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ICAR-CIPHET NEWS



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ICAR-CIPHET

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From the Director's Desk

Dear Stakeholder,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the third quarterly Newsletter of ICAR–CIPHET for the year 2025. This edition highlights our continued commitment to advancing the agricultural processing sector through innovative research, technology development, and impactful capacity-building initiatives.

During this quarter, the institute has made notable progress in the development and dissemination of advanced technologies aimed at addressing critical challenges in post-harvest management and food processing. A strong emphasis has been placed on knowledge transfer through structured training programs, expert lectures, and skill development workshops. These initiatives have been thoughtfully designed to benefit a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including farmers, entrepreneurs, food technologists, food engineers, and emerging startups.

In parallel, ICAR–CIPHET has strengthened its focus on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) by expanding its portfolio of patent filings. These efforts are crucial in safeguarding our innovations, enhancing their scalability, and facilitating their adoption in both rural and urban Agri-based enterprises.

As we move forward, the institute remains steadfast in its mission to foster technological innovation, promote sustainable practices, and build capacities across the Agri-food value chain. We are confident that our collective efforts will contribute significantly to strengthening India's agricultural resilience and ensuring national food security.



Ludhiana, 2025

**(Nachiket Kotwaliwale)
Director, ICAR-CIPHET**

Research Highlights**ICAR-CIPHET****❖ Solar-powered day-night universal insect trap**

The invention comprises a solar-powered multi-mechanism insect trapping system designed for autonomous operation during both day and night. The system includes a solar panel and its box, sticky traps, light source, water basins for trapping insects, a height-adjustable support structure, and a light sensor circuit for automatic switching between operational modes. During the day, insects are attracted to trap colour enhanced with coloured sticky traps or drowned in yellow coloured water bowls. During the night, insects are attracted to light source powered by a solar-charged battery, in combination with sticky and water bowl traps.

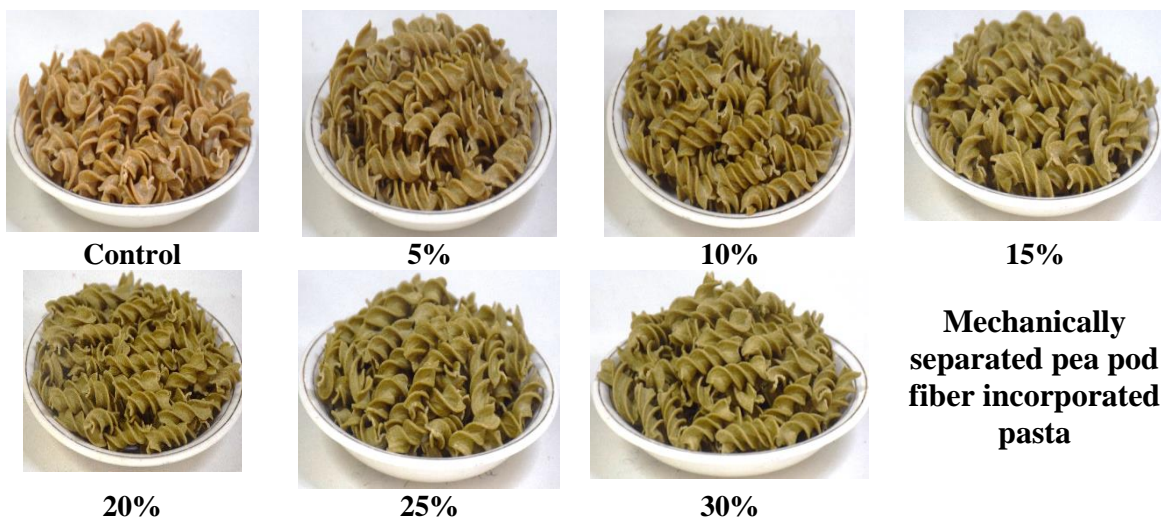


To enhance the efficiency the trap also houses provisions for pheromone slots and easy to modify arms for installations of desired smaller traps. This dual-mode functionality ensures 24-hour insect monitoring and control without the need for external electricity or manual intervention.

