



ICAR-IIGR

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Newsletter



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1. Farmer's Training Programmes on Advanced Groundnut Cultivation in Gujarat with KVKs

Seven farmer orientation cum training programmes on advanced groundnut cultivation practices were organized during July to September 2025 in collaboration with KVKs of Gujarat. The programmes were conducted at KVK Jamnagar (15.08.2025, 16.08.2025, 18.08.2025), KVK Rajkot (05.08.2025, 05.09.2025), and KVK Kutch (30.07.2025, 22.08.2025). A total of 386 farmers participated in the programmes. Trainings focused on improved production technologies, nutrient and weed management, pest and disease management, and other scientific practices for enhancing groundnut productivity and profitability. Interactive discussions and demonstrations helped farmers gain practical knowledge for adoption in their fields.



2. Visits of Union Agriculture Minister at ICAR-IIGR

Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited ICAR-IIGR on 19th July 2025. During the visit, the Minister reviewed the institute's research and development activities related to groundnut improvement and sustainable agriculture. The Minister appreciated the efforts of ICAR-IIGR in developing high oleic groundnut varieties, climate-resilient technologies, and farmer-centric innovations aimed at improving productivity, profitability, and nutritional quality. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the institute's contributions towards strengthening the groundnut sector and supporting farmers through advanced technologies and value-added interventions. Minister or mtecatid with farmers and hosted them to take up groundnut cultivation.



3. Exposure Visit of FPO Farmers from IFFDC, Amreli to ICAR-IIGR

Two exposure visits of farmers associated with FPOs under the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Development Foundation (IFFDC), Amreli, were organized at ICAR-IIGR on 23rd and 28th July 2025. Each visit was attended by 15 farmers and comprised of expert lectures on new groundnut varieties, improved production practices, and disease and pest management. A special session on post-harvest processing, value addition, marketing, and export potential of groundnut provided insights into enhancing farmers' income through diversification and better market linkages. The programme included an interactive field visit, enabling participants to observe improved cultivation practices and ongoing research activities. During the discussions, the IFFDC organization expressed keen interest in taking up a structured seed production programme of improved groundnut varieties in collaboration with IIGR to strengthen quality seed availability among FPO farmers.



4. Exposure Visit of NDDDB and KMF Officials to ICAR-IIGR

An exposure visit of officials from the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), along with the officers from the Karnataka Milk Federation and progressive farmers, was organized at ICAR-IIGR on 5th August 2025. The included technical lectures on new groundnut varieties and disease and pest management in groundnut, highlighting recent advancements in seed production and crop protection strategies. During the discussions, the visiting officials and farmers expressed keen interest in taking up seed production of newly released groundnut varieties to strengthen quality seed availability in their respective regions. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between NDDDB and IIGR to strengthen collaboration in seed production, technology dissemination, and capacity building initiatives. Participants visited farmers' fields in nearby villages to observe improved cultivation practices and technology dissemination at the field level. The visit facilitated meaningful knowledge exchange among scientists, officials, and farmers, strengthening collaborative efforts toward enhancing groundnut productivity and quality seed systems.



5. Independence Day Celebrations at ICAR-IIGR and its Regional Research Stations

ICAR-IIGR and its Regional Research Stations (RRSs) celebrated the 78th Independence Day on 15th August 2025 with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The National Flag was hoisted at the institute and its regional stations, followed by addresses highlighting the importance of dedication, innovation, and collective efforts towards enhancing groundnut area, production, and productivity in the country. Scientists, staff members, and students participated actively in the celebrations, reaffirming their commitment towards agricultural research and national development.





6. Exposure Visit cum Skill Training Programme Conducted for Farmers and KVK Personnel from East Medinipur, West Bengal

ICAR-IIGR organized an exposure visit cum skill training programme during 26th–28th August 2025 for six progressive farmers and two Subject Matter Specialists from KVK Purba Medinipur, West Bengal. The programme focused on improved groundnut varieties, seed production and quality seed management, advanced agronomic practices, integrated pest and disease management, and value addition in groundnut. Participants also visited the institute research farm and a local groundnut processing industry to gain practical exposure on processing and value addition. The programme strengthened participants' knowledge and technical skills for improving groundnut cultivation and livelihood opportunities.



