

AERA-2026 Conference: Smart Farming and Sustainable Futures

INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (IABM), UAS, Bangalore in collaboration with Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), New Delhi and the International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi organised AERA Regional Conference on 17th & 18th June, 2026 at GKVK with the theme 'Digital Agriculture for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems'. The event brought together nationwide researchers, policymakers and industry leaders. Dr. S.V. Suresha, esteemed Vice-



Vice-Chancellor and other dignitaries inaugurating the AERA-2026 Conference

Chancellor inaugurated the conference by emphasizing digital innovations for farming livelihoods. The Chief Guest Dr. P.K. Joshi, President, AERA; Shri Surendra Babu, Chief General Manager, NABARD; Prof. D.C. Rai, Vice-Chancellor, B.R. Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur and Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director, IIPM, Bengaluru were present. Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean (Agri.), College of Agriculture, GKVK presided. Over the two days, participants engaged in four thematic sessions where more than 60 research papers were presented on cutting-edge topics like AI, climate intelligence and financial inclusion. A major highlight was the IFPRI-ICRISAT panel discussion on responsible AI and evidence-based partnerships, featuring experts from the World Bank, ICAR and Tech Labs. The event concluded with a valedictory session and policy roundtable chaired by Dr. P. Venkataravana, where leaders committed to driving stronger collaborations across government, research and private sectors to build resilient, farmer-centric agricultural systems for the future. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from scientists, faculty members, extension professionals, agritech entrepreneurs, research scholars and postgraduate students. More than sixty research papers covering various dimensions of digital agriculture and food systems were presented and discussed. Dr. Siddayya, Professor & Head, IABM was the Organizing Secretary, while Dr. Mahin Sharif, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics was the Co-organizing Secretary.

UAS, Bangalore Ranked 7th Nationally in IIRF-2026

UAS, BANGALORE has once again demonstrated its leadership by securing the 7th Rank among the Agricultural and Horticultural Universities nationwide in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework-2026 (IIRF). This distinction also makes UAS, Bangalore as the highest-ranked Agricultural University in Karnataka. IIRF being a prestigious National Ranking Agency, it evaluates over 5,000 higher education institutions across India. The Vice-Chancellor extends heartfelt congratulations to all University Officials, Faculty, Non-teaching staff, Students and Agricultural labourers whose dedication and contributions made this achievement possible and hoped that the University would achieve top rank in near future.

Cultivating Tomorrow: World Environment Day-2026

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, CoA, GKV in association with AICRP on Agroforestry and other departments organised World Environment Day at GKV on 5th June, 2026 under the theme 'Walk for Nature for Inspiration and Conservation'. The programme brought together students, academicians, environmentalists and University officials to promote environmental awareness and conservation. The day began with a tree-planting drive at GKV's Botanical Garden joined by the Chief Guest, Shri Rajesh S. Kallaje, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest. This was followed by a bicycle rally to promote eco-friendly transport and healthy living and to raise sustainability awareness among school students. An interactive session at the Krishimela ground engaged 1,254 students from 12 schools in discussions on conservation and sustainability, followed by an environmental quiz to boost participation and learning. The formal inaugural programme featured a welcome address by Dr. B. Tambat, Professor and Head, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science. Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the event and gave environmental pledge and highlighted biodiversity conservation, waste reduction, and community participation. Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research and Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension graced the occasion. Students took part in an educational 'Walk with Nature' across the units of GKV. The celebration inspired young minds to embrace environmental stewardship and reinforced the University's commitment to conserving nature for future generations.



Vice-Chancellor giving oath to students



Chief Guest planting sapling at Botanical Garden

DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION, UAS, Bangalore, marked World Environment Day on 5th June, 2026, across its KV's and IBT&VA. The event mobilized over 2,500 participants, including farmers, staff and dignitaries, to champion sustainable agriculture. A vibrant mix of awareness campaigns, exhibitions and farmer-scientist interactions successfully disseminated critical knowledge on resource conservation, tree planting, soil health management, and the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan* initiative.