❖ Pasta using mechanically separated pea pod fibre-rich fractions

Pasta is a globally appreciated food product, valued for its ease of preparation and sensory appeal. However, traditional pasta made from refined wheat flour is low in dietary fiber, which limits its nutritional benefits. Dietary fiber plays a vital role in improving digestive health, lowering blood cholesterol, and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. In this context, enhancing pasta with natural fiber sources can offer both nutritional and functional benefits. The use of agro-industrial by-products like pea pods present an eco-friendly and cost-effective approach to fortify food while addressing sustainability. The present study aimed to develop fiber-enriched pasta by gradually replacing semolina (0-30%) with pea pod fiber, which was mechanically separated from pea pods. Pea pod fibre incorporation significantly influenced the cooking properties. The water absorption index as well as gruel solid loss increased with increasing pea pod fiber level reaching to 1.83 and 1.91% at 30% level, respectively. The cooking time was inversely proportional to pea pod fiber level, decreasing from 8.58 min in the control (0% pea pod fibre) to 6.54 min in pasta with 30% pea pod fibre, possibly due to fiber interfering with starch gelatinization and network formation. The increased volume expansion ratio (VER) with pea pod fibre level suggested better swelling behavior and structural expansion during cooking. Color analysis revealed a noticeable shift in visual attributes with increased fiber. Lightness (L^*) decreased consistently from 79.34 (control) to 71.52 at 30%, indicating a darker product. The fat content remained relatively stable between 1.47% and 1.58%, suggesting minimal effect from fiber addition. Protein content showed a gradual decline from 15.47% in the control to 13.84% in pasta with 30%, likely due to the dilution effect as more fiber was incorporated into the formulation. Ash content, indicative of mineral content, increased with fiber level, from 1.83% in the control to 2.28% at 30%, supporting the nutritional enhancement of pasta through fiber fortification.

Moisture content generally declined from 6.35% (control) to 5.21–5.81% in enriched samples, potentially due to the water-binding nature of dietary fiber, thereby reducing the free moisture. The TDF content of pasta samples increased significantly with the incorporation of pea pod fiber and ranged between 7.26% (control) to 22.03% (30% pea pod fibre level). The organoleptic evaluation of pasta samples indicated that the pea pod fibre could be incorporated in the formulation up to 15% level having an overall acceptability score of 7.25. In conclusion, mechanically separated pea pod fiber fractions can be effectively incorporated up to 15% level to produce nutritionally enhanced pasta with acceptable cooking characteristics, offering a sustainable and functional alternative for health-conscious consumers.



❖ **Mango washer cum scrubber machine**

Popular mango varieties like *Chausa* and *Dassehri* from UP has problem of black spot on the skin which decreases the market potential of mangoes. These black spots are tough and cumbersome to wipe away manually and can also cause damage to the fruit. A mechanized system, equipped with ‘CISH-Fruitwash’ (an organic formulation) application, can wipe away these spots from all sides of the mangoes without drudgery and can enhance the market potential of the commodity.



Before the washing process

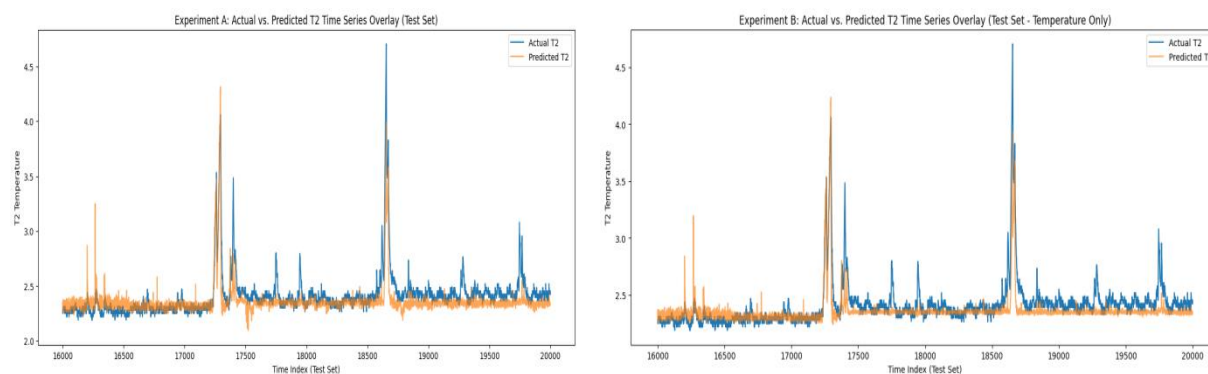


After the washing process

An equipment was designed and fabricated through a collaborative initiative between the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology, Regional Station, Abohar and the ICAR-Central Institute of Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow. The developed machine was successfully demonstrated and tested in front of the farmers and researchers at Horticulture Experiment and Training Centre, Saharanpur (UP). The efficiency of the developed machine during the testing was 75-80% and it may vary depending on the dipping time and concentration of the salt used. The main features of the developed machine are: (a) Throughput - 500-1000 kg per hour of graded fruits (b) The fruit contact surfaces are made from food grade stainless steel (SS-304) (c) Compact and adjustable for different varieties and sizes of fruits (d) Operates on a single-phase electric motor (e) Less drudgery, cost saving and improved hygiene.

