

REPORTER

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Exhibition-cum-Farmers' Fair

KVK Erode, participated in an Exhibition-cum-Farmers' Fair on 4-5 January 2026 at Villarasampatti, Erode. KVK exhibited its technologies, flagship schemes, products of KVK and KVK-promoted entrepreneurs. Mrs. Vaanathi Srinivasan, Honourable MLA, inaugurated the exhibition and interacted with farmers and entrepreneurs. Dr. Saraswathi, Honourable MLA, Modakurichi, graced the occasion. KVK officials explained the technologies and entrepreneurship promotion activities. They also created awareness of the special features of the VB G RAM G scheme. The chief guests released a leaflet, which was distributed to farmers and communities.

The Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, visited the KVK stall. He honoured farmer Mr. V. C. Palanivel, who gifted 3 acres of land to KVK, MYRADA, Erode. Mrs. Sowmya (Hooga Seed Keepers), a KVK-promoted entrepreneur and



traditional seed conservator, received the Best Seed Conservator Farmer award at the state-level agricultural fair. Mrs. Savitha (Sri Banana Plus) received the Best Women Entrepreneur award. The KVK Head shared information on farmers' and entrepreneurs' products, farmer innovations and KVK technologies. More than 15,000 farmers visited the fair over the two days, including around 5,000 farmers from nearby districts, and gained knowledge of KVK technologies and services.



Farm Innovator Meet

KVK organized a Farm Innovator Meet on 23 March 2026 at KVK premises in association with ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad. Dr. P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, presided over the function and briefed about the identified different farm innovations and documented by KVK in the district. Dr. Vengadesh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad, explained NAARM's role in documenting and validating farmer and entrepreneur innovations. KVK promoted farmer innovators shared their experiences in organic farming banana-forest technology, turmeric harvesters, vermicompost, and farm stone removers. The entrepreneurs shared their experiences in beekeeping, banana-fibre value addition and cocoon-based handicrafts. A live demonstration of a low-cost incubator model was also conducted.



Inauguration of the Digital Agriculture Extension Promoter (DAEP) Course

A pilot course on the 'Digital Agriculture Extension Promoter' (DAEP) was inaugurated on 17 March 2026 at ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Erode (MYRADA), Gobichettipalayam. Dr. P. Alagesan delivered the welcome address, and special addresses on digital agriculture and AI in extension services were given by Dr. N. Sai Krishna (CEO, NSFI), Shri Arvind G. Risbud (ED, MYRADA), Dr. Satender Singh Arya (CEO, ASCI), Dr. E. Vedivel (CEO, Precision Agriculture FPO), and Dr. P. P. Murugan (DEE, TNAU). Guest of Honour Dr. Tamara Jackson (University of Adelaide, Australia) spoke on global collaboration in AI research for agriculture, while Chief Guest Dr. Shaik N. Meera (Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone X, Hyderabad) highlighted how AI is transforming farming through smart advisory services, precision agriculture, and better-informed decision-making. Technical sessions covered current trends in AI in agriculture, presented by Dr. N. Anandaraja and Dr. M.



Senthilkumar (TNAU), followed by a session by Dr. Ramadugu Praveen (Founder & CEO, Farm Vaidya) on generative AI and voice agents for farmers with limited digital access, along with interactive group discussions. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. N. Anandaraja and benefited a total of 65 participants.

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District Collector Visit and Tribal Farmers' Training

KVK, Erode, organized a training programme for tribal farmers on integrated crop management practices for pulses on 7 March 2026 at Tamarai karai village, Bargur. Thiru. S. Kandasamy, IAS, District Collector, Erode presided over the programme. KVK and NABARD officials explained the integrated tribal development programme being implemented in the tribal villages of Bargur.



Inputs were distributed to 300 tribal farm families. Dr. P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, explained the importance of pulses cultivation for soil fertility management. Mr. Ashok Kumar, DDM, NABARD, Erode, explained FPO and collective-marketing approaches. At the end of the programme, the District Collector distributed 3.0 tones of black gram seed, 3 quintals of bean seed, and two sets of solar fencing accessories for crop protection covering 62 acres.

Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems

ICAR-KVK, Erode District, took part in the Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems in March 2026 at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC), New Delhi. The KVK attended along with ATARI, Zone Hyderabad. Mrs. M. Siva, SMS (Home Science), and Mrs.K.Savitha, an entrepreneur in banana value addition, represented KVK Erode. The Honourable President of India inaugurated the conference and delivered the presidential address. Delegates from ICAR institutes and foreign faculty took part in various technical sessions.



A poster presentation was made on KVK's experience with the Agri-Entrepreneur Service Centre for promoting women entrepreneurs. Display charts highlighting KVK's bee-keeping activities were exhibited at the stall, along with activity charts of ATARI Zone X. Value-added products prepared by entrepreneurs were also displayed. The conference covered various topics related to women in the agri-food system. A research paper abstract was published in the Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026), titled 'Innovative Approaches for Women's Empowerment with Economic Inclusion: Agri-Entrepreneur Service Centre – KVK Experiences.' More than 2,000 participants attended the conference, including scientists from ICAR institutes, farmers, entrepreneurs, research students, and faculty members from foreign countries.

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Field Day - Cotton crop cultivation

KVK in coordination with the ICAR—CICR, Coimbatore, organized field-day on HDPS and ELS cotton cultivation on 3 February 2026 at Koochikallur village, and 11 February 2026 at Gettisumudram village in Anthiyur Block. Mr.R.D. Srinivasan, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK briefed about the pink bollworm management strategies. Dr.P.Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK delivered the presidential address and explained about the promotion of cotton cultivation in the district. On the occasion, leaflet on HDPS cotton cultivation and boll-rot management was released and distributed to farmers. Dr. Nalayani, Principal Scientist and Nodal Scientist, Erode District, explained ELS cotton techniques. 67 farmers were participated in this field day programme



Method Demonstration—Milk Replacer

KVK conducted demonstration on Milk Replacer at Chinnakoochikallur village on 11.3.2026. Farmers were first introduced to newer technologies in livestock and poultry. They were then shown how to use milk replacer and its importance during shortages of doe's milk. Also introduced new chelated mineral mixture, 'Fertmin Plus,' for better reproductive management. 53 farmers were participated and benefited.



International Women's Day Celebration

KVK organized International Women's Day on 8 March 2026 at the Community Managed Resource Centre, Kallipatti. The day's theme, 'Give to Gain,' was explained to participants. It emphasized that investing in women's and girls' education, resources, and employment benefits families and helps women lead safer lives. Women farmers were honoured for practicing natural farming and motivating other farm women. Krishi Sakhis promoted by KVK were honoured for their services in nutrition garden promotion, natural farming, and livelihood enhancement for SHG members. SHG women were honoured for their achievements in livelihood-development activities. 76 members from farmers' groups participated and benefited.



ARYA Youth - Capacity Building Programme

ATARI, Hyderabad, nominated a youth member of ARYA from KVK to attend a National Training-cum-Workshop at ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata. The workshop covered Natural Fibre-Based Vegan Leather and Low-Cost Biodegradable Flexible Composites. Mr. Utharakkannan, an ARYA youth member involved in banana-fibre extraction and by-product manufacturing, attended the workshop. He learnt about softening banana fibre and producing low-cost biodegradable flexible composites, along with related practical skills. The programme helped him upgrade his business and innovate technologies related to his profession.



Bhumi Suphosan Programme

KVK Erode organized a live-streaming of the Bhumi Suphosan inauguration programme on 19 March 2026 at the KVK premises. On the occasion, KVK organized a Bhumi Pooja at Kallipatti village for desilting village ponds under soil and water conservation activities. Farmers were trained on importance of soil and water conservation and soil fertility management, and producing on-farm organic inputs for soil health management. 75 farmers participated. Following this, KVK organized a one-month awareness campaign at the village level.



Method Demonstration—Soil Sampling

A method demonstration on soil sampling techniques was organized by KVK Scientists on 6 February 2026 at Urumampalayam village, Gobi Block in association with State Agriculture Department. Participants were shown the scientific method of collecting soil samples, and samples were collected from farmers' fields for testing. The importance of the Soil Health Card was also explained. It helps assess soil fertility, promote balanced nutrient management, and improve soil health and crop productivity. A total of 57 farmers participated.



