasanna Kumar and Dr. Nataraja Karaba. Additionally, Patent No. 603162, titled 'Compact solar powered cleaning cum sieving machine for small scale food industry and domestic use', was secured by Er. Dronachari Manvi, Basavaraj and C.T. Ramachandra.

Research Projects Sanctioned

Title of the project	Principal Investigator	Project Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Funding Agency
Seed -DSR: Seedling and root engineering for efficiency (Nutrient and water) and drought/heat resilience in direct seeded Rice.	Dr. H.V. Ramegowda Asst. Professor, Department of Crop Physiology, College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru	61.89	Department of Biotechnology, Govt. Of India, New Delhi
Natural Farming Training for <i>Krishi Sakhis</i> under National Mission on Natural Farming	Dr. M.T. Sanjay Professor & Head, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, ZARS, GKVK, Bengaluru	5.40	Commisionarate of Agriculture, Bengaluru
Secondary Agriculture for resilient and sustainable agri systems	Dr. H.K. Pankaja Asst. Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension, CoA, GKVK, Bengaluru	5.64	Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, New Delhi

RAWEP and Activities

AS PART OF THE RURAL AGRICULTURAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME (RAWEP) organised by CoA, GKVK, students



Demonstration of Azolla cultivation at Puttiahna Agrahara

successfully executed a diverse spectrum of impactful community outreach and technical initiatives. These included 07 animal health campaigns, 02 rural health awareness camps, 10 bakery training programmes, 18 biofuel awareness programmes and a mass tree planting drive. To bolster agricultural expertise, students organized banking awareness discussions, expert diagnostic visits, and hands-on training covering integrated nutrition management, fertilizer adulteration testing, crop production, seed treatment, mushroom and Azolla cultivation and plant protection. Furthermore, the programme featured the distribution of Soil Health Cards, the inauguration of village information centres, and the establishment of Farmers' Participatory Technology Demonstration Parks and kitchen gardens in preparation for the upcoming Field Days.

Animal Health Camp

ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, Bengaluru Rural District in collaboration with Credit Access India Foundation and the Milk Producers Cooperative Society, organized an Animal Health Camp at Karahalli village, Devanahalli Taluk on 22nd September, 2026. The camp featured expert veterinary care



Animal Health Camp organised by KVK, Bengaluru Rural

by Dr. Ahmed Umar Pasha and Dr. Bharat, who successfully diagnosed and treated over 60 cattle for various ailments. Additionally, Dr. G.K. Ningaraju underscored the urgency of conserving climate-resilient indigenous livestock breeds, while Dr. Y.M. Gopal advised farmers on the benefits of mineral supplements for enhanced animal nutrition & productivity. Dr. G. Eswarappa, Scientist, (Pl. Protection) coordinated the programme.

World Coconut Day at KVKs

ICAR-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, Bengaluru South District, observed World Coconut Day under the theme 'Coconut for Food, Energy and Livelihood Security in Times of



Training manual released at KVK, Chikkaballapura



Demonstration of nutrient management at KVK, Tipaturu

Uncertainty' on 2nd September, 2026, Led by Dr. B.S. Shwetha, the programme championed scientific cultivation, soil health and farm mechanization. Over 50 participating farmers visited a local One District One Product (ODOP) Coconut Processing Unit for live demonstrations on packaging and marketing. **ICAR-KVK, KONEHALLI, TIPATURU**, celebrated World Coconut Day in association with Department of Horticulture and other stakeholders. Shri N.C. Manjunath, President, Krishika Samaja, Tumakuru District; Dr. M. J. Chandregowda, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru and Dr. M.H. Shankar, Sr. Scientist and Head participated in the event. **ICAR-KVK, CHIKKABALLAPURA** in collaboration with Coconut Development Board, Bengaluru, also organized World Coconut Day at KVK, Chintamani, on 2nd September, 2026. Shri Shakeel Ahmed, Additional Director of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Bengaluru, briefed the farmers about various schemes and programmes available through the Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka.

Teachers Day Celebrations

Anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a great scholar, a brilliant teacher, and the former President of the country.

Teachers Day celebrated at GKVK, Bengaluru



Teachers Day celebrated at CoS, Chintamani



Entrepreneurship Training on Pomegranate

THE AICRP on Dryland Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru, organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme on 'Scientific Pomegranate Cultivation and Market Intelligence' on 19th September, 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor along with Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research and Dr. J.V.N.S. Prasad, Project Coordinator, AICRPDA, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad. Technical sessions



Vice-Chancellor with the Participants

covered scientific production, nutrient and plant-health management, quality standards, market intelligence, export procedures, post-harvest management and entrepreneurship opportunities. Twenty-five participants from Bengaluru and surrounding areas attended the training.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Contingency Crop Planning Programme

THE AICRP on Dryland Agriculture, in collaboration with the AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), organized a Contingency Crop Planning and Input Distribution Programme on 3rd September, 2026 at Tummanahalli village, Chikkaballapura district, in response to delayed monsoon and inadequate rainfall. The programme focused on short-duration, drought-tolerant crops, soil-moisture conservation, crop diversification, integrated farming, balanced plant nutrition, value addition, post-harvest management and market linkages. Improved seeds of field bean (HA-5), fodder cowpea (KBC-12), fodder sorghum (COFS-31) and short duration finger millet (ML-322) were distributed to farmers to facilitate re-sowing, fodder security and climate-resilient crop production. The centre also organised Farmer – Scientist Interaction Meeting at RIFS village, Thummanahalli, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura district, on 18th September 2026. Dr. J.V.N.S. Prasad, Project Coordinator, AICRPDA, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad spearheaded the meeting that addressed challenges arising from the delayed monsoon, prolonged dry spells and uneven rainfall, focusing on contingency planning, soil and water management, crop production and livestock care.

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