❖ Real-time apple quality monitoring in cold storage

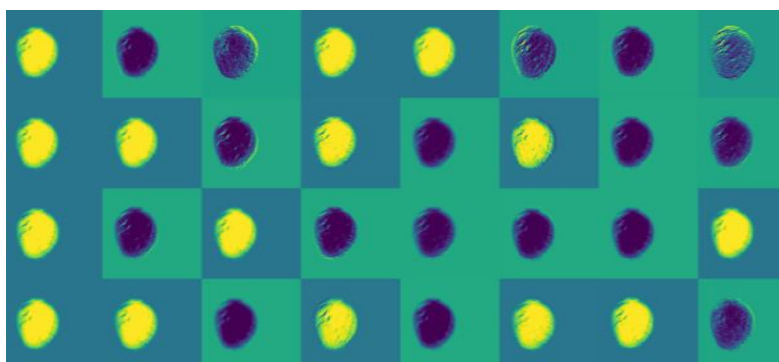
The study introduces a recurrent neural network (RNN)-based approach for predicting changes in the physical quality of apples during long-term, low-temperature storage. This work utilizes time series data of storage environment histories. The model is designed to operate, real-time environmental data and storage duration as inputs, improving its practical applicability. Apples were stored under controlled conditions, and quality-related data were collected through regular sampling and destructive testing. Data preprocessing was carried out to minimize environmental noise and address time resolution discrepancies. Total soluble solids (TSS) and texture were chosen as prediction targets due to their strong relationships with both environmental and quality parameters. For performance evaluation, four RNN-based architectures—stacked RNN, stacked long short-term memory (LSTM), residual LSTM, and baseline LSTM—were compared with a conventional multiple linear regression (MLR) model. Given the limited availability of validated models for predicting agricultural product quality, a grid search was used to identify optimal model structures and parameter settings. The optimized models were tested, revealed that the residual LSTM achieved the best performance, with a normalized test root mean-squared error (RMSE) of 0.0612, successfully predicting up to 336 hours ahead. The baseline LSTM extended the prediction window to 504 hours, with an RMSE of 0.0501. Conversely, the MLR model exhibited severe overfitting, producing a test RMSE of 0.2914 and confirming its ineffectiveness in using storage history for quality prediction. These findings highlight the promise of RNN-based methods for modelling quality changes in stored agricultural products and suggest the developed model as a valuable foundation for future post-harvest process optimization research. This work focuses on developing a real-time digital twin framework for monitoring apple quality during storage using sensor networks and machine learning. The experimental setup involved 60 kg of Red Delicious apples stored in a cold room at controlled temperature and humidity. Apples were distributed in three crates of 20 kg each. Ten temperature-humidity (TH) sensors were installed inside the cold room to continuously record ambient conditions. Each crate was instrumented with three probe-type temperature sensors (T1, T2, T3) for monitoring core temperature at different levels and three non-contact IR sensors (IR1, IR2, IR3) to measure apple surface temperature and localized ambient temperature. This resulted in a dataset of over 20,000 data points collected over a seven-month storage period. Data preprocessing included cleaning, outlier detection, visualization, and normalization to ensure robust model training.



The study primarily focused on predicting the core temperature (T2) using a Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) network with an attention mechanism. Two experiments were conducted: (A) prediction of T2 using temperature and humidity inputs, and (B) prediction using only temperature inputs. The dataset was split into training (80%) and testing (20%) subsets without data leakage. The models were trained using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001, batch size of 100, 50 epochs, and a dropout rate of 0.1 to prevent overfitting. Model performance was evaluated using Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE). For Experiment A, the model achieved an MSE of 1.343983 (training) and 1.201171 (validation), with corresponding MAE values of 0.797578 and 0.730524. Visualization included actual vs. predicted T2 plots, training and validation loss curves, scatter plots, residual error analysis, and time-series overlays. These results confirm that including humidity slightly improves prediction accuracy and supports the development of a robust digital twin for real-time shelf-life prediction of apples.

❖ Visual and X-Ray imaging based mango sorting & grading system

Image analysis was performed on mango samples to investigate the role of pre-processing techniques in improving tissue classification under NePAA project. The application of background conversion to black, followed by image normalization, was found to substantially enhance the quality of extracted features.



