



KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, PARBHANI

Best Presentation Award - A Proud Achievement for Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani

PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi 20th Installment Release Programme Successfully Organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani



Dr. Prashant Bhosale receiving the Best Presentation Award at 8th Annual Zonal Workshop

22 July, 2025, it is a matter of great pride and honour that Dr. Prashant Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani has been honoured with the prestigious Best Presentation Award at the 8th Annual Zonal Workshop of Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Zone-VIII, organised by ICAR-ATARI, Pune. The workshop was held at Bhuj, Gujarat, during 20–22 July, 2025.

The Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs is a significant platform where Krishi Vigyan Kendras from across the zone come together to present their work, share best practices, discuss challenges, and deliberate on strategies for improving agricultural extension services at the grassroots level. Zone-VIII encompasses KVKs from Maharashtra and Goa, making it a highly competitive and prestigious gathering of agricultural scientists, subject matter specialists, and extension professionals.

Amid this distinguished gathering, Dr. Prashant Bhosale's presentation stood out for its quality, clarity, relevance, and impact, earning him the Best Presentation Award, a recognition that speaks volumes about his expertise, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the cause of agricultural development. This honour not only celebrates his individual excellence but also reflects the high standards of work being consistently carried out at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani.

The award was formally presented by two eminent dignitaries Dr. A. K. Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, BAU, Sabour, and Dr. S. K. Roy, Director, ATARI, Pune lending great prestige and credibility to this recognition. This achievement is a reward to the relentless efforts of Dr. Bhosale in the field of agricultural research, technology dissemination and farmer outreach. It also highlights the consistent and commendable contribution of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani in advancing the mission of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) towards transforming the lives of farming communities through science-based interventions and innovative approaches.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, and the entire team of scientists and staff take immense pride in this accomplishment and extend their heartiest congratulations to Dr. Prashant Bhosale for bringing this distinguished honour to the institution.

On 2 August 2025, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani hosted a special viewing and awareness programme to coincide with the national release of the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme. The event was synchronized with the live programme led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, where the installment was officially disbursed to eligible farmers across the country.

The programme was organized by Dr. Prashant Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, along with Shri. Viraj Shirsath and other senior officials from the Agriculture Department, Parbhani division. The presence of key departmental officers further added importance to the occasion.



Farmers present at the venue keenly watched the live telecast of the Prime Minister's address. In his speech, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized the transformative role of modern agricultural technologies in increasing farm productivity while reducing input costs. He highlighted the coordinated efforts of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, agricultural universities, and the Agriculture Department in bridging the gap between advanced scientific knowledge and practical application at the farmer's field.

Following the national address, Dr. Prashant Bhosale welcomed the participants and delivered motivational remarks. He encouraged farmers to adopt the latest recommended technologies, focus on cost-effective production methods, and strive for higher yields. They reaffirmed the commitment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani to support farmers through regular training programmes, hands-on demonstrations, field visits, exposure visits, and other extension activities to ensure timely dissemination of accurate and practical agricultural information.

Cont. on page no. 2...



Expert sessions were conducted by Shri. Avishkar Patil, who provided detailed guidance on various aspects of improved farming practices. Shri. Amol Kakde, Subject Matter Specialist, delivered a comprehensive presentation on pest and disease management in crops. He demonstrated practical methods for identifying major pests and diseases and explained integrated pest and disease management strategies. He appealed to farmers to implement these techniques without delay to safeguard their crops and enhance overall productivity.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from approximately 250 farmers, including a large number of women farmers and young agriculturists from Parbhani district. An informative exhibition displaying improved seed varieties and modern agricultural implements was also, offering farmers valuable exposure to useful inputs and tools.

Training Programme on Soybean Cultivation

ISAP India Foundation, Parbhani, organised a series of training programmes on soybean cultivation across different villages in the Pathari block from 24th July to 28th August 2025. The programme was designed as a sustained and far-reaching initiative to bring scientific agricultural knowledge directly to the farming community at the grassroots level. Mr. S. S. Nitharwal, Scientist in Crop Production at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Parbhani, served as the expert and resource person for the programme, guiding farmers with his in-depth technical knowledge and field expertise throughout the training series.

