



ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirappalli-620102

*Research Highlights*

## KAVERI POOVAN

### A promising high yielding variety free from BSMYV

**From the Director:** I am delighted to share the quarterly newsletter for January–March 2026 with our esteemed readers.



During this quarter, the improved banana variety 'Kaveri Poovan' was officially released and notified by the State Variety Release Committee of Tamil Nadu in 2026. Bioassay studies were carried out on entomopathogenic nematodes as biological control agents against the pseudostem weevil, contributing to eco-friendly pest management strategies in banana cultivation.

During this period, ICAR–NRCB conducted 84 capacity development programmes, including farmers' and students' training programmes and exposure visits, benefiting 3,827 participants.

National Science Day was celebrated as an 'Open Day', during which more than 2,800 students, farmers, entrepreneurs, and members of the general public visited the laboratories and research farm and interacted with the scientists.

During this quarter, 13 research papers and three other publications were published.

I sincerely thank all staff members and editorial committee members for their valuable contributions and for their timely efforts in bringing out this edition of the newsletter.

  
(R. Selvarajan)  
Director

The ICAR–NRCB has developed an improved banana variety, 'Kaveri Poovan', through clonal selection from the traditional Poovan cultivar to address viral disease constraints, particularly those associated with Banana streak MY virus (BSMYV). The development began in 2005 with the selection of 600 disease-free suckers, which were evaluated over a decade for spontaneous viral expression and agronomic performance. A superior, virus-free elite clone was identified and multiplied through tissue culture. The variety underwent rigorous evaluation through multi-location trials across AICRP centres and farmer field trials in Tamil Nadu, confirming its stability and superior performance. It was officially released and notified by the State Variety Release Committee of Tamil Nadu in 2026.



## CONTENTS

- Research Highlights
- Transfer of Technology (ToT)
- Outreach and Extension
- Other Informations

'Kaveri Poovan' shows more than 20 per cent higher yield compared to the local Poovan, with an average yield of 52–55 t/ha and a potential of 62–72 t/ha under optimal conditions, along with a benefit–cost ratio of 1:1.56. The variety performs well in fertile, well-drained soils under moderate climatic conditions (26–35°C, 50–80% RH), with plants reaching 300–347 cm height and maturing in 360–390 days at a spacing of 2 m × 2 m. It exhibits resistance to Fusarium wilt (Race 1 and Tropical Race 4) and tolerance to saline and sodic soils. Owing to its higher productivity, stability, and reduced viral risk, the variety is widely accepted by farmers and is suitable for cultivation across major banana-growing regions of Tamil Nadu and similar agro-ecological zones.

- R. Selvarajan & K. Nagendran



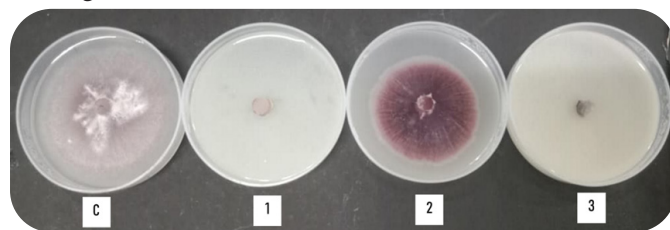
Fig. 1. Kaveri Poovan – A promising virus free new variety

### In vitro compatibility evaluation of Carbendazim and Fipronil against Foc TR4

An *in vitro* compatibility study was undertaken to assess the effects of carbendazim and fipronil against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) using four treatments: T1 – Foc only (control); T2 – Foc + carbendazim; T3 – Foc + fipronil; and T4 – Foc + carbendazim + fipronil. The results demonstrated 100% mycelial inhibition in carbendazim-treated plates, indicating its strong antifungal efficacy against Foc TR4. In contrast, fipronil-treated plates recorded only 18.75% inhibition, while the untreated control showed no inhibition.

These findings suggest that carbendazim is highly effective in suppressing Foc TR4 growth, whereas fipronil has minimal direct inhibitory effect under *in*

*vitro* conditions. Therefore, it can be concluded that both carbendazim and fipronil have compatibility, and they can be mixed together for effective management of corm weevil as well as Foc TR4.