Workshop on Distance Learning in Agriculture



Vice-Chancellor distributing the certificate

A ONE-DAY state-level workshop on 'Distance Learning in Agriculture' was organized by the Distance Education Unit, Directorate of Extension at GKV, Bengaluru on 11th June, 2026. The programme included the distribution of mark sheets and certificates for the One-Year Diploma (Agriculture) and Post-Graduate Diploma in Agriculture for the 2024-25 batch. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor of UAS-B. Dr. K. Madhusudan, Registrar, served as Chief Guest and Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension, presided over the programme. Dr. G. Gangadhar Eshwar Rao, Coordinator and Head, DEU, supervised the event. A total of 115 candidates received the credentials.

Plant Variety Protection and Registration - Training

THE VGST-SPONSORED five-days training programme on 'Plant Variety Protection and Registration in India: An Exploration of the PPV&FR Act, 2001' was inaugurated on 22nd June, 2026 at the Centre of Excellence, REWARD Project, GKV, Bengaluru. Dr. Dinesh Agarwal, Registrar, PPV&FRA, New Delhi, in his inaugural address, highlighted the role of the Act in protecting breeders' and farmers' rights while promoting innovation and registration of improved crop varieties. The event was presided over by Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S.V. Suresha, who stressed the importance of intellectual property protection in agriculture and



Vice-Chancellor addressing the participants

urged scientists, breeders and students to make effective use of the PPV&FR Act. Dr. R.R. Hanchinal, Former Chairman, PPV&FRA; Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, UAS-B and Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean, CoA, GKV graced as Chief Guests. Earlier, Dr. H.B. Mahesh, Principal Investigator welcomed the dignitaries and outlined the objectives of the five-day training programme. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. H.C. Lohithaswa, Principal Scientist & Scheme Head, AICRP on Pigeonpea.

GKV Campus Launches Miyawaki Micro-Forest

UAS, BANGALORE launched a high-density Miyawaki Micro-Forest in its GKV campus on 17th June, 2026, establishing a scalable blueprint for rapid urban afforestation. Spearheaded by the Research Institute on Organic Farming (RIOF), organized by Dr. B. Boraiah, Professor, the project was officially inaugurated by Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research along with other University Officers. The Miyawaki methodology accelerates forest development by planting native species closely together, triggering vertical competition that allows trees to grow ten times faster and thirty times denser than traditional plantations. Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S.V. Suresha praised the initiative as a low-footprint greening solution and a vital living laboratory for research teams and students to study sustainable urban ecosystems.



Director of Research planting a sapling

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, Applied Mathematics & Computer Science, CoA, GKV celebrated the 20th National Statistics Day

on 29th June, 2026 to honour the Birth Anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, the pioneer of modern statistics in India. The programme was held under the national theme, 'Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data'. It provided an excellent platform for faculty and students to reflect on Prof. Mahalanobis's enduring legacy and to explore the increasing importance of administrative data, artificial intelligence and machine learning in advancing agricultural statistics and promoting sustainable development.

National Statistics Day : Honouring Legacy

Vice-Chancellor Monitors Diverse Sunflower Germplasm

DR. S. V. SURESHA, Vice-Chancellor visited the Germplasm plot along with Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research and other Scientists on 9th June, 2026 established and maintained by AICRP on Sunflower at ZARS, GKVK. A total of 2,003 Sunflower Germplasm accessions have been for evaluation, characterization and multiplication to strengthen the University's breeding



Vice-Chancellor and Officers during the visit to Germplasm plot

programme. Dr. S.D. Nehru, Professor & Scheme Head, explained the repository's role in resilience breeding and hybrid development and said that the collection includes 259 inbred lines, 984 NBPGR accessions, 55 confectionery lines, 50 CMS lines, 487 restorer (R) lines, and 168 TSG/SCG lines, representing a broad genetic base for varietal improvement and hybrid development. The entries are being systematically evaluated for agronomic traits, flowering, seed characteristics and field adaptability to identify superior donor parents. Dr. B.S. Chethana, Junior Pathologist, reported that GMU-313 and GMU-327 lines showed moderate resistance to powdery mildew and can be used as resources in resistance-breeding.

15th Raitha Santhe Draws 23,000 + Visitors

UAS, BANGALORE, hosted its 15th Raitha Santhe on 27th June, 2026, focusing on the direct marketing of organic produce, mango, guava and jackfruit. Inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor, Dr. S.V. Suresha, the event successfully connected farmers directly with consumers, eliminating middlemen. The bustling marketplace featured 94 farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) showcasing KVK technologies, seasonal fruits and unique products like honey-based chocolates, Gir cow ghee and banana fibre crafts. With festive additions like bullock cart rides and livestock exhibits, the event recorded a remarkable turnover of Rs. 22.45 lakhs, highlighting strong public support for sustainable agriculture.