Sensitization Workshop in Cotton Cultivation

KVK, in coordination with ICAR-CICR, Coimbatore, organized a sensitization workshop on HDPS and ELS cotton cultivation on 13 February 2026 at its Regional Station, Coimbatore. Dr. K. Sankaranarayanan, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and State Coordinator, NFSM-Cotton Project, briefed farmers on the farm implements and equipment used in cotton cultivation. Dr. Nalayani, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Nodal Scientist, Erode District, explained poly-mulching and drip-irrigation techniques. Dr. Manickam, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding and Genetics), explained recent cotton varieties and hybrids. Dr. Ramesh, Principal Scientist (Entomology), explained pest management, and Dr. Valarmathi, Scientist (Plant Pathology), explained disease management. Farmers were also shown cotton demonstration units. A total of 30 farmers attended.



Joint Field Visit - Groundnut Field



On 2 January 2026, a joint field visit was conducted in groundnut field at Mottanam village, Nambiyur Block in coordination with officials from the State Agriculture Department. The crop condition was assessed and farmers were advised to apply gypsum as a soil application at 40–45 days after sowing (DAS) to enhance pod development. They were also advised to spray TNAU Groundnut Rich as a foliar application. This helps correct micronutrient deficiencies and improves pod yield.

Training to Extension Functionaries

Training for extension functionaries was held at NDDB Regional Office, Chittode on 9.11.2026. Dr. K. Karthik (SMS, Animal Science) delivered a technical lecture by covered nutritional management, sex-sorted semen technology and SNP DNA microarray testing. He also covered calf rearing, value addition in milk, meat-based products, and waste-to-wealth management concept. Entrepreneurial opportunities in fodder-seed production were discussed, along with the sale of mini fodder kits for 10-cent models to small and marginal farmers. Finally, the role of extension functionaries in preparing bankable projects under NLM and other Central and State schemes was explained. 20 participants benefited from the programme.



KVK, Erode, organized one-day training for extension functionaries on 11 March 2026 at IAEC, Gobichettipalayam in association with ATMA. The sessions covered such as advanced production technologies for major crops and importance of natural farming. The officials were briefed about the KVK facilities, including soil and water testing and curcumin-analyzing laboratories and demonstration units. 34 officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments participated.

National Workshop -Freshwater Aquaculture Technology

A National Workshop on Freshwater Aquaculture Technology Dissemination in India was held virtually on 21 January 2026. The workshop aimed to strengthen the dissemination of ICAR-developed freshwater aquaculture technologies through KVKs. This helps enhance fish production and farmer income. KVKs share field-level experience, feedback, and best practices through zone-wise ATARI presentations and interactive sessions. The programme emphasized capacity building of KVK scientists. It also covered convergence with PMMSY and NFDB initiatives, and the formulation of a strategic roadmap for effective technology transfer to farmers. ATARI Directors, ICAR-CIFA scientists, KVKs, ICAR institutes, NFDB, and the Department of Fisheries (MoF&AHD) took part. A total of 310 members benefited from the programme.



Training on Vermi compost Production Techniques

ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Erode, organized one-day training programmes on vermicompost production at Erode on 29 January 2026 and at Kallipatti on 6 February 2026. Farmers were oriented on the importance of vermicompost in organic farming. Topics covered included site selection, layering of litter material, release of earthworms, bed maintenance, and earthworm multiplication techniques. Farmers also learned how to harvest matured compost for farm use and marketing. Successful entrepreneurs shared their experiences of the challenges and opportunities in vermicompost production. All participants were provided with silpaulin bags and earthworms to help start vermicompost enterprises at the farm level. A total of 126 farmers and entrepreneurs participated across both programmes.