7. Kisan Goshthi on High Oil Producing Groundnut conducted at Targhadi, Rajkot

ICAR–IIGR organized a Kisan Goshthi on 30th August 2025 at Targhadi village of Padadhari taluka, Gujarat, focusing on high oil-producing groundnut varieties and improved production technologies. A total of 150 seed producer farmers from Rajkot, Jamnagar, Morbi, and Amreli districts participated in the programme. The programme covered improved groundnut varieties with higher oil content, breeder seed production processes, and management of major diseases and pests in groundnut. The event provided an effective platform for interaction between scientists and farmers and enhanced awareness on technologies for improving productivity and oil yield in groundnut.



8. NABL Awareness Session under “Gunvatta Yatra” at ICAR–IIGR

An awareness session on NABL accreditation was organized on 10th September 2025 at ICAR–IIGR under the “Gunvatta Yatra” initiative of NABL, Ahmedabad. Joint Director, NABL–QCI, Ahmedabad delivered an expert lecture on the importance, procedures, and benefits of NABL accreditation in ensuring quality and reliability in laboratory testing and calibration. A total of 23 officers from forensic science and the state agriculture department participated in the programme and gained valuable insights into quality management systems, laboratory best practices, and accreditation procedures.





9. Celebration of Hindi Saptah at ICAR-IIGR

Hindi Saptah was successfully organized at the ICAR-IIGR from 16th-22th September 2025. The programme commenced in the presence of the institute's officers and staff members. Various competitions including essay writing, Hindi poetry recitation, and Hindi quiz were organized during the week, in which employees enthusiastically participated. During the valedictory programme, prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners. On the occasion, employees were encouraged to promote the use of Hindi in official work. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.



10. Live Streaming Programme on PMKDDY, Pulses Mission and Other Schemes

A live-streaming programme on PM Krishi Dhan Dhanya Yojana (PMKDDY), the Pulses Mission, and other government schemes was organized on 11th October 2025 at the ICAR-IIGR. The programme witnessed active participation from farmers, researchers, and local representatives. A total of 138 participants attended the event, including 64 farmers and other stakeholders. During the programme, emphasis was laid on the vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* in agriculture and the importance of self-reliance in farming systems. Discussions highlighted various initiatives aimed at improving pulse production and promoting sustainable agricultural development. Farmers were encouraged to adopt climate-resilient and eco-friendly practices such as reduced pesticide use, natural farming, tree plantation, and drip irrigation. Technical sessions focused on advanced groundnut production technologies, including improved high-yielding varieties, bio fertilizers, seed treatment methods, and scientific crop management practices for enhancing productivity and profitability. The programme effectively combined policy awareness with scientific interventions, motivating farmers towards sustainable and self-reliant agriculture.



11. Celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and Kisan Gosthi at ICAR-IIGR

ICAR-IIGR celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on 31st October 2025 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and to reaffirm the spirit of national unity and integrity. The celebration was organized along with a Kisan Gosthi on the theme “Evaluation, Outreach and Upscaling of Fermented Organic Manures for Sustainably Enhancing Productivity and Reducing Environmental Footprints of Predominant Cropping Systems in India.” The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from scientists, staff members, and 151 farmers, including 90 female and 61 male farmers. The programme included a lecture highlighting the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel towards national integration. Participants also took the Ekta Diwas pledge and joined a Unity Run organized within the institute campus. Technical discussions during the Kisan Gosthi focused on sustainable agricultural practices, use of fermented organic manures, and environmentally friendly crop production technologies aimed at enhancing productivity and reducing environmental footprints in farming systems.



