

REPORTER

VOL : 16 NO: 2

April - June 2026

Khet Bachao Abhiyan: Promoting Balanced Fertilizer Use Across Erode District

ICAR-KVK MYRADA, Erode, coordination with the State Department of Agriculture, implemented the Khet Bachao Abhiyan (KBA) on balanced fertilizer use across Erode District during April-June 2026. District Collector Shri S. Kandasamy IAS., inaugurated the campaign, released a KVK publication and distributed green manure seeds; 126 farmers attended, technical sessions on soil fertility management, integrated nutrient management, green manuring, bio-fertilizers and the 4R principles. Between 14 May and 30 June, 2022 block-level awareness camps were held in Ammapet, Anthiyur, Bhavani and Gobichettipalayam blocks, reaching 1,258 farmers on soil health, organic input preparation, vermicomposting, bio-fertilizers and balanced chemical fertilizer use. Three livestock-based nutrient management programmes at Chittode, Kudakarai and Arasur trained 195 farmers on using cattle dung, urine and manure to prepare Jeevamirtham and Panchagavya. Overall, KBA event covered 1,579 farmers, promoting sustainable nutrient management and soil health across the district.



District-Level Coordination Meeting on NADCP-FMD Control Programme & Fodder Task Force

A district-level coordination meeting on the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and the Fodder Task Force was held on 30.06.2026 at the Collectorate, Erode, chaired by Thiru.S.Shantha, I.A.S., District Revenue Officer. The Veterinary Department explained FMD's economic impact and sought support from Panchayats and Municipalities.

ICAR-KVK MYRADA Erode, VUTRC and the Forest Department for the FMD vaccination campaign organized (01.07.2026-10.08.2026) across Erode District villages. Fodder shortage mitigation through silage preparation and paddy-straw-block utilization was also discussed, with inputs from ICAR-KVK MYRADA and VUTRC. 16 representatives from line departments participated, with SMS (Animal Science) representing KVK.



PM Kisan Samman Nidhi – 23rd Instalment Release

KVK, with the State Department of Agriculture, hosted the live webcast of the 23rd PM-KISAN instalment release on 20.06.2026 at KVK premises, Gobichettipalayam, coinciding with the Prime Minister's main event at Tarakeswar, Hooghly District, West Bengal. Dr.P.Alagesan, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, highlighted the scheme's significance and briefed participants on KVK's mandated activities, balanced fertilizer use and recent crop cultivation technologies; Mr. Jeevadhayan, Assistant Director of Agriculture, shared details of subsidy schemes available through the Department. 385 farmers participated in the programme.



Digital Agriculture Extension Promotor Course – Launchpad

KVK Erode, with support from ICAR-ATARI Zone X, NSFI, ASCI and TNAU, launched a two-month hybrid-mode "Digital Agriculture Extension Promotor" course on 16.04.2026. Dr.P.Alagesan, Senior Scientist & Head, delivered the welcome address on AI's future significance; Shri Arvind G. Risbud, ED, MYRADA, gave introductory remarks; Dr. N. Anandaraja, Professor & Head, Training Division, TNAU, lectured on Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture; and Mrs. Divya Sundaraju, Alpha Cloud Tech, Chennai, covered the basics of AI. 43 participants such as entrepreneurs, FPOs, KVK staff and rural youth have attended.



Celebration of International Yoga Day

KVK celebrated International Yoga Day on 21.06.2026 at the KVK campus to promote physical and mental wellness. Yoga exercises were taught to farmers, SHG members and youth, with sessions held at Elavamalai, Erode block and Vadugapatti village (Modakurichi block) around the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." 217 members participated in the program.



TNAU-BETS Field Day cum Stakeholders' Interaction Meet

TNAU, Coimbatore, organized a Field Day cum State-Level Stakeholders' Interaction Meet under the Bio-Stimulants Efficacy Testing Structure (BETS) project at ARS, Bhavanisagar, on 30.06.2026. Dr. Sriram welcomed scientists and farmers; Dr. M. Raveendran spoke on the role of biofertilizers in crop production; Dr.D.Balachandar explained biofertilizer production technology and application; Dr.P.Alagesan, ICAR-KVK MYRADA, discussed gaps in biofertilizer adoption; Dr. S. Karthikeyan addressed quality issues; and Dr.P.Balasubramaniam spoke on reaching the unreached through Open and Distance Learning. Farmer feedback was collected and a field visit arranged for trial interaction. 80 farmers participated in the event.