Training on Micro Organism in Natural Farming

KVK, Erode, organized a training programme on the importance of microorganisms and their production and application in natural farming. It was held on 10 February 2026 at ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, in association with the AGARAM Foundation, Udumalpet. Mr. P. Pachiappan, SMS (Horticulture), ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Gobichettipalayam, welcomed the farmers and scientists. Dr. P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, ICAR-KVK, Gobi, presided over the function. He spoke on promoting organic and natural farming in Erode district, noting that many farmers had adopted natural farming and now serve as model farms for others. Dr. Durkkaianan, Associate Professor (Agronomy), KVK, TNAU, Pongalur, explained the role of microorganisms in soil health management. Dr. Abdul Kalam and Dr. Balakumar, both from the AGARAM Foundation, Udumalpet, explained natural farming technologies and microorganism production methods across various crops. A total of 80 farmers participated.



Training—Nutrition Garden Establishment

ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Erode, organized a one-day training programme on establishing nutrition gardens at Kallipatti on 30 January 2026. Participants learned the importance of establishing a nutrition garden at the household level. This helps ensure the nutritional security of families. The training covered cultivation of various vegetables, greens, and perennials, along with nutrient, irrigation, and pest and disease management. At the end of the programme, participants received a nutrition garden seed kit with 12 types of vegetable seeds and 4 types of vegetable seedlings. A total of 64 farmers and farm women participated



Training - Flower Cultivation and Value addition

A training programme on flower crop cultivation and value addition was held on 26 February 2026 at the Community Hall, Vadugapatti village, Modakurichi Block. It was organized by the Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, HCRI, Coimbatore, in association with KVK. Dr. Chitra, Associate Professor, welcomed the participants and farmers.



Mrs. C. K. Saraswathi, MLA, Modakurichi, Erode District, presided over the function and distributed bio-inputs and flower seedlings to trainees. Mr. P. Pachappan, SMS (Horticulture), explained the implementation of various programmes in Modakurichi Block, particularly for SC farmers. Dr. Karthikeyan, Assistant Professor, Department of Floriculture, explained the value-addition process for flower crops. As part of the training programme, organized an exhibition of value-added flower products for the benefit of farmers. 50 SC farmers and farm women have participated and benefited in this training programme.

Training—Value addition in Groundnut

On 9 February 2026, ICAR-KVK, MYRADA, Erode District, took part in a training programme on post-harvest management and value addition in groundnut at Nambiyur Block. It was organized by the State Department of Agriculture, Erode District. KVK experts explained decortating, grading, storage, and value addition in groundnut. They also explained the need and importance of FPOs for collective marketing of farmers' produce and value-added products. 25 farmers attended and benefited from the programme.



Training on Cassava Cultivation Technology and Input Distribution

ICAR-KVK, Erode, organized a training programme on tuber-crop cultivation technology and input distribution on 12.2.2026 at Thamarakarai village, Anthiyur Block in association with ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram for scheduled tribal farmers under the



TSP programme. Mr. M. Thirumoorthy, Farm Manager, IKVK, welcomed the participants and Scientists. Mr. P. Pachappan, SMS (Horticulture), KVK, Gobichettipalayam shared the experiences of OFT and FLD trials on cassava conducted by KVK. Dr. P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and

Head, presided over the function, spoke on promoting tuber crops in Erode district, and distributed inputs to tribal farmers. Dr. R. Muthuraj, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, explained the cultivation of various tuber crops and the implementation of the TSP programme across districts. Dr. Baskaran, Assistant Professor (Agronomy), KCA, Appakudal, explained macro and micronutrient deficiencies and their correction. Inputs such as crowbars, spades, chemical fertilizer, hose pipes, battery-operated sprayers, micronutrients, and organic pesticides were distributed to tribal farmers. 78 tribal farmers participated.

Popular Articles Published

- ⇒ Booklets on Microgreens cultivation; Spices & Aromatic crop; Vegetable cultivation; IoT based Smart Farming;
- ⇒ Leaflets on nutrient management in Traditional Paddy; HDPS in cotton cultivation; Boll rot management in Cotton; Pest and disease management in Cotton; Quail rearing technology
- ⇒ Research articles on Soil health management under Natural farming; Importance of soil organic carbon for soil fertility and crop productivity; Innovative approaches for women empowerment with economic inclusion : Agri entrepreneur service center



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