12. ICAR–IIGR Celebrated 150 Years of “Vande Mataram”

ICAR–IIGR celebrated 150 glorious years of “Vande Mataram” on 7th November 2025 with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Scientists, staff members, and students participated in the programme organized to commemorate the historic national song that symbolizes unity, pride, and love for the motherland. The programme highlighted the significance of “Vande Mataram” in inspiring patriotism and national integration. Participants collectively paid tribute to the spirit of the nation and reaffirmed their commitment towards national development and service to the farming community.



13. Prime Minister's 21st Installment of PM-KISAN and Field Day on Improved Groundnut Production Practices

A programme on “Prime Minister's 21st Installment of PM-KISAN and Field Day on Improved Production Practices in Groundnut” was organized on 19th November 2025 at Alidhra village with participation of around 120 farmers from nearby villages. The programme included lectures on improved groundnut production technologies, soil health management, and scientific crop production practices for enhancing productivity and sustainability. Farmers were also sensitized about the nutritional importance of groundnut and groundnut oil as valuable sources of protein and edible oil in daily diets. A live screening of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address during the release of the 21st installment of the PM-KISAN scheme was organized, which generated keen interest among the participating farmers. The programme successfully created awareness regarding government initiatives and advanced groundnut cultivation practices for improving farmers' livelihoods and agricultural productivity.



14. Mini Oil Mill Initiative by ICAR-IIGR for Farmer's Income Enhancement

With support from the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Unit of ICAR-IIGR a Mini Oil Mill was established on 20th November 2025 at Mendarda and is being operated by Madhuvanti Farmers Producer Company Ltd. (FPO). The unit provides affordable oil extraction services and assured returns from oilcake purchase, benefiting groundnut farmers through local processing and value addition. The FPO mainly processes high oleic groundnut varieties Girnar-4 and Girnar-5 developed by ICAR-IIGR, known for their superior oil quality and market demand. The initiative has helped reduce processing costs, improve farmer income, promote collective marketing, and strengthen rural entrepreneurship and value-chain development in Mithapur and nearby villages.





15. ICAR–IIGR Celebrated Swachhata Pakhwada

ICAR-IIGR, organized Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th-31st December 2025 with various activities promoting cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental sustainability among staff, students, and rural communities. A Swachhata Awareness Programme was conducted at Ivanagar village, where villagers participated in a signature campaign and were sensitized about sanitation, waste management, and personal hygiene. Awareness activities on sewerage and water supply systems were also undertaken, along with distribution of pamphlets on wastewater recycling and safe sanitation practices. An expert lecture on plastic waste management highlighted the harmful effects of single-use plastics and emphasized eco-friendly alternatives, composting, and organic waste utilization. In addition, a Swachhata Rally involving scientists, staff, and students spread awareness on cleanliness and environmental protection across the institute campus and nearby areas. The programme concluded with a closing ceremony, where the Director appreciated the active participation of all stakeholders and emphasized the importance of sustained cleanliness and sanitation efforts for a healthy and green environment.





16. ICAR-IIGR Celebrated Kisan Diwas

ICAR-IIGR organized Kisan Diwas / Kisan Samman Diwas on 23rd December 2025 at Peanut Model Village Mithapur under the “Swachhata” Pakhwada initiative. The programme included awareness lectures on cleanliness, agricultural waste management, hygienic farming practices, water harvesting, and the VG-G RAM-G Scheme. Pamphlets were distributed and hoardings installed in Panchayat areas to enhance outreach. Farmers also shared successful “Swachhata” practices, and progressive farmers were felicitated for their contributions towards cleanliness and sanitation in agriculture. A total of 72 farmers participated in the programme, which helped strengthen awareness on “Swachhata”, sustainable agriculture, and community participation.