Vice-Chancellor and Officers at 'Santhe'

e-SAMAGRA Workshop

UAS, BANGALORE organized a workshop on 'e-SAMAGRA' (System for Academic Monitoring and Aggregated Growth of Research & Achievements) on 3rd June, 2026 at GKVK for the faculty to demonstrate the registration process and operational features of the e-SAMAGRA software for updating faculty information. Inaugurating the workshop, Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, emphasized the importance of digital platforms in strengthening institutional monitoring, evaluation and documentation systems.

DR. FEBINA MATHEW, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, North Dakota State University, USA, has been nominated as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru. Her appointment aims to strengthen collaborative teaching, research and academic activities between the two institutions.

Training on Tree-Based Farming System



Vice-Chancellor inaugurating the training programme on 'Importance of Tree-Based Farming System' organised by Vana Vignana Kendra (VVK) of UAS-B on 24th June, 2026 in collaboration with FAIRTRADE-NAAP, Bengaluru

Training on Natural Value-Added Products

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE, CoA, GKVK organised a training programme on 'Natural Value-added Wellness Products using Medicinal and Aromatic Plants' on 2nd June, 2026. Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the programme and highlighted the importance of medicinal and aromatic plants and urged participants to prepare and market natural health products. Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean (Agri.), College of Agriculture, GKVK presided over the event. Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension and Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research participated in the inaugural session. Thirty-four participants received classroom instruction and hands-on training in making natural handmade soap, lip balm, and bath salts using aromatic herbs such as rosemary and lavender and prepared these items during practical sessions. Dr. K.N. Srinivasappa, Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture coordinated the programme.

World Food Safety Day

IBT&VA CELEBRATED 'World Food Safety Day' on 15th June, 2026, focusing on the theme 'From Burden to Solutions-Safe Food Everywhere', which advocates for practical, science-based approaches to ensuring global food security. Dr. Bharathi C. Mirajkar, Coordinator and Head of the IBT&VA, opened the event by briefing the 120 participants on the global significance and history of the day. The celebration featured insightful guest lectures from Dr. L. Malashree, Assistant Professor, Department of Dairy Microbiology, Dairy Science College, Hebbal, Bengaluru on 'Food Safety and Quality Control' and Dr. R. Muthuraju, Professor of Agril. Microbiology on 'Emerging Foodborne Pathogens' who highlighted collaborative, cross-sector strategies to prevent foodborne illnesses. The programme successfully underscored the shared responsibility of fostering a healthier, safer world through everyday safe food practices.

Kharif Campaign: Powering Climate-Smart Farming

KHARIF TECHNICAL CAMPAIGN-2026 was held on 12th June, 2026 across seven KVKs of UAS-B, Agricultural Research Stations and constituent Colleges with participation from research and teaching wings and all developmental departments. The main objectives were to raise awareness about newly released varieties and climate-resilient technologies from the University and to display critical inputs for sale to promote on-season adoption by farmers. The campaign drew 2,169 farmers and representatives from 23 State Development Departments. During the campaign, about 77 stalls were exhibited showcasing improved technologies, inputs and extension services. Activities included 38 technical sessions, 15 group discussions, 10 method demonstrations and 29 farmer-scientist interaction sessions to address queries and provide location-specific recommendations. The Campaign effectively promoted improved agricultural technologies, strengthened farmer-scientist linkages and enhanced coordination with developmental departments. By delivering timely advisories, technologies and need-based extension interventions, the campaign helped to prepare farmers for the *Kharif* season, supported sustainable agricultural development and improved farm productivity.



Hon'ble Member of Parliament releasing folder at KVK, Ramanagara



Inauguration by Unveiling inputs Kit at KVK, Bengaluru Rural

Training on Composite Fish Farming

THE INLAND FISHERIES UNIT, GKVK, Bengaluru in collaboration with the Staff Training Unit, organized three-day training on 'Composite Fish Farming' from 11th to 13th June, 2026. Inaugurated by Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension; chaired by Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, the programme was coordinated by Dr. Harsha Nayak. The event was graced by Mr. Puneeth, a successful ornamental fish farmer from Ramanagara, as Chief Guest. Farmers, entrepreneurs and aquaculture enthusiasts from across Karnataka participated. Topics covered included pond design, candidate species, composite and integrated fish culture, advanced systems, water quality and disease management, ornamental fish and freshwater pearl culture. Emphasis was on sustainable low-investment models. Certificates were distributed to participants on completion.



