

Field Day on “Tuber Crops Diversity and Scientific Tuber Crops Cultivation” Conducted by ICAR-CIARI

Denis Giles – 23 November 2024



Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 22: The ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, organized a field day on “Tuber Crops Diversity and Scientific Tuber Crops Cultivation for Improving Food Security” on November 20, 2024. Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair, briefed the participants on tuber crop diversity in the islands.

He highlighted the various species, unique collections made by the Institute, the role of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Tuber Crops in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources, and the climate-resilience of tuber crops in ensuring food and livelihood security in remote areas.

Shri Mohit and Ms. Sushma, Subject Matter Specialists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Andaman, emphasized the importance of diversifying island farming systems with tuber crops to enhance income and generate employment. They also discussed integrated pest, weed, and nutrient management strategies for achieving higher tuber yields under island-specific conditions.

Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head of KVK, South Andaman, highlighted the potential for marketing and value-addition in tuber crops. He urged farmers to adopt improved technologies developed by ICAR-CIARI and the AICRP on Tuber Crops to integrate successful tuber crop cultivation into island farming systems.

The field day aimed to raise awareness about the rich tuber crop diversity in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and to sensitize farmers to the potential of tropical tubers in enhancing livelihood security. This initiative was part of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops and was organized in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Andaman.

The program was coordinated by Shri Mohit (SMS, Plant Pathology), Ms. Sushma (SMS, Horticulture), and Shri Tanmai Paul (Farm Manager, KVK, South Andaman). A total of 26 farmers from South Andaman participated in the event, which was conducted under the guidance of Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director of ICAR-CIARI, Sri Vijaya Puram.