These pre-processing steps reduced noise, improved contrast, and facilitated better edge preservation, which in turn led to stronger and more localized activation in the deeper convolutional layers of the network. Consequently, the classification performance for detecting spongy versus non-spongy tissue was markedly improved, as evidenced by the generated feature maps, wherein the yellow-highlighted regions distinctly correspond to non-spongy tissue. This indicates that optimized preprocessing contributes significantly to the robustness and reliability of non-destructive spongy tissue detection in mango.

❖ Physical attributes, proximate composition, phytochemicals and antioxidant potential of millet microgreens

In preliminary experiments, pearl millet microgreens were cultivated on different substrates to assess their growth and nutritional potential. Evaluation of physical attributes, phytochemical and proximate composition, antioxidant activity, and mineral profile indicated that a substrate comprising cocopeat, soil, and selected additives was optimal, as it markedly improved these parameters. Building on these observations, subsequent experiments were extended to the cultivation of microgreens from other millets including kodo, foxtail, barnyard, and little millet, with wheat employed as the control. On the appearance of first true leaves, microgreens were harvested (6-10 days after sowing) and evaluated for their physical characteristics, proximate and phytochemical composition. The germination vigor of kodo (58%), foxtail (54%), barnyard (57%) and little millet (53%) was comparatively lower than pearl millet (90%) and the control viz., wheat (100%). On the day of harvest, the height of pearl millet, kodo, foxtail, barnyard and little millet was in the range of 5.00-13.93 cm, which was comparatively lower than the control (19.83 cm). The resultant yield of pearl millet, kodo, foxtail, barnyard and little millet was observed as 798.32 g/m², 420.17 g/m², 682.77 g/m², 619.72 g/m² and 504.20 g/m², respectively. The moisture, ash, fat, crude fiber and protein content of millet microgreens ranged from 87.92-91.78% (fwb), 8-13% (dwb), 3.44-4.54% (dwb), 17-29% (dwb) and 24.60-28.36% (dwb), respectively.

The total chlorophyll and carotenoid content of millet microgreens was found in the range of 65.60-96.76 mg/100g and 3.28-5.59 mg/100 g, respectively. Further, the phytochemical analysis of millet microgreens showed that the total phenol content and total flavonoid content of millet microgreens ranged between 229.69 - 366.88 mg GAE/100g and 42.67 – 298.0 mg QE/100g, respectively. The antioxidant activity of microgreens, determined using ABTS, FRAP and DPPH assay, exhibited values ranging from 36.20-82.40%, 106.83-297.50 $\mu\text{g FeSO}_4/\text{mL}$ and 38.57-93.06%, respectively.



Wheat



Pearl millet



Kodo millet



Little millet



Barnyard millet



Foxtail millet

❖ Simulated grain silo

A facility has been developed to simulate grain silo conditions for pulses, with the objective of optimizing grain depth under DoCA project. Unlike monocot crops such as wheat and rice, pulses (dicot seeds) are more susceptible to structural damage under pressure. However, existing bulk storage practices for pulses are largely based on those used for wheat and paddy, which may not be optimal. The fabricated load cell sensor has been incorporated into the project to measure: Static Pressure or Weight – The pressure exerted by the mass of stored pulses at the bottom layer. Dynamic Loading – The additional pressure that occurs during the filling process in bulk storage. Customized Load Sensor for Simulated Silo. To accommodate these requirements, a customized load sensor has been developed and fabricated with the specifications: Size:



8 inches, bearing Capacity: 1 ton, Integration: Designed to fit within a 10-inch diameter pipe, representing a simulated silo with a height of 35 feet for storage experiments. This research will help in understanding the impact of grain depth on pulse storage and optimizing it for bulk storage to minimize structural damage to pulses.

AICRP on PHET

❖ Development of a slaughter house waste collection system

To address the challenges of unhygienic waste handling in the Indian meat industry, AAU, Khanapara developed both stationary and mobile slaughterhouse by-product collection units. These units are designed for hygienic segregation and storage of feathers, blood, viscera, and head & feet at chilling temperatures (4°C), helping reduce environmental and health risks. The stationary unit (80 kg capacity) uses an R134a-based refrigeration system, while the mobile unit (240 kg capacity) employs phase change material (PCM) for passive cooling. Both are made of corrosion-resistant stainless steel, with insulated chambers and removable containers for ease of use. The units are cost-effective (₹75,000 for stationary and ₹2,50,000 for mobile with e-loader) and aim to improve waste management in small slaughter units and butcher shops.



