

## **Entrepreneurship Development Programme Organized by Agribusiness Incubation Centre (ABIC) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)**

The Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) was conducted during December 26-27, 2024, at ICAR-IIOR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. A total of 32 participants attended the program representing aspiring entrepreneurs, unemployed graduates, representatives from FPOs and farmers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The programme started with welcoming of participants by Dr. R. D. Prasad, Principal Scientist and PI of NAIF. Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad, chaired the program and shared insights on the significance of EDPs in empowering agricultural entrepreneurs. Mr. Vijay Nadiminti, CEO of AgHub, PJTAU, discussed the startup ecosystem and shared handholding experiences of agri-startups.

The technical sessions featured valuable presentations from experts, including Dr. M. Suresh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR who discussed microbial biopesticide options for plant disease management and Dr. Praduman Yadav, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, who made presentation on post-harvest and value-added technologies for oilseeds. Dr. R. D. Prasad and Dr. P. Duraimurugan, Principal Scientists, ICAR-IIOR, delivered a presentation on biopesticide and biofertilizer technologies, providing participants with an in-depth understanding of these critical innovations. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Biopesticide Laboratory for hands-on experience with biopesticide products, further enriching their practical knowledge. Dr. Aziz Quereshi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, delivered an insightful session on the importance of soil health in sustainable crop productivity, highlighting its critical role in ensuring long-term agricultural success. Hands-on experience with kits used for soil testing was also demonstrated. Mr Mallesh Pilli, Chartered Accountant, provided a comprehensive guide on documentation, registration processes and schemes available for agri-startups, while Dr. Pooja S. Bhat, Business Manager, a-IDEA, NAARM, Hyderabad, explained funding opportunities for agri-startups. Participants gained practical exposure through visits to the oil processing unit, guided by Mr. A. Chowdappa, Senior Research Fellow, ABI Project and Dr. T. Manjunatha, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, who elaborated on hybrids and varieties of oilseeds.

Interactive discussions allowed participants to engage with scientists and experts, enhancing their understanding of IIOR technologies and entrepreneurial opportunities. The program concluded with a session summarizing key takeaways and participant feedback, with

a vote of thanks extended by Dr. P. Duraimurugan, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR. This EDP served as an enriching platform for knowledge exchange, practical training, and networking, fostering collaboration and empowering participants to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors in the agricultural sector.

## Glimpses of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme



Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR interacting with participants



Dr. R. D. Prasad, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR welcoming participants



Mr. Vijay Nadiminti, CEO, AgHub, PJTAU sharing handholding experiences on agri startups at AgHub



Visit of the participants to biopesticide and biofertilizer laboratory



Dr. Pooja S. Bhat, Business Manager, a-IDEA, NAARM, Hyderabad delivering a talk on funding opportunities for agri startups



Mr. Mallesh Pilli, Chartered Accountant, explaining the documentation & registration process for new agri startups



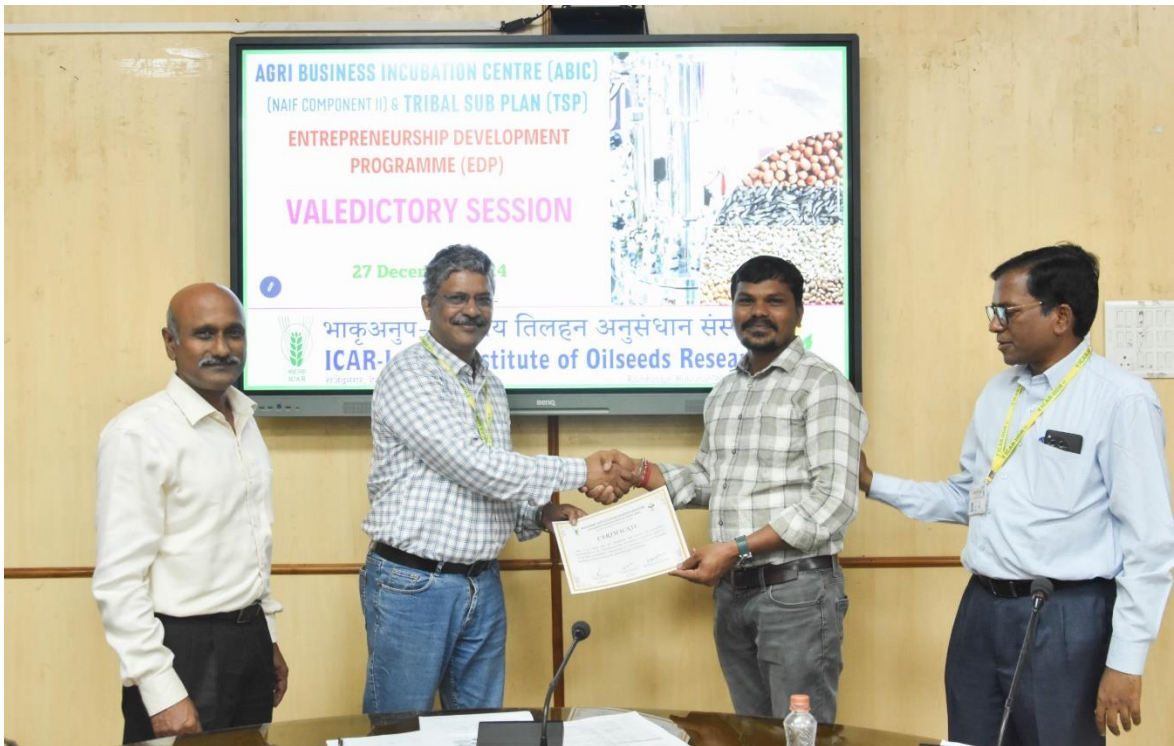
Visit of the participants to oil processing unit



Dr. Aziz Quereshi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, demonstrating soil testing kits



Participants group photo



Distribution of certificates to participants