C: *Foc* TR4 alone; 1: Carbendazim + *Foc* TR4; 2: Fipronil 5% SC + *Foc* TR4 3: Carbendazim + Fipronil 5% SC + *Foc* TR4

Fig.3. *In vitro* compatibility evaluation of Carbendazim and Fipronil

- A. Mohanasundaram

### Field demonstration of ICAR-NRCB consortium against Fusarium wilt in Nanjangud Rasabale (AAB) in Nanjangudu, Mysuru

Field trials conducted in cultivar Nanjangudu Rasabale (AAB) during 2024–25 at 5 villages covering 16 fields in Nanjangudu Taluk, Mysuru district, Karnataka resulted in effective control of Fusarium wilt (8.34% against 30–40% earlier).



Fig. 4. Fusarium wilt infected Nanjangud Rasabale plantation

- M. Loganathan

### First Report and Characterization of BBTB Infecting Ornamental Banana:

The complete genome of all six components of Banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) infecting ornamental banana (*Musa acuminata* ssp. *zebrina*) has been characterized. Sequence analysis revealed a nucleotide identity of 98.18% with a previously

reported BBTV isolate infecting hill banana cv. Virupakshi from the lower Pulney Hills. Phylogenetic analysis demonstrated that the study isolate clusters with Pacific-Indian Ocean (PIO) group sequences, distinguishing it from other global isolates. Further, successful aphid transmission assays confirmed the biological infectivity and transmissibility of the virus. This study represents the first report of BBTV infecting ornamental banana in India.



Fig. 5. Symptom expression of BBTV infection in *Musa acuminata* ssp. *zebrina*.

- K. Nagendran



## Transfer of Technology

S. No	Date	Technology	Technology Purchaser
1	06 - 07.01.2026	Central core stem juice	Mrs. Sajira Banu.P.P, C/o. Banaza Enterprises, Malappuram - 673638, Kerala
2	22.01.2026	ICAR-CIAE-NRCB Continuous Feed Banana Fiber Extractor	M/s. Jothiees Engineering Industries, Pollachi - 642006, TN
3	09.02.2026	Central core stem juice	M/s. Dharshan Brothers Technologies Private Limited, Nolambur, Chennai - 600095, TN
4	02 - 10.02.2026	Variety-specific tissue culture protocols Nursery technology for macro-propagation Dehydrated ripe banana fig	M/s. Phyto Flux Private Limited, Kottivakkam, Chennai - 600041, TN
5	26.02.2026	Embryogenic cell suspension (ECS) technology for red banana	M/s. Phyto Flux Private Limited, Kottivakkam, Chennai - 600041, TN
6	09.03.2026	Kaveri Poovan, Kaveri Vaaman	M/s. Jain Irrigation Systems Limited, Jain Plastic Part, Jalgaon - 425001, Maharashtra.
7	13.03.2026	Dehydrated banana fig Central core stem & peel pickle Central core stem Juice Extraction of banana fibre Nutraceutical Banana flower-based health mix & ice cream mix	Ainthinai Mission Project
8	20.03.2026	Post-harvest handling, packing, storage and ripening of banana for domestic and export markets	M/s. KPS Traders Export and Import, Beemanagar, Tiruchirappalli - 620001, TN

## Extension

### Capacity Development Programmes

Particulars	No. of Programmes	No. of Beneficiaries
<b>Training</b>		
One day training for farmers	03	75
Six Days Training for Andaman & Nicobar farmers	01	22
Training for SCSP	6	125
Training for TSP	2	49
Off - campus training programme under AICRP (F) SCSP/ TSP Tirupathur District	2	80
<b>Exposure Visit</b>		
Farmers' exposure visit	27	548
Students' exposure visit	51	3133
<b>Workshop</b>		
ICAR - NRCB technologies for entrepreneurship development	1	45
Applied Statistics for Biological and Agricultural Sciences	1	47
Computational Intelligence in Precision Agriculture for Domain Scientists	1	15
<b>Internship</b>		
Recent Advances in Biotechnological Techniques in Banana (Students)	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4146</b>



Fig. 6. Capacity Development Programmes

C. Karpagam, P. Ravichamy & K. Susmitha

## Participation in Exhibition

The Institute participated in the exhibition “AGRI EXPO 2026”, organised by VIT, Vellore, during 5–6 February and won the “Best Stall Award.”



Fig. 7. AGRI EXPO-2026

The Institute organised an exhibition during the National Science Day celebration at the ICAR–NRCB campus on 28 February.