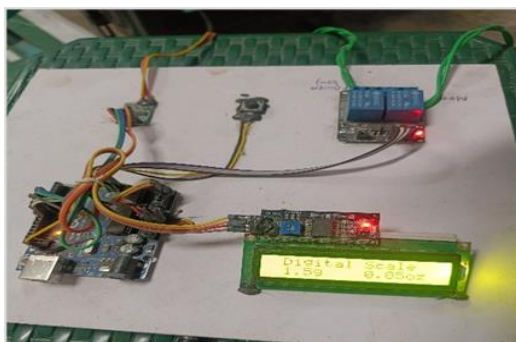
Mobile by-product collection unit



Stationary by-product collection unit

❖ Integration of load cell with IoT device for force measurement in mini rice huller

A load cell was integrated at the discharge outlet of a mini rice huller to monitor the force exerted by the end plate during the dehulling process of finger millet and little millet at OUAT, Bhubaneswar. This setup, connected through an IoT device, enabled real-time measurement and display of the applied force, ensuring optimal dehulling efficiency. The weighing load cell sensor YZC-131A is a compact and efficient sensor designed for a maximum load capacity of 5 kg. It features dimensions of 75 mm in length, 18 mm in width, and 13 mm in height, with an 18 cm long cable for easy connectivity. The sensor includes M4-sized fitting screw holes for mounting. It provides a rated output of 1.0 mV/V and exhibits excellent accuracy with a nonlinearity, hysteresis, and repeatability of $\pm 0.05\%$ of full scale.



IoT device with load cell



Load cell attached to mini rice huller

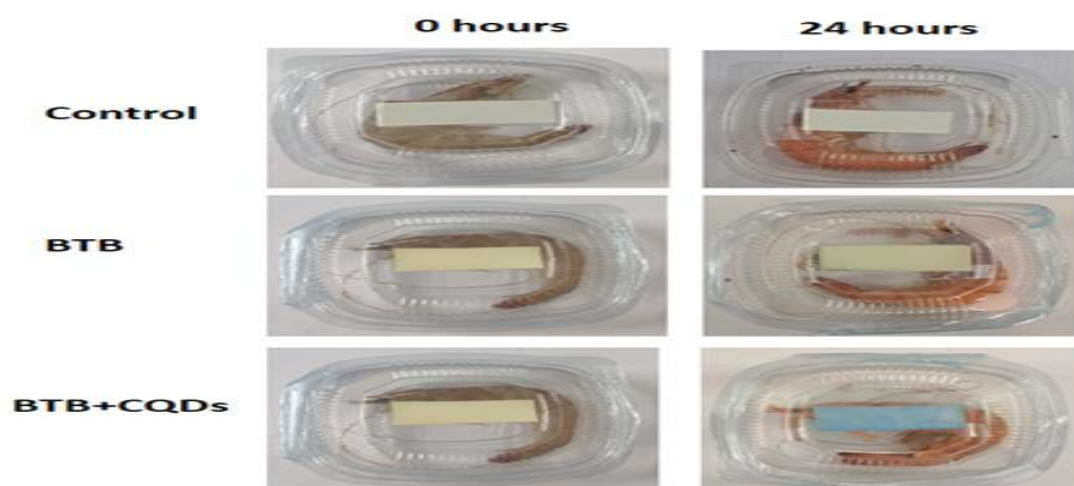
The sensor is priced at ₹157 (inclusive of GST) and is currently available in stock. Hulling experiments were conducted at different outlet force settings of the pressure plate against the discharge outlet to standardize the force requirement. The study revealed that the optimum outlet resistive force was 27 N for finger millet and 42.5 N for little millet, ensuring effective dehulling with minimal grain breakage.

❖ IoT based biogas flushed automated storage system to manage major insect pests of *Mung bean* and *Kabuli chana*

Pulses are a vital source of protein in India, especially for vegetarians, yet they are highly susceptible to insect damage during storage-experiencing up to 5% loss compared to 2-3.5% in cereals. Addressing the lack of proper monitoring systems, this study aimed to develop a non-chemical, IoT-based biogas-flushed automated storage system for managing key insect pests in mung bean and *Kabuli chana* at PAU, Ludhiana. A compact, technically advanced storage bin was successfully designed and developed with biogas fumigation, automated aeration, and real-time monitoring of environmental conditions. The IoT system, built around a Raspberry Pi controller, included a CO₂ sensor (SCD42), GSM communication module, night vision camera, and alert buzzer, enabling autonomous responses such as blower activation and data logging.