The training programme was organised with a clear and focused purpose — to enhance the knowledge and skills of farmers regarding improved production technologies and scientific management practices for soybean cultivation, with the ultimate goal of achieving higher productivity. Beyond yield improvement, the programme also laid considerable emphasis on reducing production costs and improving soil health through balanced input use and the adoption of natural farming methods. This dual focus on productivity and sustainability reflected a holistic approach to modern agriculture, encouraging farmers to move toward practices that are not only economically beneficial but also environmentally responsible.

During the technical sessions held across the various villages, Mr. S. S. Nitharwal delivered a detailed and farmer-friendly presentation on a comprehensive technological module covering all critical aspects of soybean cultivation. He began by introducing farmers to advanced production technologies and improved soybean varieties, explaining their key characteristics including yield potential, maturity duration, disease tolerance, and adaptability to local soil and climatic conditions. He emphasised the importance of proper seed selection as the very first step toward ensuring a uniform, healthy, and productive crop.

Mr. Nitharwal elaborated on the Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) method and the Token method of sowing, explaining how these techniques aid in better moisture retention, effective drainage during heavy rainfall, and improved root anchorage — all of which are particularly relevant to the rain-fed farming conditions prevalent in the

region. He also discussed practical and cost-effective weed management strategies, stressing the need for timely interventions to prevent weed competition from affecting crop growth during the early and critical stages of the season.

The resource person placed special emphasis on soil test-based fertilizer application, encouraging farmers to get their soils tested and adopt a balanced, need-based nutrient management approach rather than indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers. This, he explained, would not only enhance crop response but also contribute to long-term soil fertility and health. He further guided farmers on efficient water management practices, advising them on optimal irrigation scheduling in accordance with the crop's growth stages and the region's rainfall distribution pattern.

A significant portion of the training was devoted to integrated pest and disease management, where Mr. Nitharwal helped farmers identify common pests and diseases that typically affect the soybean crop, understand their economic threshold levels, and apply appropriate and timely control measures through both chemical and non-chemical approaches. Towards the conclusion of each session, he provided detailed guidance on harvesting at the right stage of crop maturity, proper threshing techniques, and scientific post-harvest handling practices for quality seed production, ensuring that farmers could preserve the value of their produce from field to storage.

The training sessions across the various villages were well-received and highly interactive, with farmers actively participating, asking questions, and sharing their own field experiences. The programme successfully created awareness and generated enthusiasm among the farming community for adopting improved and scientific soybean cultivation practices. Overall, the initiative by ISAP India Foundation, supported by the technical expertise of KVK Parbhani, is expected to bring about a meaningful and positive transformation in soybean productivity and farm income across the Pathari block.



Farmer Training Programmes Organised Under the National Mission on Edible Oils Oilseeds (NMEO-OS)



With the national goal of achieving self-sufficiency in edible oils, the Government of India has launched the National Mission on Edible Oils Oilseeds (NMEO-OS). The mission covers the period from 2024-25 to 2030-31 and is primarily aimed at increasing domestic edible oil production and reducing India's dependence on imports. The key objectives of the mission include enhancing the productivity of major oilseed crops such as mustard, soybean, and sunflower; promoting the use of short-duration and high-yielding varieties and hybrids; improving farmers' income through the adoption of advanced agricultural techniques, better market linkages, and crop insurance; supporting the extraction and storage of minor and tree-based oilseeds; and launching a robust Information, Education, and Communication campaign to build awareness and knowledge among stakeholders.

In Parbhani district, soybean has been identified as the focus crop under this mission for the kharif season. The project is being implemented jointly by the District Superintendent Agriculture Officer, Parbhani, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani. In recognition of its technical expertise and outreach capacity, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, has been selected as the Nodal Training Institution for imparting training to farmers under this project.

Under the project, soybean cultivation has been taken up on the fields of 3,520 farmers across 88 villages in the district. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, organised two-day training programmes on soybean cultivation technology in 22 different villages during the period from July to September, in which a total of 4,000 farmers actively participated. The training programmes placed special emphasis on the use of improved and high-yielding seed varieties, adoption of the Token and Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) sowing methods, soil test-based fertilizer planning, integrated pest and disease management, and harvesting and primary processing practices.