Fig. 8. National Science Day celebration at ICAR-NRCB

## Other Information

### Participation in Workshops/Trainings/Seminars/Conferences/Group discussion

Staff Name	Name of the event	Venue	Date
R. Selvarajan	Attended as special invitee in the meeting at Erode district chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, New Delhi	Erode	04–05 Jan
	29 <sup>th</sup> SAC Meeting of KVK	ICAR-KVK, Virudhachalam	8 Jan
	As an external member, attended Comprehensive Viva Voce meeting of Ph.D. Scholar Ms. Tripty Kumari, VIT, Vellore.	Online mode	19 Jan
	3rd Annual Review Meeting of the NASF funded project Development of Smart Foods, Bio-composites, Green Packaging and Bio-energy from Agro Residues	ICAR-CIRCOT	22–23 Jan
	Banana stakeholders and Brainstorming Session chaired by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister	North Maharashtra University	19 Mar
	XIII Group Discussion of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	09–12 Feb

R. Selvarajan K. Nagendran	State Level Variety Release Committee Meeting	Secretariat, Chennai	12 Jan
M. Loganathan A. Mohanasundaram K. Nagendran G. Prabhu S. R. Prabhukarthikeyan	Workshop on Computational Intelligence in Precision Agriculture	ICAR-NRCB	23–24 Mar
C. Karpagam P. Durai	Uzhavar Sangamam Exhibition	VIT Vellore VIT Vellore	05–06 Feb 09 Feb
C. Karpagam	External evaluator for Agri-Ideathon		
P. Suresh Kumar P. Giribabu Prabhu Govindasamy Nagendran K	Faculty Interaction with CEO, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)	NIT, Tiruchirappalli	6 Jan
P. Sureshkumar K. N. Shiva C. Karpagam Promod Shelake	Foundation stone laying programme under Ainthinai Mission Project	Namakkal district	08 Mar
A. Mohanasundaram	Training Programme on Data Visualization Using 'R'	ICAR-NAARM	09–13 Mar
A. Mohanasundaram K. Nagendran S. R. Prabhukarthikeyan	Hands-on Training on Applied Statistics for Biological and Agricultural Sciences	ICAR-NRCB	25–26 Mar
K. Nagendran	External Examiner for Ph.D. Viva Voce	TNAU, Coimbatore	9 Jan

### Significant Guest lectures/Key Note address, etc.

Staff Name	Events
R. Selvarajan	Delivered Sharda Lele Memorial Award Lecture entitled “Application of advance diagnostics and effective management strategies for banana diseases of National Importance” in IPS National Conference on “Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management” during February 18–20, 2026 held at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.
I Ravi	Participated as an invited panelist for the FAO’s World Banana Forum, and delivered a featured lecture on “Advances in Smart Irrigation and Fertigation for Sustainable Banana Production” on 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
P. Giribabu	Lecture on ‘Molecular aspects of plant nematode interactions’ delivered at internship training on ‘Recent Advances in Biotechnological Techniques in Banana’ to seven B.Tech. (Biotechnology) students of Department of Biotechnology, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Trichy held during 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2025 to 7 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026
K. Nagendran	Delivered a guest lecture on “Cucumber Mosaic Virus: An Emerging Menace in Banana under Changing Agro-Climatic Conditions” at the Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore on 9 January, 2026

### Publications

Choudhary, M., Govindasamy, P., Dixit, A. K., Kantwa, S. R., Ram, A., Palsaniya, D. R., & Kumar, S. 2026. Optimizing nitrogen fertilization in oat using the chlorophyll meter: Threshold determination for yield, fodder quality, and nitrogen use efficiency. *Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition*.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-026-03026-w>

Durga, Y., Vinodhini, J., Ch, R., Gopal, K., Anuradha, C., Saraswathi, M. S., Nagendran, K., & Selvarajan, R. 2026. Identification and partial characterization of cucumber mosaic virus in *Adenium obesum*: A new reservoir host in India. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection*, 133(2), 56.