Director of Extension and Director of Research inaugurating the event

Clean Milk, Healthy Lives: World Milk Day

WORLD MILK DAY was observed on 1st June, 2026 by the Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition (IBT&VA), under the global theme 'Celebrating Women Farmers' recognizing their vital role in dairy farming, sustainable agriculture and food



Inauguration of WMD by Associate Director of Extension

security. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. K.P. Raghuprasad, Associate Director of Extension highlighted how World Milk Day brings together communities to acknowledge the dairy sector's contributions to nutrition, economic development and sustainable agriculture. The keynote, delivered by Dr. Harini Venugopal, Associate Professor, Department of Dairy Technology, Dairy Science College, Bengaluru, covered the nutritional composition of milk and dairy products, health aspects of A1 versus A2 milk, recommended daily dairy intakes (RDA/ICMR) and the importance of clean milk production. Dr. Bharathi C. Mirajkar, Coordinator and Head, IBT&VA spoke on milk's

global significance and the dairy sector's role in nutrition and livelihoods. Assistant Professors namely, Dr. A. Ashwini and Dr. Prakruthi N. Raj Gangadkar joined hands in organising the event.

Demonstration of Biochar: Local Waste, Lasting Gains

AICRP ON STCR organised a demonstration on low-cost Biochar production and its role in soil fertility management for small and marginal farmers at GKVK, Bengaluru under the RKVY programme on 17th June, 2026. In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research described Biochar as an effective organic input that improves soil conditioning, increases soil organic carbon and supports sustainable farming systems. A practical session demonstrated a simple method to convert agricultural residues into Biochar using low-cost kilns or drums. Dr. R. Krishna Murthy, Professor and Scheme Head, AICRP on STCR highlighted the benefits of better soil structure, increased organic carbon, improved water and nutrient retention and reduced chemical fertilizer usage. Local biomass like coconut fronds and maize stalks can boost sustainability and farmer incomes, he said. Dr. Mohan I. Naik, Dean of Student Welfare; Dr. Chikkalingaiah, Associate Director of Research and Scheme Heads of different AICRPs graced the occasion.



Scientists of AICRPs of UAS-B during the demonstration

Strengthening Post-Harvest Skills

ICAR-AICRP ON POST-HARVEST ENGINEERING and Technology organised a two-day training on 12th & 13th June, 2026 at College of Sericulture, Chintamani under the ICAR SC-SP scheme. Twenty beneficiaries attended theoretical and hands-on sessions on storage of millets, cereals, pulses and oilseeds; pest identification and seed treatment; processing, value addition, packaging and storage of



Demonstration of Decorticator at KVK, Chintamani

processed products; and an exposure visit to agro-processing centres. Practical exercises included popping, groundnut chikki preparation, packaging, branding and labelling. Training manuals, resource kits and certificates were distributed. Dr. Ramakrishna Naika, Dean (Seri.) and Dr. K.M. Srinivasa Reddy, Professor (Agril. Entomology) graced the occasion. The programme was led by Dr. K.L. Manjunatha, Asst. Professor (Agril. Entomology) with staff of AICRP on PHET. The Centre also conducted a two-day SC-SP training on 11th & 12th June, 2026 at Bidaluru village, Devanahally, to raise awareness on post-harvest processing and value addition of horticultural crops. Twenty SC farmers participated and received the programme kits.

Hands-on Training on Microgreens Production

AS PART OF THE HRD activities under Soilless Agriculture Project, AICRP on Seed (Crops), GKVK organised a one-day 'Hands-on Training on Methods and Techniques in Microgreens Production' on 13th June, 2026 at GKVK. The morning sessions covered foundations and advances in microgreens production. Dr. K. Vishwanath, Special Officer (Seeds) introduced the project and basic principles. Resource persons covered seed priming, fungal management, equipment & environmental requirements, nutritional benefits and microgreens entrepreneurship. In the afternoon, participants completed practical modules led by Dr. Vishwanath and the expert team. Hands-on activities included seed selection and conditioning, tray setup, even broadcasting, harvesting techniques and post-harvest handling. Certificates were presented to the participants.