This project holds immense significance for Parbhani district, where soybean is the principal kharif crop, and is proving highly beneficial to farmers in their efforts to enhance productivity and reduce the cost of cultivation. Through sustained knowledge dissemination and field-level interventions, the project is expected to contribute meaningfully to the national mission of achieving edible oil self-sufficiency while simultaneously

Celebration of Sustainable Agriculture Day Celebrated at VNMKV Parbhani



7 August, 2025, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV) in Parbhani, in collaboration with ATMA Parbhani and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, organized a special event to commemorate the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, known as the father of India's Green Revolution. Titled 'Shaswat Sheti Din' or 'Sustainable Agriculture Day,' the program honored his transformative contributions to agricultural science and food security. Dr. Swaminathan's efforts in the 1960s and 1970s had revolutionized India, turning it from a food-scarce nation into a self-reliant agricultural leader through high-yielding varieties and innovative farming methods. The event, held on August 7, 2025, focused on reflecting his legacy while addressing modern issues like climate resilience, soil conservation, and eco-friendly practices, drawing participants from farmers, researchers, and policymakers to discuss an 'evergreen revolution' that balanced productivity with environmental sustainability.

It featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, and interactive sessions on sustainable farming techniques, including organic cultivation, efficient water management, and integrated pest control.

Presiding over the event was Dr. Indra Mani, Vice Chancellor of VNMKV, Parbhani, who guided the audience on the importance of institutional leadership in promoting sustainable policies, emphasizing how

universities could drive innovation in resource-efficient agriculture. Special guests included Dr. Bhagwan Asewar, Director of Education and Dean (Agriculture), who shared insights on curriculum reforms to integrate sustainability education, urging educators to focus on climate-smart farming; Dr. Khizar Baig, Director of Research, who discussed ongoing studies on high-yield, low-input crops, guiding researchers toward eco-friendly biotechnology; Shri. Santosh Venikar, District Superintendent Agriculture Officer, who provided practical advice on government schemes for soil health, encouraging farmers to utilize subsidies for organic inputs; Shri. Dipak Kashalkar, Project Director of ATMA, who highlighted community-based extension programs, guiding on farmer field schools for better adoption; and Shri. Pravin Nimbal, Technical Officer, who offered tips on precision farming tools, stressing data-driven decisions to minimize waste.

Chief guests Dr. Rakesh Ahire, Director of Extension Education, elaborated on outreach initiatives, guiding on bridging the gap between labs and fields through demonstrations; Shri. Dolat Chavan, Project Director (ATMA), focused on collaborative projects, advising on multi-stakeholder partnerships for resilient systems; and Dr. Prashant Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Parbhani, shared field experiences on bio-fertilizers, guiding attendees on affordable methods to enhance soil fertility without chemicals.



Soil productivity and fertility are fundamentally tied to understanding its physical and chemical properties, which directly influence crop yields and long-term agricultural sustainability. Accurate assessment of available nutrients, pH levels, organic carbon content, and secondary/micronutrients enables farmers to apply fertilizers precisely, minimizing waste while maximizing returns. Soil testing serves as the cornerstone of modern farming by bridging the gap between soil science and practical field application, particularly in regions like Marathwada where semi-arid conditions and variable rainfall challenge consistent production.

Recognizing this critical need, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani established its Soil and Water Testing Laboratory in April 2005, making it one of the region's pioneering facilities for accessible soil diagnostics. Since inception, the lab has provided farmers with comprehensive analyses covering essential parameters: physical characteristics (texture, structure), electrical conductivity (salinity indicator), pH (acidity/alkalinity), organic carbon (soil health marker), and macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) alongside micronutrients (sulfur, zinc, boron, iron, manganese, copper). Each report includes customized recommendations for balanced nutrient management, crop-specific fertilizer schedules, and remedial measures for deficiencies or imbalances.

The lab's impact is evident in its high throughput: from April to June 2025 alone, approximately 3200 soil and water samples were processed, reflecting robust farmer engagement. Water testing complements soil analysis by evaluating irrigation quality—crucial for Maharashtra's groundwater-dependent agriculture—covering parameters like pH, EC, and harmful ions (sodium, carbonates). Farmers receive printed reports within days, often accompanied by on-site demonstrations or follow-up visits. This service not only optimizes input costs but also promotes sustainable practices, reducing over-fertilization that leads to groundwater pollution and soil degradation. KVK Parbhani's lab continues to evolve, integrating digital reporting and mobile apps for real-time advisory, ensuring Marathwada's smallholders remain competitive amid climate variability.