- Govindasamy, P., Jenifer, N. C., Sedhupathi, K., Jeyabaskaran, K. J., Shelake, P., Ravi, I., Loganathan, M., Sukumar, V., & Selvarajan, R. 2026. Repurposing banana sheath scutcher for soil conservation: Improving soil water holding capacity and nutrient availability. *Bioresource Technology Reports*, 34, 102697. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biteb.2026.102697>
- Lodhi, B., Majumdar, A., & Mohanasundaram, A. 2025. Entomofaunal diversity associated with the lac insect *Kerria lacca* (Kerr) in Maharashtra, India. *Journal of Non-Timber Forest Products*, 32(1), 32–37. <https://doi.org/10.54207/bsmps2000-2025-X1230Z>
- Maity, A., Paul, D., Govindasamy, P., Jha, R., Dutta, S., & Ali, S. K. A. 2026. Weed management scenario and prospects of herbicide tolerant crop technology in India. *Frontiers in Agronomy*, 8, 1741164. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fagro.2026.1741164>
- Mohana Pradeep, R. K., Jeyaraj, G., Patel, A. K., Karthikeyan, G., Selvarajan, R., & Krishnan, N. 2026. Unveiling the diversity of begomoviruses infecting weed hosts in vegetable ecosystems. *Indian Phytopathology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42360-025-00927-1>
- Nagendran, K., Kumar, R. V., Karmakar, P., Pandey, S., Dey, S. S., Singh, P., Choudhary, H., Sevanti, A. M., Sagar, V., Rajasree, V., & Singh, A. K. 2026. Co-infection and recombination-driven emergence of begomovirus complex causing mosaic disease in muskmelon (*Cucumis melo* L.). *Molecular Biology Reports*, 53(1), 445.
- Poorani, J., Anuradha, C., Mohanasundaram, A., Thanigairaj, R., Samuel, P., & Baskar, N. 2026. A recombinase polymerase amplification-based rapid diagnostic assay for *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*, a serious pest of banana in India, with notes on damage symptoms, natural enemies, and management. *Molecular Biology Reports*, 53, 583. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-026-11750-w>
- Poorani, J., Anuradha, C., Thanigairaj, R., & Samuel, P. 2026. First report of *Lipolexis peregrina* Tomanović & Kocić (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Aphidiinae) from India as a parasitoid of banana aphid, *Pentalonia nigronervosa* Coquerel (Hemiptera: Aphididae), a new host. *Journal of Insect Biodiversity*, 81(2), 33–43. <https://doi.org/10.12976/jib/2026.81.2.1>
- Ramajayam, D., Chetry, S., Singh, A., Ragupathy, S., Suthanthiram, B., Arumugam, M., Palaniyappan, G., Agarwal, D. K., Auxcilia, J., Anbazhagan, T., & Sathiamoorthy, K. 2026. A comprehensive study on morphological, stomatal, palynological attributes and flow cytometry for differentiating anther culture derived autotetraploid from Ney Poovan diploid (AB). *Horticulture, Environment, and Biotechnology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13580-025-00795-8>
- Thangavelu, R., Loganathan, M., Devi, P. G., Nithya, B., Viljoen, A., Blomme, G., Sekar, T., & Selvarajan, R. 2026. Integrated disease management components for Fusarium wilt of banana in India: Effects of organic amendments, flooding, and paddy rotation on disease severity. *Frontiers in Agronomy*, 8, Article 1749035. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fagro.2026.1749035>
- Thombare, N., Mohanasundaram, A., & Sharma, K. K. 2026. Natural resin-derived adhesives for sticky insect traps: Development and field evaluation in mustard and okra. *International Journal of Adhesion and Adhesives*, 146, 104244. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijadhadh.2025.104244>

### Book Chapter

- Das, T. K., Ghosh, S., Raj, R., Nath, C. P., Prabhu, G., & Saha, P. 2026. Weed management in organic production systems: Challenges and ways forward. In *Generation Crop Production for Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security* (pp. 137–153). CRC Press.

- Lal, A., Selvarajan, R., Kil, E. J., Lee, S., Balasubramanian, V., & Anuradha, C. 2026. Taxonomy of family *Nanoviridae*. In K. S. Sastry et al. (Eds.), *Taxonomy and classification of plant viruses and viroids* (pp. 117–141). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8408-0\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-8408-0_3)

### Popular Article

- Berliner, J., Giribabu, P., Manimaran, B., & Sellaperumal, C. 2026. Understanding the migratory endoparasitic nematodes in bananas. *Agrigate Magazine*, 5(12), 175–179.

## Abstracts in Conferences/ Symposiums

Arthee, R., Birundha, M., Pushpavalli, S., Keran, D. A., & Suresh Kumar, P. (2026, Mar 5–7). *Synbiotic fermented milk utilizing microencapsulated Lactiplantibacillus plantarum ATCC 8014 with modified starch matrices* [Best oral presentation]. International Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul, India.