17. Training under FLD Monitoring of and Seed Production Programme during *Kharif* 2025 at Bikaner

ICAR-IIGR, RRS, Bikaner, monitored 678 Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and seed production programmes during *Kharif* 2025 across Bikaner district. Demonstrations of Girnar-4 and Girnar-5 along with recommended production technologies were evaluated at pod development stage, showing generally good crop stand and bearing (25–35 pods per plant). Localized incidences of white grub, *Spodoptera*, termite, root rot, and leaf blight were observed in some fields. Iron chlorosis and boron deficiency (hollow heart) were also noticed, and appropriate plant protection and nutrient management measures were advised. Boron kits were distributed to farmers to address nutrient deficiency. Breeder, TFL, and participatory seed production plots of Girnar-2 and Girnar-4 were also reviewed. Two Farmers' field trainings were also organized, which benefited over 100 farmers with guidance on improved varieties, quality seed production, and recommended packages and practices for enhancing groundnut productivity.



18. Groundnut Cultivation Trainings at West Bengal in Collaboration with FPOs

ICAR-IIGR, organized a series of training programmes in West Bengal to strengthen farmers' capacity in scientific groundnut cultivation. The programmes were conducted in collaboration with local FPOs and NGOs, with active coordination support from the Regional Research Station, Medinipur (RRS, Medinipur). The trainings were conducted in association with SAMAJH NGO, Keshpur Vivekananda FPC, WBADMIP, Aloy Phera FPC, Shirshi Farmers Club, and Agro Digital FPC, ensuring wide outreach and farmer participation. The programmes were specifically organized for farmers to whom groundnut seed had been supplied by ICAR-IIGR under its Front-Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and SCSP/TSP schemes. Key sessions focused on improved groundnut production technologies, including selection of high-yielding varieties, seed treatment, integrated nutrient and weed management, pest and disease management, water management, and post-harvest practices. Emphasis was also laid on climate-resilient agronomic practices and enhancing productivity through scientific interventions.





19. Rabi-Summer 2025-26 FLD allotment

ICAR-IIGR advanced groundnut cultivation in the *Rabi*-Summer 2025-26 seasons by providing 5017 FLDs among different traditional *Rabi*-Summer areas of India. The new technology promoted in *Kharif* groundnut was area-specific high-yielding varieties. New varieties of Girnar-4, K 1812, VRI-10, Dh 256, TAG 73, GG 37 were distributed among the farming communities of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

States	No. of FLD	Centre	Varieties
Rabi 2025-26 allotment			
Telangana	60	RARS, Palem	K 1812
Andhra Pradesh	566	RRS, Anantapur	Girnar 4
	221		Dh 256
West Bengal	88	RRS, Medinipur	VRI 10
	200		TAG 73
Tamil Nadu	88	ARS, Vridhhachalam	VRI 10
Summer 2026 allotment			
Gujarat	976	IIGR, Junagadh	TAG 73
	30		Girnar 4
	30		VRI 11
	30		GG 37
Tamil Nadu	1184		TAG 73
Uttar Pradesh	160		TAG 73
			GG 37
Madhya Pradesh	100		TAG 73
West Bengal	910	RRS, Medinipur	K 1812
	374		TAG 73
Total	5017		

Inputs - Ms Adupa Shanmuka and Dr. Aaradhana Chilwal

20. Seed Distribution under SCSP/TSP Program

Massive seed distribution program undertaken by ICAR-IIGR under SCSP/TSP/NEH program, covering 203.9 tonnes of quality groundnut seed worth ₹2.73 crore supplied to 3,833 beneficiary farmers across multiple states. The program included major varieties such as TAG 73, Girnar-5 and K 1812, reaching regions like Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and NEH centres. This large-scale initiative aimed to promote high-yielding varieties and enhance groundnut productivity nationwide.

State	FPO/ Centre	Variety	Quantity of seed(q)	Total Fund	Beneficiary farmers	
Odisha	Back to Village FPO	K 1812	120	1368000	200	
	Bhuban FPO		115	1495000	192	
Telangana	Palem Centre	Girnar 5	47	573050	79	
	Palem Centre	K 1812	250	3250000	417	
	Palem Centre		204	2648100	340	
West Bengal	Green farm	TAG 73	255	2634150	425	
	Sabuj FPO		129	1332570	215	
	Shirshi FPO		106	1094980	177	
	Keshpur FPO		15	154950	25	
	Samajh FPO		20	206600	33	
	Agro Digital FPO		27	278910	45	
	Aloy Phera FPO		21	216930	35	
	WBADMIP FPO		27	278910	45	
Tamil Nadu	Girivalam FPO		150	1549500	250	
	Girivalam FPO		10	100201	16	
	Tindivnanam Oil plam FPO		92	955422	154	
	Parangipettai FPO		85	878050	142	
NEH KVKs and FPOs				627	8298135	1045
Total			2300 q	Rs 2,73,13,458	3833	