Excessive reliance on chemical fertilizers has depleted soil organic matter, increased compaction, escalated input costs, and undermined ecosystem services in Indian agriculture. This imbalance threatens long-term fertility, particularly for resource-poor smallholders who cannot afford repeated soil amendments. Sustainable alternatives like organic farming, natural farming, and biofertilizers offer viable paths forward, with vermicompost standing out for its nutrient-rich profile, microbial diversity, and ability to improve soil structure while recycling farm waste.

In response, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Parbhani launched a targeted vermicompost production project empowering farm women self-help groups (SHGs), aligning with national priorities for women-led agri-enterprises. The initiative emphasized technical proficiency through hands-on capacity building: participants learned vermicompost's superiority over farmyard manure (higher NPK, beneficial microbes), pit/bed construction using low-cost materials, earthworm species selection (*Eisenia fetida* preferred for rapid decomposition), and substrate preparation from locally abundant agro-wastes like crop residues, pressmud, and cattle dung.

Training modules covered stepwise protocols: pre-digestion of wastes (7-10 days), earthworm inoculation (1-1.5 kg/ton), maintenance of optimal conditions (moisture 40-50%, temperature 25-35°C, aeration via layering), and maturity indicators (dark color, earthy smell, 60-90 days cycle). Quality monitoring ensured pathogen-free, nutrient-dense output (typically 1.5-2% N, 1-1.5% P, 1.5% K). Economic modules highlighted profitability: startup costs under ₹10,000/unit, yielding 3-4 tons/year sold at ₹5-8/kg, generating ₹15,000-30,000 annual income.

From April to June 2025, KVK conducted 25 intensive sessions reaching 25 women, culminating in 10 fully functional vermicompost units. Eight participants reported tangible gains: 15-20% yield increases in subsequent crops (soybean, chickpea) due to improved soil tilth and nutrient availability, alongside 25-40% income rise from compost sales. This success underscores vermicomposting's dual role in ecological restoration and livelihood enhancement, positioning KVK Parbhani as a model for gender-inclusive, circular economy interventions in dryland farming.

Workshop on Pre-Kharif Crop Management

The Department of Agriculture, Parbhani, successfully organised a block-level training-cum-workshop on pre-kharif crop management at Pathari on 5th May 2025. The event was conceived with the primary objective of equipping farmers with the latest agricultural knowledge and technological advancements before the onset of the kharif season, enabling them to make informed decisions and adopt improved farming practices for better productivity and profitability.

Mr. Nitharwal began by elaborating on improved crop varieties available for both soybean and cotton, explaining their distinguishing characteristics such as yield potential, disease resistance, maturity duration, and suitability to local agro-climatic conditions. He stressed the importance of careful seed selection as a foundational step in ensuring a healthy and productive crop stand.

He went on to explain the significance of the Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) method and the Token method in land preparation and sowing, highlighting how these techniques contribute to better moisture conservation, improved drainage, and enhanced root development. The session also covered weed management strategies, emphasising timely and effective interventions to prevent yield losses due to weed competition during the critical early growth stages of the crop.

A particularly important aspect of his presentation was the focus on soil test-based fertilizer application, where he urged farmers to move away from blanket fertilizer recommendations and instead adopt a scientific, soil health-driven approach to nutrient management. This, he noted, not only improves crop performance but also ensures long-term soil fertility and reduces input costs. Alongside this, he discussed efficient water management practices suited to the region's rainfall patterns and the importance of timely irrigation during moisture-deficit periods.



Special Cotton Project

Cotton being the most prominent and economically significant crop of the Marathwada region, a Special Cotton Project has been undertaken in Parbhani district with the joint efforts of the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani. The project has been specifically designed to enhance the production potential of cotton in the region by promoting and disseminating advanced cultivation technologies among the farming community.

Under this project, various programmes are being organised across the district to promote and propagate ultra-high density planting, high density planting, and the Dada Lad cotton cultivation technology all of which are aimed at significantly improving cotton yields at the farm level. During the year 2025-26, these improved cotton cultivation technologies have been successfully implemented on the fields of 433 farmers across Parbhani district.