Birundha, M., Suresh Kumar, P., Shiva, K. N., & Shekale, P. (2026, February 12–13). *Development of functionally enhanced and antioxidant-rich rusk using banana rhizome powder* [Oral presentation]. International Conference on Global Scenario in Health Science Research: An Interdisciplinary Approach, Jamal Mohamed College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Jothishri, C., Gabriella, R. R., Balasubramanian, V., Nagendran, K., & Selvarajan, R. (2026, March 11–13). *Cloning and expression of coat protein gene of banana mild mosaic virus infecting banana* [Oral presentation]. International Conference on Bioengineering (ICB-2026), SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu, India.

Nayana, C., Suresh Kumar, P., Pushpavalli, S., Birundha, M., Shiva, K. N., & Shelake, P. (2026, February 12–13). *Upcycling banana pseudostem scutcher waste into bioactive xylan/PVA films enriched with clove oil for sustainable packaging* [Oral presentation]. International Conference on Global Scenario in Health Science Research: An Interdisciplinary Approach, Jamal Mohamed College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Pushpavalli, S., Suresh Kumar, P., Shuprajhaa, T., Shiva, K. N., & Shekale, P. (2026, February 12–13). *Impact of ultrasound intensity and duration on banana starch modification and their influence on rheological, techno-functional and glycaemic properties* [Oral presentation]. International Conference on Global Scenario in Health Science Research: An Interdisciplinary Approach, Jamal Mohamed College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Selvarajan, R. (2026, February 18–20). *Application of advanced diagnostics and effective*

*management strategies for banana diseases of national importance.* Paper presented at the IPS National Conference on Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.

## Peer Recognitions / Awards/ Accolades

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, received the **Sharda Lele Memorial Award** from the **Indian Phytopathological Society** on the occasion of the National Conference on “Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management,” held during February 18–20, 2026, at **Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal.**



Fig. 9. Receiving the Sharda Lele Memorial Award

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, served as the Chief Guest and delivered the chief guest address in the Uzhavar Sangamam-2026, a two-day agriculture exhibition and seminar held at School of Agricultural Sciences VIT University, Vellore during 5-6 February, 2026.



Fig. 10. Chief Guest Address at VIT, Vellore

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, served as the Chief Guest and delivered the chief guest address besides honouring the innovative farmers and best

entrepreneur in ‘Cashew Day cum District Level Seminar’ on Value Addition of Cashew Apple” held at ICAR-DCR, Puttur, during 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



Fig. 10. Chief Guest Address during ‘Cashew Day cum District Level Seminar

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, served as the Chief Guest and delivered a Key Note address in the National conference on Bioenergy – a path towards sustainable development held at School of Life Sciences, KS Rangasamy College of Arts and Science, Tiruchengode during 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026



Staff Name	Details
Dr. R. Selvarajan,	Chairman, Session on Crop Protection (Session-X) in XIII Group Discussion of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits & Co-chair, Plenary Session in XIII Group Discussion of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits held at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar during 9-11, February
	Member, Committee to study the functioning of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) in Tamil Nadu and to suggest remedial measures by the Agricultural Marketing Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi
	Member, High level Committee of TNAU to assess the prospects and consequences of starting the new private affiliated colleges/ institute /courses in the field of Agriculture and Horticulture
	Chairman, Theme 4: Innovations in Plant disease diagnostics & Theme 5: Integrated disease management and post-harvest disease management in IPS National Conference on “Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management” held at BCKV, West Bengal during 18–20 Feb
	Member, National Advisory committee, IPS National Conference on “Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management” during February 18–20, 2026 held at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani, Nadia, and West Bengal, India.
	Member, State Level Variety Release Committee TN Govt. Secretariat, Chennai
S. Backiyarani	Best AICRP (F) Joint Publication 2025-26 awarded during XIII GD Meet AICRP (F) held from 9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 at GB Pant Agrl University, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
C. Anuradha P. Giribabu	“Kavuri Sarada Memorial Award” for Best Paper Published in the “Indian Journal of Plant Protection” by PPAI, Hyderabad.
P. Giribabu	Runner-up, Chess event, ICAR–South Zone Sports Meet 2025, held at Hyderabad during 10-13 February, 2026

## Personalia

### Promotions

1. Mrs. A. V. Suja, UDC, was promoted as Assistant with effect from 16.03.2026.
2. Mr. R. Mohanraj, LDC, was promoted as UDC with effect from 16.03.2026

