

ICAR-IIGR

Volume XXIV (1) January to June 2025

Newsletter



ICAR-Indian Institute of Groundnut Research

(An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institute)

Ivnagar Road, Junagadh-362 015, Gujarat, India





ICAR-IIGR

Volume XXIV (1) January to June 2025

Newsletter



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Inauguration of Regional Research Station at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

The ICAR–Indian Institute of Groundnut Research (ICAR-IIGR), Junagadh, is a premier research institute under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The Regional Research Station (RRS) of ICAR-IIGR at Anantapur was inaugurated on 4th January, 2025 at 10:30 AM at Rekulakunta village, Bukkarayasamudram Mandal, Anantapur, in the gracious presence of Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE, and Director General, ICAR, The event was graced by eminent dignitaries, including Dr. R. Sarada Jayalakshmi Devi, Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU; Dr. S. N. Sushil, Director, ICAR-NBAIR; Dr. Manish Pandey, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT; and Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, ICAR-IIGR. Also present were Dr. P. V. Satyanarayan, Director of Research, ANGRAU; Dr. K. S. S. Naik, Former Associate Dean; Dr. M. Johnson, Associate Director of Research; Dr. Vijay Shankar Babu, Principal Scientist; and Dr. K. Subramanyam, Principal Scientist from ANGRAU, along with Mr. G. S. S. Srinivas, Executive Engineer, CPWD, Kurnool Division. Welcoming the dignitaries and farmers, Dr. Himanshu Pathak highlighted that the establishment of this research station would greatly benefit groundnut farmers by facilitating region-specific research and technology dissemination. To mark the occasion, an exhibition was organized by ICAR-IIGR and ANGRAU showcasing advanced agricultural technologies developed by scientists for the benefit of the farming community.



Capacity Building Trainings for Odisha Farmers on Improved Groundnut Production Technologies

one-day training programs on "Improved Groundnut Production Technologies" were successfully organized in collaboration with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) on 8th January, 2025 at Angul and on 10th January, 2025 at Jajpur, and Dhenkanal districts of Odisha. The trainings were conducted physically by Back to Village FPO, Rasulpur FPO, and Bhuban FPO respectively, with active participation from local farmers. Subject matter experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), and the State Agriculture Department delivered technical sessions covering key aspects such as agronomic practices, weed management, and pest and disease control in groundnut. A video presentation on farm mechanization in groundnut was also showcased to highlight the importance of reducing the cost of cultivation and enhancing profitability. The interactive discussion and feedback session facilitated farmer engagement and knowledge exchange.



Demonstration of Laser Land Leveller at Model Peanut Village, Mithapur, Junagadh, Gujarat

On 8th January, 2025, a demonstration of the Laser Land Leveller was organized in Model Peanut Village, Mithapur. Based on the recommendations of the RAC, two fields from the village were selected for the activity. The demonstration aimed to showcase the benefits of precise land levelling for improved crop performance. Experts provided a detailed explanation of the equipment's working mechanism and demonstrated its performance on a pre-selected plot. The practical session also covered important aspects such as cost-effectiveness, equipment availability and potential subsidies, enabling farmers to make informed decisions about adopting this technology.



HDPE Bag Distribution for Better Postharvest Management in Model Peanut Village, Mithapur

On 8th January 2025, following the recommendations of the RAC, HDPE bag samples were distributed in Model Peanut Village, Mithapur to promote improved postharvest practices. These strong, moisture-resistant bags help reduce storage and transportation losses, preserve seed quality, and extend shelf life of Groundnut. This initiative supports farmers in maintaining the value of their produce and achieving better prices in the market.



Research Advisory Committee meeting held at ICAR-IIGR

The 26th RAC meeting of IIGR was held during 21st–22nd January, 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. A.R. Pathak, Former Vice Chancellor of JAU, Junagadh and NAU, Navsari. The Committee critically reviewed the progress of research activities undertaken by the Institute and its Regional Research Stations (RRSs), and provided valuable suggestions/recommendations for any necessary mid-course corrections or modifications. Scientists of the Institute received well-considered directions for enhancing their efficiency in meeting the expectations of the farming community, while also addressing the broader requirements of the commodity and the Oilseeds Mission.