To ensure effective promotion and widespread adoption of these technologies, an extensive range of outreach activities were organised during the period from July to September. These included 5 training programmes, 65 action demonstrations, 20 Kisan Goshti (farmer interaction sessions), and 244 field visits, collectively drawing the participation of approximately 1,500 farmers from across the district. These activities played a pivotal role in creating awareness, building confidence among farmers, and facilitating the hands-on understanding of advanced cotton cultivation techniques, thereby contributing to the overall objective of enhancing cotton productivity in the Marathwada region.

Live Viewing Krishi Choupal on DD Kisan Channel: Episodes 7, 8, and 9 (July-September 2025)

Krishi Choupal, aired every second Saturday on DD Kisan Channel, featured Episodes 7, 8, and 9 in July, August, and September 2025, delivering vital Kharif season guidance. Episode 7 on July 12, hosted by Suresh Pawar with Dr. Sudhir Chavan and Dr. Vandana Jadhav, focused on Kharif sowing preparedness for soybean, cotton, and tur dal amid delayed monsoons. Experts advised waiting for 10 cm soil moisture before soybean planting to ensure germination, alongside seed treatments using Trichoderma, Rhizobium, and PSB cultures.

Episode 8 on August 9, anchored by Priya Deshmukh with KVK's Dr. Rajesh Mundhe and Dr. Prachi Patil, addressed pest and disease management in soybean and paddy as crops matured. Soybean's girdle beetle and stem fly issues required chlorantraniliprole 18.5 SC (3 ml/liter) for leaf ring damage, with a caution against mixing incompatible insecticides and fungicides without jar tests.

Episode 9 on September 13, again with Suresh Pawar alongside Dr. Amol Shinde and Dr. Nirmala Jagtap, covered Kharif harvesting readiness, post-harvest care, and Rabi planning. Soybean harvest at 95% brown pods prevented moisture-related quality loss or shattering, with storage needing under 12% moisture verified by seed-cracking tests and elevated jute bags.

Across these episodes, Krishi Choupal bridged scientific advice to Marathwada fields through interactive calls, field reports, and weather alerts, supporting farmers from sowing to Rabi transition in a strong 2025 Kharif season.



Field Day on Composite Fish Farming in Farm Ponds at Mouje Jamb



Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani successfully organized a Field Day on the topic of Composite Fish Farming in Farm Ponds at Mouje Jamb, Taluka Parbhani, under the able guidance of Dr. Prashant Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani. During the programme, Dr. Imran Khan Aagai, Scientist (Animal Science), delivered a detailed and informative session, highlighting the essential precautions to be taken before stocking fish seed, the importance of following recommended feeding schedules and proper nutrition management, and the critical need for effective oxygen management in pond water to ensure healthy fish growth. The event gained added significance with the special presence of local entrepreneur Shri. Dattatray Renge, who, in his motivational address, stressed the vital role of protective measures in achieving success in fish farming.

Shri. Renge further encouraged the farmers to adopt fish farming as a reliable supplementary source of income and shared practical insights on identifying and utilizing local market opportunities to maximize returns. The beneficiary farmers who participated actively shared their positive experiences, expressing great satisfaction with the additional income generated through composite fish farming techniques and offering special appreciation for the consistent and valuable guidance provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, particularly in the areas of feed management and water quality control.

To promote wider adoption of this sustainable and profitable technology, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani distributed fish seed to 10 new farmers during the programme. The high level of enthusiasm, active participation, and keen interest shown by a large number of farmers made the entire session highly interactive, informative, and remarkably successful, significantly contributing to knowledge dissemination and capacity building within the local farming community.

Celebration of Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2025



Rashtriya Poshan Maah is a nationwide month-long campaign observed every September to raise awareness about nutrition and combat malnutrition across India. Organised under the Poshan Abhiyaan, the campaign focuses on the nutritional well-being of children under six years of age, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Each year, the campaign is celebrated around a specific theme, and the 2025 edition was observed under the theme "Right Nutrition, Healthy Life," with a special emphasis on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices. The campaign encompasses a wide range of community-level activities including health camps, workshops, and awareness competitions, all aimed at promoting better nutritional habits and healthier lifestyles across diverse sections of society.

In alignment with this national campaign, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, organised a series of targeted programmes for farm women, school and anganwadi children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers during the month of September 2025.