### Appointments

1. Mr. Rajat Pandey joined as Assistant with effect from 08.01.2026.
2. Mr. Aishwarya Kankar joined as Assistant with effect from 30.01.2026
3. Mr. Prakhar Sinha joined as Assistant with effect from 27.02.2026

### Transfer

1. Mr. K. Sangili, STA, joined ICAR-NRCB on transfer from ICAR-IISWC, RS, Udhagamandalam on 02.03.2026.

## Other Information

### Visits by the Crop Co-ordinator to AICRP (F) centres

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director and Crop Coordinator, visited the Jalgaon AICRP (Fruits) Centre on 23 January 2026 and reviewed the progress of the ongoing AICRP (F) trials. Subsequently, on 19 February 2026, the Director, ICAR-NRCB, along with the Director, ICAR-NRIIPM, visited the Mohanpur AICRP (F) Centre. During the visit, emphasis was laid on strengthening and upscaling collaborative research activities in fruit crops, with special focus on banana.



Fig. 11. Visit to AICRP (F) Centre, Mohanpur

## 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations at ICAR-NRCB on 26-01-2026

The 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated at the Centre on January 26, 2026, with flag hoisting by Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director.



Fig. 12. 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations

### Six days training programme for farmers from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ICAR-NRCB organized a six-day training programme on “Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition of Banana” for farmers from different islands of the Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) during the last week of January 2026. The six-day hands-on training programme covered various aspects, including post-harvest management, value-added products, hi-tech banana cultivation practices, banana-based Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), and government schemes and support for entrepreneurship. During the session, feedback from the farmers was encouraged, and it was expressed that the programme would significantly enhance banana-based entrepreneurship development in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



Fig. 13. Training programme for Andaman & Nicobar farmers



Fig. 14. National Science Day celebration at ICAR-NRCB as open day

## “Open Day” with the focal point of Role of Women in Science – Initiative by ICAR-NRCB

The 28th of February, 2026, was celebrated as National Science Day across India with the theme ‘Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat.’ On this occasion, the ICAR–NRCB hosted an ‘Open Day,’ welcoming the public and stakeholders to witness its activities first-hand. Over 2,500 students from more than 35 schools and colleges from Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Thanjavur, and Pudukottai, along with more than 300 banana farmers, entrepreneurs, and members of the general public, participated in the Open Day. Dr. D. Gowrisankar, Director of the Office of International and Interagency Cooperation, ISRO, Bengaluru, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The occasion was graced by distinguished Guests of Honour: Dr. Murali Gopal, Head, Division of PB & PHT, ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod; Dr. M. Srinivas Prasad, Head-Crop Protection, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad; and Naturopath G. Sither, Laycowin Organics, Thanjavur.



## Banana Facts

### State-wise Banana Production in India (2024-2025)

India is one of the leading producers of bananas, with production spread across several states. In 2024–25, Maharashtra is the largest contributor, accounting for 19% of the total banana production, followed closely by Andhra Pradesh with 18%. Tamil Nadu contributes 12% and Gujarat 11%, making them other major producers. Madhya Pradesh adds 7% to the total production, while Bihar and West Bengal contribute 5% and 4% respectively. Smaller shares come from Assam and Karnataka, each contributing 3%. The remaining 18% comes from various other states, indicating that banana cultivation is widespread across the country. Overall, banana production in India is well distributed, though a few states dominate, particularly in the western and southern regions.

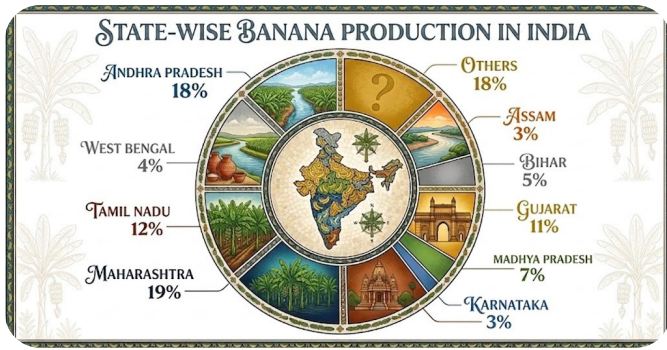








Fig. 15. State-wise Banana Production in India

(Source: Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI (ON48560 & IndiaStat. (2025). State-wise area, production and productivity of banana in India (2024–2025). <https://www.indiastat.com> )

- C. Karpagam and K. Susmitha



## Contact Us

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-  <https://www.youtube.com/@icarnrcb8887>

For Location