Celebration of Republic Day at IIGR and its Regional Research Stations

ICAR-IIGR celebrated Republic Day on 26th January, 2025 with events organized across its locations in Junagadh (Gujarat), Bikaner (Rajasthan), Medinipur (West Bengal), and Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh). At the main campus in Junagadh, Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering of staff and school children. In his address, Dr. Bera highlighted the institute's significant achievements and shared future plans aimed at expanding the area under groundnut cultivation, increasing production, and improving productivity across the country. At the Regional Research Stations in Bikaner, West Medinipur, and Anantapur, the respective Heads also hoisted the National Flag and led the celebrations.





Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programmes on Groundnut Cultivation Practices at Bhavnagar

Under the NFSM-FLD Groundnut initiative, ICAR-IIGR, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhavnagar, and Lokbharti Gramvidyapith Trust, organized two Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programmes on 30th January, 2025 at Talaja village and 31st January, 2025 at Kalsar village, Bhavnagar district. The programmes, attended by around 136 farmers in total (70 at Talaja and 66 at Kalsar), aimed to promote high-yielding groundnut varieties, recommended agronomic practices, and integrated crop management strategies. Sessions included lectures, interactive discussions, field demonstrations, hands-on training, and exposure visits. Farmers received practical guidance on seed treatment, pest and weed management, and innovative techniques such as the use of the Gruber weeder. Special emphasis was placed on addressing region-specific challenges, including white grub infestation, and fostering adaptive farming practices. Post-training feedback indicated significant knowledge gains among participants, with farmers highlighting the need for more localized communication, continuous follow-ups, the formation of farmer groups, and stronger linkages with research institutions like ICAR-IIGR, Junagadh.



Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programmes on Groundnut Cultivation Practices at Regional Research Station, Medinipur

Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programmes were organized on 7th and 8th February, 2025 with the objective of enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills in advanced groundnut cultivation techniques for improved productivity and profitability. Both programmes featured exhibitions showcasing modern implements and mechanization tools used in groundnut farming. Technical sessions during the events provided comprehensive guidance on best agronomic practices, soil and nutrient management, and integrated pest and disease management, thereby encouraging the adoption of scientific technologies in groundnut cultivation. The programmes collectively witnessed the active participation of around 170 farmers from various villages of Medinipur.



Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programme on Groundnut Cultivation Practices at Kutch

A training programme on “Cultivation Practices in Groundnut,” organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kutch-I, in collaboration with the Rural Agro Research & Development Society under ICAR-IIGR, was held on 20th February, 2025 at Vithon village, Nakhatrana, Kutch. The event aimed to enhance farmers' knowledge on high-yielding groundnut varieties, recommended cultivation practices, and integrated pest and crop management. A total of 60 farmers actively participated. The training combined lectures, interactive discussions, practical demonstrations, hands-on sessions, and field visits. Farmers learned essential skills, including proper seed treatment with fungicides, insecticides, and bio-fertilizers, as well as effective weed and pest control methods such as installing pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps to manage sucking pests. Key regional challenges, such as rising irrigation water salinity and the shrinking area under summer groundnut, were addressed, with emphasis on adopting salinity-tolerant varieties. Pre- and post-training assessments showed significant improvement in farmers' understanding.



Farmers Orientation cum Training Programme on Groundnut Cultivation Practices at Talod

In collaboration with ICAR-IIGR, Junagadh, the Cotton Research Station, S.D. Agricultural University, Talod, organized two phases of Farmers' Orientation-cum-Training Programmes on 3rd and 4th March, 2025, benefiting 120 farmers. Phase I focused on advanced agro-techniques for summer groundnut cultivation, covering seed production, fertilizer and weed management, pest and disease control, and innovations like seed treatment for white grub management and use of automatic Jivamrut plants. Phase II emphasized natural farming practices, including Biochar pits, organic pest control methods, and live demonstrations on seed treatment. Both phases included field visits, practical demonstrations, and interactive discussions, receiving positive feedback from farmers, with follow-up activities planned to support adoption of improved practices.



Farmers' Awareness-cum-Training Programme under Agri Business Incubation (ABI)

The Farmers' Awareness-cum-Training Programme under the Agri Business Incubation (ABI) initiative was conducted on 12th March, 2025 to promote sustainable farming practices that enhance soil health and boost agricultural productivity. Experts demonstrated the preparation and application of Jeevamrit and Ghanajeevamrit, two organic formulations known to regenerate soil life, improve fertility, and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. Dr. C. S. Praharaj, Principal Scientist, Agronomy Department, ICAR-IIGR, shared valuable insights on natural farming and the use of bio-fertilizers. The programme included practical demonstrations and hands-on sessions, equipping farmers with eco-friendly techniques to ensure long-term soil vitality and higher crop yields.



Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Groundnut

Maharana Pratap Agricultural University, Udaipur, hosted the Annual Group Meeting (AGM) of the AICRP on Groundnut from 18th to 20th March, 2025. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, ADG (Oilseeds & Pulses), with virtual addresses by Dr. D.K. Yadav, DDG (Crop Science), and Dr. Ajeet Kumar Karnatak, Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT. Dr. Yadav stressed the need to enhance national oil production, while Dr. Gupta highlighted groundnut's nutritional value, role in India's oil basket, and production challenges. Dr. S.K. Bera, Director, ICAR-IIGR, noted the shift of cultivation to non-traditional states and stable production trends. The 3-day meeting saw participation from eminent scientists, experts, and over 100 researchers from ICAR and SAUs. Centre performance was reviewed, with session-wise presentations in Crop Improvement, Production, Protection, FLDs, and BSP. The AGM recommended three new varieties, eight crop production technologies, and one crop protection technology. Best-performing centres were felicitated, and 10 new publications were released. The technical programme for 2025–26 was finalized.



Exposure Visit of Khambhaliya FPC to IIGR, Junagadh

A one-day exposure visit was organized on 26th March, 2025 for 50 farmers of Khambhaliya Farmer Producer Company (FPC), Jamnagar, to the ICAR-Indian Institute of Groundnut Research (IIGR), Junagadh. During the visit, farmers were familiarized with various ongoing research and extension programs at IIGR aimed at enhancing groundnut productivity and profitability. They were also briefed on the latest varietal, agronomic, and pest management recommendations for improved groundnut cultivation. Dr. S.K. Bera, Director, IIGR, interacted with the farmers and motivated them to adopt scientific practices and increase groundnut acreage for better returns. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Khambhaliya FPC and IIGR to facilitate formal collaboration for future joint activities in technology transfer, seed distribution, and capacity building.



Farmers' Awareness Meetings Organized across Saurashtra Region

A series of farmers' awareness meetings were conducted across 35 villages in Junagadh, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Gir Somnath, Amreli, Porbandar, and Devbhoomi Dwarka districts from 15th February to 25th April, 2025. The program reached out to nearly 1,100 farmers, providing them with valuable information on improved groundnut varieties and production technologies. During these meetings, pamphlets on Girnar 4 and Girnar 5 were distributed and farmers were sensitized about the superior traits and cultivation practices of these varieties. The sessions also included discussions on groundnut production technology, aiming to enhance productivity and profitability for farmers in the region. The awareness activities were jointly conducted by Mr. P.V Zala (Farm Superintendent) and Mr. Kiran Solanki (YP-II, Seed Project), ensuring effective farmer engagement and knowledge dissemination.



Kisan Mela cum Exhibition at IIGR

A Kisan Mela cum Exhibition was organized on 8th May, 2025 at ICAR-IIGR, Junagadh, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of around 300 farmers from various districts of Gujarat, including Jamnagar, Dwarka, Gir Somnath, Porbandar, Rajkot, Amreli, and Junagadh. Notably, 39 women farmers from Jamnagar district also took part in the event. The program featured expert lectures on the significance of Girnar 4 and Girnar 5 groundnut varieties, application of nutmagic, seed treatment protocols, and white grub management. Shri P.V. Zala emphasized the potential of Girnar varieties in boosting productivity and income. Several farmers shared their success stories and profits earned through seed production of Girnar 4 and Girnar 5 in collaboration with IIGR. The event also highlighted various farmer-benefit schemes being implemented by IIGR under Government of India initiatives. Shri Purushottam shared his journey in natural farming and its profitability. Dr. S.K. Bera, Director, IIGR, motivated farmers to expand groundnut cultivation. Additionally, nine agri-input companies showcased their products including seeds, fertilizers, biofertilizers, pesticides, and farm implements, providing farmers a valuable opportunity to explore the latest technologies. during the occasion.