Promotion of Microgreens Cultivation and Entrepreneurship Development

KVK conducted two microgreens skill trainings (27.05.2026 and 29.06.2026) on types, cultivation, harvesting, packing, post-harvest management and value addition, led by the Home Science expert. Mr.Shanmugasundharam covered hydroponics and IoT applications; Mr. Krishnakumar covered organic pest and disease management; and Mr. Sridhar, Training Officer, MYRADA, briefed on marketing and government entrepreneurship schemes. 74 members from Erode and other districts, also the participants from Kerala and Tirupati participated. Additionally, Ms.Daniksha (Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore) completed a KVK internship (13.04.2026–12.05.2026) developing a microgreen soup powder infused with edible flowers.



Joint Field Visits : Sugarcane Field

KVK scientists, with a scientist from ARS Bhavanisagar and State Department of Agriculture officials, conducted a joint diagnostic field visit to assess sugarcane crop performance at Pandiyam palayam village, Perundurai block, on 05.06.2026. Nutrient deficiency symptoms and pest/disease incidence were observed, and farmers were advised on nutrient management and plant protection measures to improve growth and yield. 18 farmers participated in the event.



Business Development Workshop for FPO

NDDB organized a two-day Business Development Workshop for Gobi Fodder Plus FPO members: Day-1 (20.05.2026) classroom sessions at the NDDB Training Centre, Erode, covered FPO management, Board Meetings and business plan preparation; Day -2 (21.05.2026) field exposure visit to Pariyur Fed FPO, Erode (base venue: Kumara Guru Institute of Agriculture, Appakudal, Bhavani), where representatives shared business activities and three years' financial progress, followed by visits to dairy/goat farms and the "Pariyur Rural Cart" livestock input outlet. Total 22 participants benefited by the program.



District-Level Training on Value Addition Techniques in Farm Produces

ICAR-KVK MYRADA organized a District-Level Training on Value Addition Techniques in Farm Produces at Gobichettipalayam on 03.06.2026, with the State Department of Agriculture, Gobi block. Mrs. M. Siva, Scientist (Home Science), covered value addition techniques and marketing strategies; the Assistant Director of Agriculture briefed on subsidy schemes for organic cultivation; the Agriculture Officer (Agri-Business and Marketing) explained processing/value-addition unit schemes and post-harvest management; and the CEO of the KVK promoted Kazhani FPO shared experience in processing and collective marketing. 57 farmers benefited by the programme.



Skill training on Mushroom Cultivation and Value addition

KVK organized two skill training sessions on Mushroom Cultivation and Value Addition at the KVK campus. Mrs. M. Siva, Scientist (Home Science), introduced mushroom varieties, nutritive value and enterprise potential; Mr. Saravanan, a KVK-promoted mentor, covered shed construction, oyster and milky mushroom cultivation, pest and disease management, and post-harvest/value addition, with mushroom bed-preparation demonstration; Mr.Sridhar briefed on marketing, KVK's Agri-Enterprise Support Centre (AESC) services and government schemes. 29 members from Erode, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul and Chennai participated in the programme.



Skill Training : Herbal Soap Making and Value Addition



KVK conducted a skill training on Herbal Soap Making and Value Addition for tribal women and youth at the MYRADA KVK, Arepalayam training campus, on 24–25 April 2026, aimed at enhancing livelihoods through eco-friendly herbal product preparation.

Mr. Mayilsamy, Master Trainer from Sree Mayil Lifestyle Centre, covered raw materials, formulation techniques, safety measures, cost estimation, a hands-on soap-making practical, and marketing strategies and market linkages. 10 members participated and benefited.

Training : Value addition in Banana and Marketing

KVK, with the Department of Agriculture under the ATMA scheme, organized a training on Value Addition in Banana at Anthiyur on 19.05.2026. Mrs.M.Siva, (Home Science) expert covered technical session on value-added banana food products, banana fibre extraction, and marketing strategies, while Mrs. Nandhini, Assistant Director of Horticulture, briefed farmers on departmental schemes for banana-based enterprises. 42 farmers participated and benefited.



Extension Functionaries Exposure Visit

NDDDB organized a training programme and exposure visit for extension functionaries at ICAR-KVK, Gobichettipalayam, on 25.05.2026, Dr.K.Karthik, delivered technical session on recent advances in artificial insemination, scientific livestock feed management and dairy development, recent technology technologies Pro Sync estrus



synchronization, milk replacer sex-sorted semen, and DNA microarray genotyping along with a demonstration unit of KVK. Total 24 extension functionaries attended and the programme was handled by SMS (Animal Science).