On 13th September 2025, a training programme was organised for farm women of village Satla, Taluka Parbhani, centred on the theme of "Eat Right for a Balanced Diet." The session focused on educating farm women about the importance of incorporating a variety of foods into their daily diet to ensure adequate nutrition. As part of the programme, a balanced diet thali was demonstrated to participants, visually and practically showcasing the significance of food diversity and the role of each food group in maintaining good health and nutritional balance in everyday life.

Through these well-targeted interventions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, reaffirmed its commitment to promoting nutrition awareness and fostering healthier dietary practices among vulnerable and priority groups, contributing meaningfully to the national goals of the Poshan Abhiyaan.

Farmer-Scientist Forum (Shetkari Shastradnya Manch)

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and operated by Jeevan Jyot Charitable Trust, Parbhani, regularly organises the Farmer-Scientist Forum (Shetkari Shastradnya Manch) on the 7th of every month. The forum is conducted under the guidance of Dr. Prashant Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, with the primary aim of creating a meaningful dialogue between agricultural scientists and the farming community, enabling the timely dissemination of location-specific technological guidance to farmers at the field level.

As part of this ongoing initiative, the Farmer-Scientist Forum was organised at Mauze Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon, Taluka and District Parbhani, on 7th July 2025. Dr. Amol Kakde, Subject Matter Specialist (Crop Protection) and Coordination Officer, Farmer-Scientist Forum, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, guided the attending farmers on pest management in soybean and cotton crops. He elaborated on the integrated approach to pest management, highlighting the importance of adopting cultural, physical, mechanical, and biological methods, and resorting to chemical control only when absolutely necessary. He emphasised that such a balanced and need-based approach to pest management can significantly reduce input costs while contributing to an increase in overall crop productivity.

The forum was subsequently organised at Mauze Rudi, Taluka Manwat, District Parbhani, on 7th August 2025. Dr. Amol Kakde guided the orange-growing farmers of the region on the identification of major pests affecting citrus crops and their integrated management strategies. He familiarised farmers with the key pests that commonly cause economic damage to orange orchards and provided practical recommendations for their effective and eco-friendly control. In addition to his technical guidance,

On 7th September 2025, the Farmer-Scientist Forum was organised at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, where Dr. Amol Kakde delivered an informative session on integrated pest and disease management in pigeonpea (tur) crop. He guided farmers on the use of pheromone traps for monitoring and controlling key pests, installation of 50 to 60 bird perches per hectare as a cost-effective biological control measure, application of neem kernel extract as a botanical pesticide, and the use of Trichoderma, a beneficial biological fungus, for effective disease management.

All three forum sessions were attended by a large number of farmers, reflecting the growing awareness and enthusiasm within the farming community for science-based agricultural practices. The Farmer-Scientist Forum continues to serve as an invaluable and accessible platform for bridging the gap between agricultural research and ground-level farming, reinforcing Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani's commitment to sustainable and knowledge-driven agricultural development in the region.



Celebration of Soybean Field Day

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, successfully organised a Soybean Field Day under the Cluster Front Line Demonstration programme at Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon village on 27th September 2025. The event was organised under the guidance of Dr. P. B. Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of farmers from the surrounding region. As part of its front-line extension programme aimed at demonstrating recommended packages of practices for major crops directly on farmers' fields, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani had conducted Cluster Front Line Demonstrations on soybean across a total area of 20 hectares in two villages Kasapuri, Taluka Pathari, and Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon, Taluka Parbhani — during the Kharif 2025 season, under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM). The demonstrations were specifically designed to showcase the distinctive advantages of the Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) technology, the Token method of sowing, and the performance of the high-yielding soybean variety MAUS-612 in comparison to the locally cultivated traditional variety. To provide farmers with a firsthand and visual understanding of these technological interventions at the crop maturity stage, the field day was organised at Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon village.

The programme commenced with an inaugural session in which Mr. S. S. Nitharwal, Scientist (Crop Production), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, set the context for the field day by clearly articulating the objectives of the front-line demonstrations and the significance of organising the field day at this particular stage of crop growth. He elaborated upon the recommended soybean crop production technologies being promoted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, including newly released improved varieties, the BBF and Token methods of sowing, soil testing and its role in balanced nutrient management, and integrated crop management practices. He urged the attending farmers to observe the visible and distinctive characteristics of the improved variety MAUS-612 such as its plant vigour, pod setting, and overall yield performance as compared to the traditional local variety, and appealed to them to wholeheartedly adopt these proven technologies to enhance their crop yields and overall farm income.