ICAR-IIGR, RRS, Bikaner Organized Kisan Gosthi

The ICAR–Indian Institute of Groundnut Research (IIGR), Regional Research Station, Bikaner, organized a Groundnut Kisan Gosthi at RRS-IIGR, Bikaner during May–June, 2025. As part of the SCSP project, quality seed of Girnar 2 variety, totaling 128 quintals, was distributed to 107 Scheduled Caste farmers from Bikaner and adjoining groundnut-growing areas. During the event, farmers were briefed on the characteristics and advantages of Girnar 2 and Girnar 4 varieties, both recommended for Rajasthan, along with their quality traits. The team also emphasized the adoption of improved packages and practices for enhancing productivity and profitability in groundnut cultivation. The participating farmers expressed strong interest in adopting the latest high-yielding groundnut varieties, reflecting the growing awareness and demand for improved technologies in the region.



Celebration of International Yoga Day at IIGR

ICAR-IIGR observed International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2025, under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health". The theme emphasizes the connection between an individual's well-being and the health of the planet. The event saw enthusiastic participation from all staff members. Renowned local Yoga gurus, Smt. Jayshreeben Laskhari and Smt. Purviben, led the session by demonstrating various Asanas and Pranayama techniques, providing hands-on training to the attendees. Smt. Jayshreeben emphasized the crucial role of yoga in enhancing both physical and psychological well-being, urging participants to incorporate yoga into their daily routines. She also explained the significance of each asana, offering valuable guidance on best practices to ensure a safe and effective yoga experience.



ICAR-IIGR organized Groundnut Seed Industry Meet

Groundnut Seed Industry Meet organized on 24th June, 2025, focused on strategies to enhance the production and availability of quality groundnut seeds in India. A total of 16 delegates from the seed industry participated in the meeting, which was chaired by Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, ADG (O&P), ICAR, and co-chaired by Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, ICAR-IIGR, the event highlighted the need to replace old varieties with new ones and improve Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) and Variety Replacement Rate (VRR). Key presentations covered recent advancements in groundnut varieties and their global status. Dr. Gupta highlighted the goal of raising the SRR to 33% and encouraged regular industry–research interactions to accelerate progress in the sector.



RRS, Bikaner Distributed Quality Groundnut Seeds for Front Line Demonstrations

ICAR-IIGR, Regional Research Station, Bikaner, organized the distribution of Front Line Demonstration (FLD) seeds of groundnut varieties Girnar 4 and Girnar 5 during June, 2025. A total of 678 FLDs were distributed across different tehsils of Bikaner district, comprising 107 FLDs of Girnar 4 (53.40 quintals) and 561 FLDs of Girnar 5 (280.5 quintals) under the varietal component, along with 10 FLDs under the non-varietal component. During the event, farmers were apprised of the characteristics, quality traits, and advantages of Girnar 4 and Girnar 5, both high-oleic varieties recommended for Rajasthan. The distribution generated strong interest among farmers and they expressed willingness to adopt these latest varieties for enhanced productivity and quality.



IIGR Participation in Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025

As part of the nationwide Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA), organized from 29th May to 12th June, 2025, the scientists of ICAR–Indian Institute of Groundnut Research (ICAR-IIGR), Junagadh (Gujarat) along with its Regional Research Stations at Bikaner (Rajasthan) and Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) actively participated and made significant contributions by reaching out to the farming community across multiple districts in these states. A total of 11 scientists from IIGR were involved in this unique initiative, covering 51 Blocks/Talukas and 451 villages across Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. Through this campaign, ICAR-IIGR scientists successfully connected with 83,975 individuals, including farmers, farm women, rural youth, and officials from line departments. Of these, the participation of farmers alone accounted for 82,166, reflecting the Institute's wide outreach and impact during this mega initiative.



Allotment of FLDs for Kharif 2025-26

ICAR-Indian Institute of Groundnut Research, Junagadh advanced groundnut cultivation in the *kharif* 2025-26 seasons by providing 10,003 FLD among different traditional *kharif* areas of India. The new technology promoted in *kharif* groundnut was area-specific high-yielding varieties. New varieties of Girnar-4 and Girnar-5, Kadiri Lepakshi, VRI-10 and Dh 256 were distributed among the farming communities of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal.