Training : Millet Cultivation

ICAR-KVK MYRADA, with Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture, organized a training on improved millet production technologies at Tamaraikarai on 08.06.2026, covering the importance of millet cultivation, transplanting techniques in finger millet, seed treatment methods and organic farming practices. High-yielding varieties of finger, little, small and proso millet, along with bio-fertilizers and bio-agents, were provided to the farmers. 35 farmers participated in the event.



Skill Training : Scientific Cattle Rearing

KVK organized Scientific Cattle Rearing trainings for women farmers at three Anthiyur block venues i.e. Michaelpalayam and Oothandimedu (19.05.2026) and Moodapalli village (25.05.2026) covering scientific dairy management, feeding and fodder management, disease prevention and vaccination, clean milk production, profitability improvement, and better housing and hygiene practices. Total of 76 farmers were benefited by this programme.



Exposure Visit to ICAR-IISR, Calicut

KVK organized an exposure-cum-seed-collection visit for Turmeric and Ginger, supporting its On-Farm Trial (OFT) and Front Line Demonstration (FLD) programmes, on 13.05.2026 at ICAR-IISR, Calicut. Discussions with Dr.V.Srinivasan and Dr.D.Prasath covered an OFT on Turmeric variety IISR Surya and an FLD on Ginger variety IISR Varada, along with its value addition processes. The seeds were then collected for demonstration, the team also visited Pepper and Nutmeg cultivation units.



Kisan Gosthi on Soil Fertility Management

KVK with the State Department of Agriculture, Gobi block, organized a Kisan Gosthi on 23.06.2026 for soil fertility management at Sengalarai village, covering balanced fertilizer application, green manuring, bio-fertilizer usage, soil testing and judicious fertilizer use. Dept. officials briefed on relevant schemes, and TNAU officials shared Kharif-season preparedness and cultivation insights. 114 farmers participated in the programme.



Training : Profitable Livestock Farming

A training on Profitable Livestock Farming for rural youth was organized on 30.06.2026 at the ICAR-KVK MYRADA campus, Gobichettipalayam. Dr.K.Karthik, Scientist (Animal Science) covered important livestock and poultry breeds, scientific management practices, fundamentals of profitable livestock farming, entrepreneurship opportunities, and newer feed-management and production technologies. 15 participants have participated in the event.



Farmers' Exposure Visit to KVK on Water Management and IoT-based Smart Irrigation

KVK organized a training-cum-exposure visit for farmers from the MYRADA Hosur Project at the KVK campus, Gobichettipalayam, on 08.04.2026, introducing promising water management practices with a focus on IoT-based smart irrigation automation and water-saving technologies at the instructional farm. The team also visited an IoT-based irrigation automation system at a farmer's field in Kallipatti village to learn about efficient water use. 32 farmers participated in the event.



DAEP Course Exposure Visit to Jain Irrigation Systems

As part of the Digital Agriculture Extension Promoter (DAEP) course, KVK organized an exposure visit to Jain Irrigation Systems, Udumalpet, on 15.05.2026 for KVK staff, entrepreneurs, FPO members and rural youth. Participants observed ultra-high-density and high-density mango planting, overhead sprinkler irrigation in sugarcane, various irrigation models, and the nursery unit, gaining hands-on exposure to precision farming and water management. 24 participants attended the programme.



District Zonal Meeting

KVK participated in the State Department of Agriculture's Zonal Meeting at Gobichettipalayam on 16.06.2026, presided over by Mr. Sivakumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, who briefed on fertilizer availability and soil health management; Mrs. Arvul Vadivu, Deputy Director (FTC), explained seed procurement and quality aspects. KVK scientists briefed about the balanced use of fertilizer and soil fertility management, 45 extension functionaries participated.



Seminar on Improved Production Technologies in Paddy

KVK, with the State Department of Agriculture and Coromandel Fertilizers, organized a paddy cultivation seminar at Kugalur village on 12.06.2026. KVK scientists covered recent high-yielding Kharif paddy varieties, integrated nutrient management, and pest and disease management; the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Gobi, explained government schemes and quality seed availability; and Coromandel International demonstrated Nano DAP and drone-spraying technologies for efficient nutrient application and crop protection. 146 farmers attended the seminar.



Popular Articles Published

- ⇒ Green manure & green leaf manure and its importance
- ⇒ Importance of Microgreens



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