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Dr. A. M. Kakde, Scientist (Crop Protection), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, also addressed the gathering and guided farmers on the critical importance of seed treatment as a preventive measure against soil-borne diseases and pests. He further elaborated on integrated pest and disease management strategies relevant to rabi crops, providing farmers with practical and science-backed recommendations to safeguard their crops from biotic stresses while minimising dependence on chemical inputs.

Adding another important dimension to the programme, Mr. Pandharinath Ikkar shared valuable insights on the importance and methods of organic manuring, vermicomposting, and the use of vermiwash as effective and eco-friendly soil enrichment practices. His guidance encouraged farmers to integrate organic inputs into their farming systems as a means of improving soil health, enhancing microbial activity, and reducing input costs over the long term.

The highlight of the field day was the field visit, during which farmers and experts together visited the demonstration plot of Shri Arjun Gangadhar Awhad. Farmers had the opportunity to walk through the field and directly observe the performance of the improved soybean variety MAUS-612 alongside the local check variety, making a visual and practical comparison of plant characteristics, pod development, and crop stand. This hands-on exposure proved to be a highly effective and convincing way of communicating the benefits of improved technologies to the farming community.

The field day was attended by a large number of farmers, making it a vibrant and successful platform for technology dissemination and knowledge exchange. The event reinforced Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani's commitment to bridging the gap between agricultural research and farm-level practice, and is expected to encourage wider adoption of improved soybean cultivation technologies across the Parbhani district in the seasons to come.

Training Programme on Soybean Cultivation under NFSM-Cluster Front Line Demonstrations Organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani successfully conducted a training programme on 7 July 2025 under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) – Cluster Front Line Demonstrations (CFLDs) on Oilseeds. As part of this initiative, 20 hectares covering 50 demonstrations were allotted for soybean cultivation during the Kharif season in the villages of Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon and Kasapuri, Taluka Parbhani. The programme was inaugurated with the gracious presence of Smt. Ashamati Dattatray Awhad, Sarpanch of Bramhapuri Tarfe Pedgaon, who attended as the chief guest and motivated the farmers to actively adopt improved practices. The technical sessions were expertly handled by Shri. S. S. Nitharwal, Scientist (Crop Production), and Dr. A. M. Kakde, Scientist (Plant Protection), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, under the overall guidance of Dr. Prashant B. Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani.

Shri. S. S. Nitharwal delivered a detailed session highlighting the economic importance of soybean as a major oilseed crop and its role in improving farm income and soil health. He explained the step-by-step process of selecting suitable varieties, preparing the field properly, determining the ideal sowing window, treating seeds effectively, applying balanced nutrition, and managing water and weeds scientifically to minimize losses and maximize output.

Dr. A. M. Kakde provided comprehensive guidance on integrated pest and disease management in soybean. He covered the identification of major insect pests and diseases, their symptoms, economic threshold levels, and integrated control measures that combine cultural, mechanical, biological, and judicious chemical approaches. He stressed the importance of timely interventions to protect the crop while reducing environmental risks and production costs.

The programme proceedings were smoothly conducted by Shri. Pandharinath Ikkar, who also proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the chief guest, resource persons, and all participating farmers for their enthusiastic involvement and valuable contributions.

The training significantly improved the farmers' understanding and confidence in adopting modern soybean cultivation practices. Participants expressed readiness to implement key recommendations such as timely sowing, proper seed treatment, balanced nutrient application, and effective pest and disease management. Many farmers showed keen interest in taking up soybean as a major Kharif crop, recognizing its potential to generate higher income and contribute to soil fertility improvement through biological nitrogen fixation.

Overall, the training programme proved highly effective in promoting sustainable, scientific, and profitable soybean farming in the region. The adoption of the discussed technologies and practices is expected to enhance productivity, reduce input costs, improve resource-use efficiency, and ultimately support better livelihoods for farmers while contributing to national oilseed production goals under the NFSM scheme. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani remains committed to organizing such farmer-oriented capacity-building initiatives to empower the farming community with knowledge and practical solutions for resilient agriculture.