❖ Synthesis of carbon quantum dots

Carbon quantum dots (CQDs) were successfully synthesized from lactic acid via a green hydrothermal method at TNAU, Coimbatore. The obtained CQDs were characterized and subsequently incorporated into a paper indicator strip along with bromothymol blue (BTB), a pH-sensitive dye, to develop a visual sensor strip for monitoring the spoilage of prawns. For comparison, strips containing only BTB (0.1%) were also prepared. The sensor strips were tested by exposing them to prawn samples stored at room temperature.



The results showed that BTB-only strip initially appeared yellow-green but underwent a rapid and noticeable fading of color within 12 hours, showing a weak transition from yellow to bluish tones. However, the color intensity significantly diminished as spoilage increased, indicating limited stability and sensitivity over time. In contrast, the CQD+BTB strip exhibited enhanced colour stability and stronger color contrast throughout the 24-hour storage period. The strip maintained a clear visual transition from yellow-green (fresh) to green/blue (spoiled), aligning well with spoilage indicators such as increasing total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N).

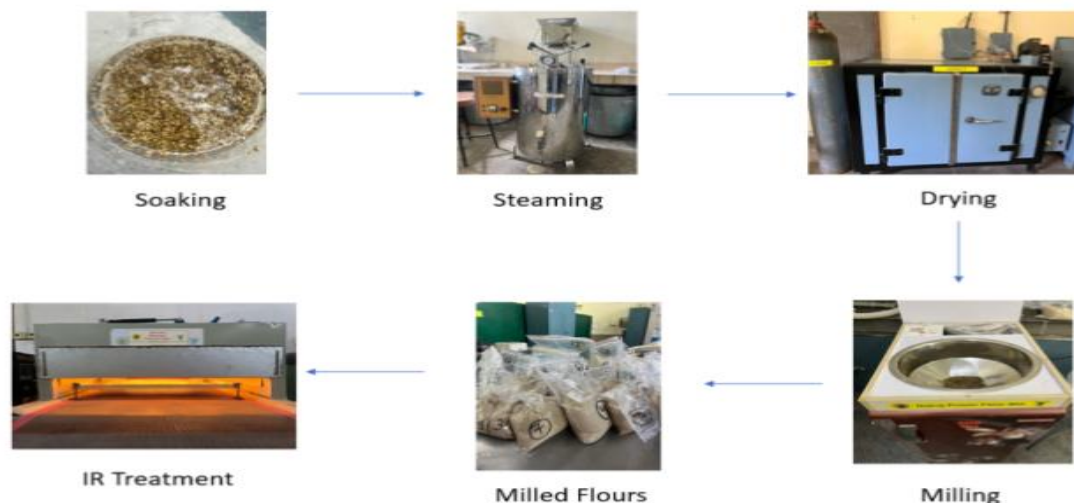
❖ An automated *Dal* sorting system using machine learning

Dal, a staple food in India, is traditionally sorted manually, which is labor-intensive, inconsistent, and unsustainable with rising labor costs. To address this, a custom image acquisition chamber was developed for ML-based automated sorting at PAU Ludhiana. Made of 3 mm mild steel with a 300 × 300 mm base and 770 mm height, the chamber features a hinged door for sample access, shadow-free uniform lighting from four 20 V lamps, an adjustable-height sample holder, and a top-mounted camera port (65 mm). Its enclosed design minimizes ambient light, enabling high-resolution, consistent imaging for accurate impurity detection and improved efficiency in dal processing.



❖ Shelf-life enhancement and quality management of selected millet flours

Millet flours are prone to rancidity due to high oil content, enzymatic activity, and anti-nutrients that reduce nutritional value. To address this, pre- and post-milling treatments were optimized for pearl millet and ragi, involving controlled soaking, steaming, and infrared (IR) exposure at PAU Ludhiana.



The infrared IR treatment significantly reduced the lipase activity up to 68% and 55%, phytic acid levels 42% and 38%, in pearl millet and ragi respectively), with pearl millet responding best to moderate IR conditions (110–115 °C, 4–6 min) and ragi requiring slightly higher intensity (115–120 °C, 6–8 min). These results highlight effective holistic protocols for enhancing shelf life and nutritional quality of millet flours.