12th International Yoga Day



Students of College of Agriculture, GKVK performing Yoga on the occasion of 12th International Yoga Day organised by CoA, GKVK on 21st June, 2026. Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean (Agri.) presided over the inaugural event. Dr. K. Madhusudan, Registrar; Dr. Mohan I. Naik, Dean of Student Welfare graced the occasion.

Empowering SC Farmers: Strategic Training

AICRP ON SEED (CROPS) organized two comprehensive training and agricultural input distribution programmes under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan in June 2026.



Input distribution at KVK, Chintamani

The collaborative initiatives were specifically designed to empower SC farmers across Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru and Ramanagara districts. The first programme was executed on 10th June, 2026 at KVK, Konehally and the second programme was held on 20th June, 2026, hosted at KVK, Chintamani.

Dr. Leslee C. Coleman Memorial Lecture

DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL ENTOMOLOGY and Plant Pathology, CoA, GKVK in collaboration with the Directorate of PGS organized the 13th Dr. Leslee C. Coleman Memorial Lecture – 2026 on 16th June, 2026. The event was held to commemorate and celebrate the remarkable legacy of Dr. Leslee C. Coleman. The memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Saskya Van Nouhuys, Associate Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on the topic 'The Puzzle of Partial Resource Use by a Parasitoid Wasp'.



Vice-Chancellor inaugurating the Cricket Tournament organized by Alumni Association of UAS, Bangalore on 20th June, 2026 at GKV, Bengaluru

Empowering Women with Digital Skills

AICRP ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE, GKV organised a one-day workshop entitled 'Empowering Farm Women through Digital Literacy and Entrepreneurship Development', in collaboration with the Farmers Training Unit at GKV on 25th June, 2026. Dr. Chikkalingaiah, Associate Director of Research, stressed the importance of digital skills for women entrepreneurs. Dr. B. Kalpana, Professor and Scheme Head urged 53 participants from FPOs, NGOs and Start-ups to adopt digital tools for financial transactions and online marketing. Dr. M. Mahadeva Murthy, CSO; Dr. C. Narayanaswamy, Chief Instructor & Head, Farmers Training Institute (FTI), GKV graced the occasion, coordinated by Dr. Geetha M. Yankanchi, Scientist, AICRP on WIA and Dr. Latha R. Kulkarni Professor, FTI, GKV.

Training on Castor and Thresher Demonstration

ICAR-AICRP ON CASTOR, GKV organised a one-day training and castor thresher demonstration for 50 farmers on 18th June, 2026 at Rajaghatta and Nachukunte of Doddaballapura and Gowribidanuru taluks, respectively. Organized with ICAR partners and IRIDS-NABARD, seeds of ICH-5 and BCH-162 hybrids were distributed and demonstration of newly developed decorticator was conducted to boost productivity, mechanization and profitability in castor cultivation.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Chief Editor	: Dr. S.V. Suresha Director of Education
Editor	: Dr. K.H. Nagaraj Professor of Agricultural Extension
Associate Editor	: Dr. H.B. Raghu Professor of Forestry & Environmental Sciences

KVK Empowers Farmers in Mushroom Cultivation

ICAR-KVK, TUMAKURU-I (Tipaturu) buzzed with energy as nearly 60 farmers, rural youth and farm women from Tumakuru, Hassan and Bengaluru gathered for a dynamic, one-day skill development programme on Mushroom Cultivation, Marketing and Value Addition on 9th June, 2026. The training spotlighted mushroom farming as a goldmine for sustainable livelihoods, requiring minimal land and resources, making it an ideal, highly profitable venture even for landless farmers. Packed with interactive technical discussions and lively hands-on-practical demonstrations, the programme left participants equipped with the skills and confidence in producing mushroom as an income-generating enterprise.



Director of Extension inaugurating the District Level Seminar on 'Scientific Cultivation of Cashew for Sustainable Income' on 19th June, 2026 at College of Sericulture, Chintamani

Recognition DR. A.P. MALLIKARJUNA GOWDA,



Professor of Horticulture and Senior Farm Superintendent, ZARS, GKV, Bengaluru participated in Israel's 78th Independence Day and Embassy Alumni Meet on 9th & 10th June, 2026 at New Delhi as a distinguished alumnus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

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