Training Programme Conducted Under the Prime Minister Micro Food Processing Industries Scheme



The Prime Minister Micro Food Processing Industries Scheme is a flagship Central Government initiative designed to formalise and empower individuals engaged in the food processing sector. The scheme provides beneficiaries with a comprehensive support system encompassing financial assistance, technology and training, market linkage for processed products, facilitation of bank loans, and subsidy on loans availed all with the overarching goal of strengthening the micro food processing ecosystem at the grassroots level.

In this context, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, under the guidance of Senior Scientist and Head Dr. Prashant Bhosale, organised two skill-based three-day training programmes during 17th to 19th July 2025 and 30th July to 1st August 2025, aimed at equipping aspiring and existing food processing entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and practical exposure needed to establish and sustain their processing enterprises.

The training programmes were inaugurated by Dr. Prashant Bhosale, who provided a detailed overview of the Prime Minister Micro Food Processing Industries Scheme, explaining its objectives, features, and benefits. He encouraged all participants to engage actively in the training and make the most of the opportunities offered by the scheme.

On the first day, Mr. Chandrashekhar Deshmukh, Programme Assistant, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, conducted a technical session in which he provided comprehensive guidance on the preparation of project reports under the scheme, walking participants through the essential components and financial planning required for a well-structured proposal. In the afternoon session, Dr. Aruna Kharwade addressed the financial challenges commonly encountered by beneficiaries under the scheme, offering practical solutions and clarity on the financial aspects of project formulation and implementation.

On the second day, Prof. S. M. Renge, Assistant Professor, Rajiv Gandhi College of Food Technology, Parbhani, guided trainees on the documentation required for registering a food processing business, legal compliance norms, and the regulations of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). In the afternoon session, trainees undertook an enriching industrial visit to fruit and vegetable processing, bakery, turmeric, spices, and sugarcane processing industries operating under the Public-Private Partnership model, under the guidance of the College of Food Technology, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidhyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, and Satvik Oil Industry, Basmat Road, Parbhani. The visit provided trainees with an in-depth, firsthand understanding of industry operations, and the interactive discussions with entrepreneurs offered valuable insights into the practical challenges involved in establishing and running food processing enterprises.

On the third day, Prof. Dr. B. M. Patil, Assistant Professor, College of Food Technology, VNMKV, Parbhani, delivered an informative session on packaging, labelling, branding, marketing, and sales management of processed products equipping trainees with essential skills for making their products market-ready and competitive. Dr. Aruna Kharwade further guided participants on technology and value addition in food processing, as well as the machinery and equipment required for setting up various processing projects.

The training programmes were concluded in the presence of Mr. Swapnil Jadhavar, Nodal Officer, PMFME, who addressed the queries and difficulties of trainees related to the establishment of processing industries, providing them with direction and encouragement. The programmes were coordinated and organised by Mr. Yashwant Devre and Dr. Aruna Kharwade, Scientist (Home Science), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, with the dedicated support of all officers and staff of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, whose collective efforts contributed to the successful conduct of the programmes.

Celebration of 20th Parthenium Awareness Week at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani successfully observed the 20th Parthenium Awareness Week from 16th to 22nd August 2025 with the primary objective of educating farmers, students, and the general public about the severe threats posed by Parthenium hysterophorus commonly known as Congress grass or Gajarghas. This invasive and obnoxious weed is notorious for causing serious health issues in humans and animals, including allergic reactions, skin dermatitis, respiratory problems, and toxicity in livestock. Additionally, it severely reduces crop productivity, competes aggressively with cultivated plants, depletes soil nutrients, suppresses biodiversity, and degrades the aesthetic, recreational, and environmental value of public spaces, farmlands, roadsides, railway tracks, and institutional premises.

Under the guidance of Dr. Prashant B. Bhosale, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parbhani, the week-long campaign emphasized that effective and sustainable management of Parthenium demands continuous collective efforts, widespread awareness, and the adoption of an integrated approach combining mechanical, biological, chemical, and cultural methods.

Activities like physically removing live Parthenium plants, ensuring the campus remained Parthenium-free, Marched with placards, banners, and slogans, spreading awareness among passers-by about the dangers of Parthenium. Staff members released Mexican beetles (*Zygogramma bicolorata*) a proven bio-agent for Parthenium suppression on the instructional farm of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Safe and effective application methods, precautions, and best practices to minimize environmental impact while controlling the weed.



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