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ICAR-CIARI establishes Pandanus Gene Bank in its campus

Port Blair, Sept. 5

ICAR-CIARI has established a Pandanus Gene Bank at its Garacharma Research Farm today under the project funded by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi, to conserve, evaluate and utilize different species of the Pandanus collected from different parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In this regard, 175 seedlings of various species viz. Pandanus lerrum, Pandanus tectorius, Pandanus odorifer and Pandanus amaryllifolius

were planted in 2 acre of terraced land at CIARI campus. Meanwhile, as part of World Coconut Day 2022 celebration, thirty seedlings of five released coconut varieties of CIARI viz. Dweep Haritha, Dweep Sona, CIARI Chandan, CIARI Surya and CIARI Annapurna were also planted in the field gene bank. Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI inaugurated the planting ceremony which was attended by all Scientists of the Institute. Dr. I.

Jaisankar, Senior Scientist and coordinator of the programme welcomed the gathering and briefed the background of research on Pandanus at CIARI and provided the planting material for the gene bank. Dr. B.A. Jerard, Head, Division of Horticulture & Forestry and the convener of the programme also spoke on the occasion.

All the participants planted elite coconut and pandanus seedlings in the gene bank, a press release from CIARI said.