States	No. of FLDs	Centre	Varieties
Gujarat(4017)	498	MORS, JAU, Junagadh	GG-35
	3519	ICAR-IIGR	Girnar 4, Girnar 5
Rajasthan(1878)	678	RRS-Bikaner	Girnar 4, Girnar 5
	800	ARS, Bikaner	Girnar 4, Girnar 5
	400	RARI, Durgapura	Girnar 4, Girnar 5
Andhra Pradesh (860)	300	RARS, Tirupati	Kadiri Lepakshi
	360	ARS, Kadiri	Kadiri Lepakshi
	200	IIGR, Anantapur	Kadiri Lepakshi, Girnar 4, Dh 256
Karnataka (668)	100	ZAHRS, Hiriyur	Dh 256
	268	MARS, Dharwad	Dh 256
	300	MARS, Raichur	Dh 256
Madhya Pradesh (100)	50	RVSKVV, Gwalior	Girnar 4
	50	KVK Shivpuri	Girnar 4
Tamil Nadu (1250)	550	ORS, Tindivanam	Kadiri Lepakshi
	550	RRS, Vriddhachalam	Kadiri Lepakshi
	150	CRS Aliyarnagar	Kadiri Lepakshi
Maharashtra (900)	100	ORS, Latur	Kadiri Lepakshi
	500	ORS, MPKV, Jalgaon	Kadiri Lepakshi
	300	MPKV, Rahuri	Kadiri Lepakshi
West Bengal (310)	87	Mohanpur	VRI-10
	223	PORS Berhampore	VRI-10
Total	9983		

Inputs - Smt. Adupa Shanmuka, Dr. Aaradhana Chilwal, M. V. Nataraja, Lakhanotra Jayshree D.

Massive Groundnut Seed Distribution under SCSP/TSP/NEH Program

Massive seed distribution program was undertaken by ICAR-IIGR under SCSP/TSP/NEH program, covering 203.9 tonnes of quality groundnut seeds worth ₹2.18 crore supplied to 3,397 beneficiary farmers across multiple states. The program included major varieties such as TAG 73, Girnar 5, Girnar 4, Girnar 2, TG series, and K 1812, reaching regions like Bundelkhand (MP & UP), Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tripura. This large-scale initiative aimed to promote high-yielding varieties and enhance groundnut productivity nationwide through enhanced VRR and SSR.

Variety	Quantity of Seed	State	Amount (Rs)	Beneficiary farmers
TAG 73	75500 kg	Bundelkhand Region of MP and UP	64,93,000	1258
Girnar 5	11500 kg		13,11,000	191
Girnar 4	2000 kg		2,28,000	34
Girnar 2	12800 kg	Rajasthan	11,52,000	213
TG51, TAG 24, TAG 73, TG37A	1660 kg	West Bengal (Medinipur)	1,07,900	28
K 1812	20000 kg	Maharashtra	22,00,000	333
K 1812	18000 kg	West Bengal (Birbhum)	19,80,000	300
K 1812	12000 kg	Andhra Pradesh	13,20,000	200
Girnar 4/5	9090 kg	Gujarat	12,72,600	151
K 1812	5650 kg	Tripura, KVK Gomti	7,49,500	94
Girnar 4	35700 kg	Gujarat	49,98,000	595
Total	203900 kg		Rs 2,18,12,000	3397



Inputs - Dr. Aaradhana Chilwal, Smt. Adupa Shanmuka, Hetal Detroja, Hardi Kansagara

Efficacy of Triple Superphosphate (TSP) in Enhancing Productivity, Economics, and Phosphorus Use Efficiency

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. As per the first-season result after completion of groundnut-mustard cropping system, TSP + K + foliar spray of MAP + S recorded the highest system yield (4,350 kg/ha), maximum system returns (₹2,79,095/ha), and the highest benefit-cost ratio (4.03), indicating its superior economic viability. This was followed by TSP + K + PSB + S (4,078 kg/ha yield, ₹2,39,924 returns, BCR 3.59) and TSP + K + S (4,065 kg/ha yield, ₹2,62,621 returns, BCR 3.90). Treatments involving TSP consistently outperformed those with DAP and SSP, demonstrating the efficiency of TSP in enhancing yield and profitability. The control (NK – no P) recorded the lowest yield (3,028 kg/ha), returns (₹1,84,858/ha), and BCR (3.39), underscoring the critical role of phosphorus. The inclusion of microbial inoculants and organic amendments further boosted productivity and returns, showing a clear synergistic effect.



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

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**

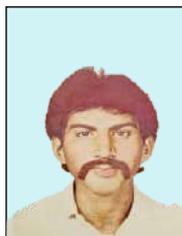
Designation: Scientist (Agronomy)
Relieving Date: 09.06.2025
Transferred to ICAR-Indian Institute
of Spices Research,
RS, Madikeri (Karnataka)



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



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