Inputs - Dr. Aaradhana Chilwal, Ms Adupa Shanmuka, Hardi Kansagara





21. Efficacy of Triple Superphosphate (TSP) in Enhancing Productivity and Phosphorus Use Efficiency in Groundnut

The ongoing experiment, funded by OCP Support Services in collaboration with IARI, New Delhi, aims to assess the efficacy of triple superphosphate (TSP) in predominant cropping systems to enhance productivity, phosphorus use efficiency, and economic returns. Initiated in *Kharif* 2024 at a moderately fertile site using a CRBD design with 13 treatments, the study incorporates different phosphorus sources (DAP, SSP, TSP) along with supplementary inputs such as FYM, PSB, foliar sprays, and microbial inoculants. Monitoring of the experimental plot was done by OCP team in *Kharif* 2024. As per the second-season result (*Kharif* 2025) after completion of groundnut crop, groundnut under a groundnut–mustard cropping system, the treatment receiving recommended N + P (TSP) + K along with sulphur and foliar spray of MAP recorded the highest pod yield (2033 kg ha^{-1}), kernel yield (1436 kg ha^{-1}), biological yield (4771 kg ha^{-1}), and harvest index (42.57%). Treatments integrated with PSB, FYM, and Rhizobium also produced significantly higher yields compared to control. Importantly, phosphorus supplied through TSP and DAP performed statistically at par for yield and economic parameters, indicating comparable efficiency of both phosphorus sources under the prevailing conditions. Economic analysis revealed that the TSP + sulphur + foliar MAP treatment achieved the highest gross returns ($\text{₹}169,575 \text{ ha}^{-1}$), net returns ($\text{₹}121,311 \text{ ha}^{-1}$), and B:C ratio (3.56). Biofertilizer-based treatments was also recorded with higher profitability. The study demonstrated that integrated phosphorus management with sulphur and foliar nutrition effectively enhanced yield, nutrient use efficiency, and profitability of groundnut.



Inputs - Dr. Aaradhana Chilwal, Dr. C S Praharaj, Dr. Kiran Reddy, Hardi Kansagara

22. Rare Incidence of Millipedes Observed in Groundnut

Breeder Seed Production and AICRP-Groundnut trials monitoring team visited Front Line Demonstrations conducted by Oilseeds Research Station, Jalgaon (MH) during *Kharif* 2025. In the groundnut field of Shri. Chandrashekhar Ravindra Jawale of Hingona (village & post), Yawal (Taluka), Jalgaon (Dist.), severe incidence of millipedes was observed to the tune of 30-45%. Millipedes (Class: Diplopoda; Phylum: Arthropoda) and were characterized by having two pairs of jointed legs on most body segments. They are non-venomous compared to their cousin class Centipedes. They are primarily detritivores and some herbivores.

They were found voraciously feeding on groundnut foliage and flowers (Fig. 1). They were also found feeding on green gram foliage (Fig. 3 & 4) and pods as well as maize cobs (Fig. 5). Farmer explained that, millipede infestation was often observed in his fields over the years. The possible reasons for this repeated infestation over the years was, due to field shares its border with a forest area, availability of decaying leaves, and high humid conditions. There are no standard management practices recommended for millipedes in groundnut. The following measures may be taken to reduce millipede infestation in groundnut: (1) deep summer ploughings, (2) avoiding frequent irrigations, (3) removing decaying leaves from the field, (4) proper weed management and clean cultivation, (5) digging 1-ft deep trench around the field, and (6) soil application of Carbofuran 03 % CG.