❖ Nutraceutical potential of ripe pumpkin for the development of pumpkin seed butter

Pumpkin seed kernels were roasted at 120 °C for 49 minutes, ground, and blended with sunflower oil (2%), salt (0.5%), and maltodextrin (0.5%), followed by the addition of varying concentrations of soya lecithin (0.25, 0.5, 0.75%) and sugar (2.5, 5, 7.5%) to study their effect on the sensory properties of pumpkin seed butter at Solan center. The mixture was homogenized for 4-5 minutes to achieve a smooth consistency, cooled, packed in PET jars, and evaluated on a 9-point hedonic scale. Sensory results revealed that colour (7.71-8.60) remained unaffected, while texture, taste, and overall acceptability varied significantly with treatments. Texture was best in T₅ (8.43) and T₆ (8.41), whereas T₀ (5.28) scored the lowest. Aroma was highest in T₀ (8.67) but declined with higher sugar and lecithin levels, reaching 6.20 in T₉, with higher lecithin (0.75%) imparting a soy-like note. Taste preference peaked in T₄ (8.61) and T₅ (8.56), while T₀ (4.15) was least liked. Overall acceptability was highest in T₅ (8.35), followed by T₄ (8.10), whereas T₀ (6.68) and T₉ (6.71) scored the lowest. These findings indicate that moderate sugar and lecithin concentrations enhanced texture, taste, and acceptability, while excessive lecithin reduced aroma and the absence of additives adversely affected sensory quality of the developed product.



❖ Machinery and process protocol for value addition of *Palmyrah*

Tender *Palmyra* endosperm (*Nungu*) was canned in 20°Brix sugar syrup, retort-processed at 121 °C for 15 min, and stored for 120 days at TNAU Coimbatore. TSS increased until 45 days and then stabilized, PPO activity rose steadily (180.2 to 230.98 U min⁻¹), phenolic content showed a slight increase (65.2 to 67.53 µg GAE/100 mg), and lightness (L*) declined (45.89 to 39.58), indicating gradual darkening. In *Palmyrah haustorium*, manganese peaked at the 13th week (214.11 µg/10 g), while in tubers it was highest at the 12th week (6.23 µg/10 g). Several treatments exceeded the grand means (170.01 µg/10 g in haustorium; 3.77 µg/10 g in tuber), under nutritional potential of *palmyrah* at specific growth stages.



❖ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in vegetables: Surveillance, prevalence and effective control using carbon dots derived from medicinal herbs

Thirty bacterial colonies isolated from different fruit samples using selective media (MacConkey, EMB, XLD, Bacillus cereus, and Baird Parker agar) were screened for amylase and β-haemolytic activity at TNAU Coimbatore.

All isolates showed blue coloration, confirming absence of α - amylase production, while β -hemolysis was detected by clear halo zones around colonies. PCR analysis of 10 selected isolates further showed no DNA bands for the targeted virulence genes, confirming their absence.



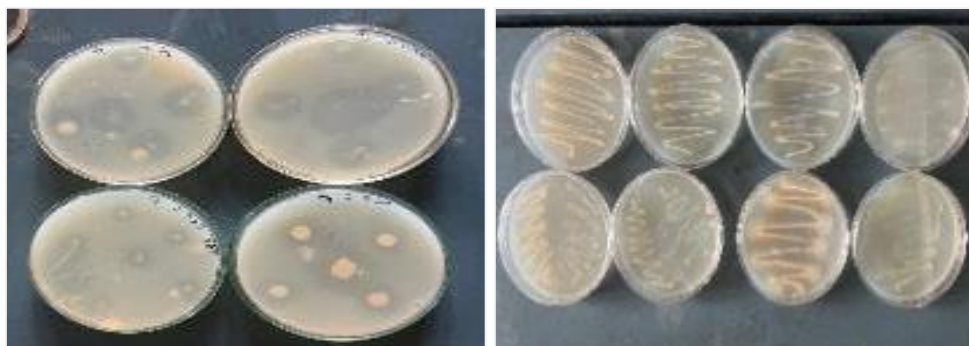
Blue coloration indicates no production of α -amylase

❖ Encapsulation of extract from paddy straw mushroom waste

The extract obtained from paddy straw mushroom waste by ultrasonic treatment was encapsulated taking maltodextrin (MD) and gum arabic (GA) as wall material in 100:0, 75:25, and 50:50 proportions using a spray dryer at OUAT, Bhubaneswar centre. The 75:25 (MD: GA) formulation showed the highest encapsulation efficiency for polyphenols ($80.13 \pm 0.54\%$) and flavonoids ($84.79 \pm 0.73\%$), along with significant antioxidant activity ($71.82 \pm 1.23\%$) and excellent flowability.