Inputs: Nataraja MV (IIGR, Junagadh), Maheswara Reddy P (RARS, Tirupati), Game BC and Dahat DV (ORS, Jalgaon)



Fig. 1: Millipedes devouring groundnut foliage

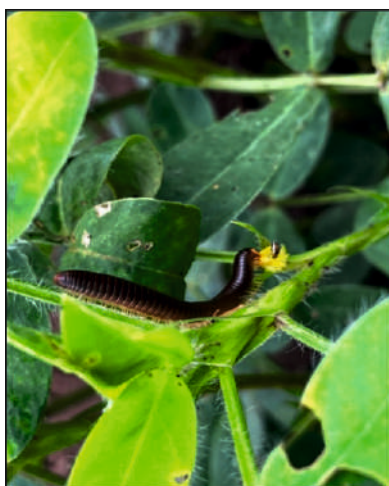


Fig. 2: Millipedes devouring groundnut flower



Fig. 3: Millipedes on green gram foliage

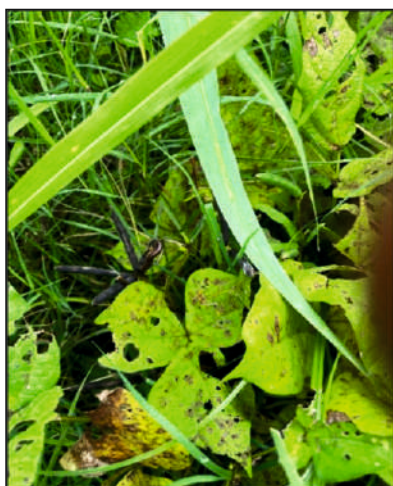


Fig. 4: Millipedes on green gram pods

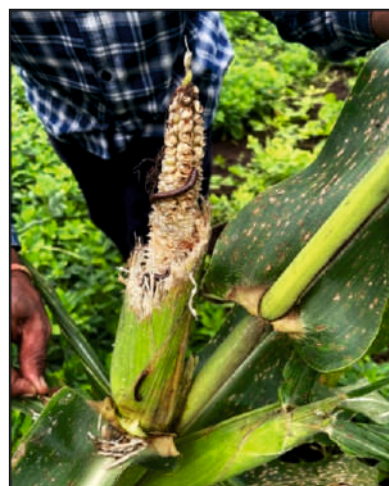


Fig. 5: Millipedes on maize cob

Joining/ Transfers/ Superannuation of ICAR-IIGR staff

Joining

1. **Durgesh Kumar Tripathi**

Designation: Senior Scientist
(Agricultural Biotechnology)
Joining Date: 16.05.2025



2 **Chirag Kumar**

Mansukhbhai Bhaliya
Designation: Senior Scientist
(Plant Pathology)
Joining Date: 25.06.2025



3 **Nilima Karmakar**

Designation: Senior Scientist
(Plant Biochemistry)
Joining Date: 27.06.2025



Transfers

1 **Dr. G. A. Rajanna**

Designation: Scientist (Agronomy)
Relieving Date: 09.06.2025
Transferred to ICAR-Indian Institute
of Spices Research,
RS, Madikeri (Karnataka)



Superannuation

1 **Sh.V.N. Kodiatar**

Designation: T-1
Section: Farm
Superannuation
Date: 31st May 2025



2 **Mrs. D. S. Sarvaiya**

Designation: SSS
Section: Establishment
Superannuation
Date: 31st May 2025



3 **Sh.V.M. Chawada**

Designation: SSS
Section: Library/C&B
Superannuation
Date: 31st May 2025



Editors

Dr Durgesh Kumar Tripathi, Dr Aaradhana Chilwal,
Dr Raja Ram Choudhary, Dr Nilima Karmakar,
Dr James M, Dr S K Bera

Published by

Director, ICAR- IIGR

Contact details

Dr. S K Bera,

Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Groundnut Research, Junagadh

Email: director.groundnut@gmail.com

Phn: 0285-2677201, 0285-2677202