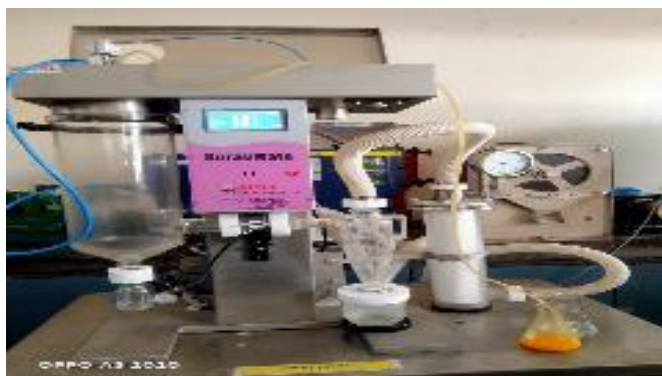
Further, 15 soil isolates were screened for phytase activity, with strain A9 showing the highest activity (27.67 U/mL) at PAU Ludhiana. Optimization studies identified glucose, urea, pH 6.0, and 45°C as favourable conditions for maximum enzyme production. The findings highlight the potential of microbial interventions to reduce anti-nutritional factors and improve the shelf life and quality of millet flours.



Phytase producing microbial isolates

❖ Pilot plant augmentation and process protocol for “instant mix” probiotic fruit and vegetable juice powders with enhanced storage stability

Under the project on instant-mix probiotic juice powders, mango juice was nutritionally profiled and spray-dried using maltodextrin/gum Arabic at 140-180 °C at PAU, Ludhiana Centre. Results showed some loss of sugars and vitamin C, with maximum phenolic retention at 140 °C and higher flavonoid retention at 160 °C. These findings provide baseline data for optimizing spray-drying conditions to enhance nutrient retention and powder stability.



Spray drying of mango fruit juice

AICRP ON PEASEM

❖ A self-buoyant FRP raft with Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Planting of basil was done on 18 June 2025 at 8-10 leaf stage with minimal roots growth of the seedlings at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar. Data recorded after 60 days culture period after planting shown the plant measures a height of 450 mm in maximum and 330 mm in minimum. The root growth varied from 125 to 230 mm and the number of leaves varied from 98 to 125 in numbers per plant. No significant differences in plant growth were seen among the raft aquaponics experimented in pond. The total weight of the plant along with the planting media ranged from 350 g to 435 g with average value of 392.5 g. The total weight of 72 plants with the planting media on the raft was 28.3 kg.



The buoyancy of the raft was recorded 133 kg, which is much higher than the planting materials with media on it. Hence, it is proved that the floating raft can easily withstand as many as 72 numbers of Italian Basil plants in their full growth stage along with the planting media.

❖ Bio-degradable film from rice husk cellulose for packaging of perishable fruits and vegetables

The cellulose extracted from rice husk was treated with acetic anhydride in the presence of a catalyst i.e., Sulphuric acid. Dimethyl-acetamide in the presence of Lithium Chloride was prepared and to this solution the cellulose acetate was added and this was done to dissolve the cellulose. The acetylated cellulose has to be blended with PBAT. The PBAT granules are dissolved in chloroform and heat mixed with the acetylated cellulose.

Following blends were prepared for optimizing the Cellulose-PBAT mixture percentage. This was done to get the bio-degradable plastic granules through the extruder.

Treatment number	Details (Cellulose + PBAT)
B1	100 .00 + 0.00
B2	90.00+10.00
B3	80.00+20.00
B4	70.00+30.00
B5	60.00+40.00
B6	50.00+50.00
B7	40.00+60.00
B8	30.00+70.00
B9	20.00+80.00
B10	10.00+90.00

❖ Raised FRP Slatted floor/Platform for Goat shelter in high altitude areas of West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh

The raised floors/ platforms are preferred for providing clean and hygienic environment for maintaining the health and productivity of goat at ICAR-NRCY, Dirang. Therefore, the existing raised wooden floor (5.18*4.87*1.37m) of a goat shelter was modified with the FRP slatted floor (Mesh size: 87*17.5 mm, Thickness 25mm) to maintain dry and clean floor for proper hygienic environment. The mesh size was selected based on the hoof size of the goats for direct dropping of manure and urine from the raised platform on the ground, which further ease the cleaning and maintenance for shelter. The initial observations showed that goat preferred the slatted platform because of dry and clean surface and also more space for exercise on and under the raised platform.



Raised FRP Slatted floor/Platform for Goat shelter

❖ Plastic-based cascade aerators / vertical aeration towers for freshwater aquaculture ponds

One cascade aerator of height 3.0 m was designed and developed using 0.5 HP submersible water pump with 14 showers and installed in a 0.1 ha fish pond in ICAR-CIFA Farm for estimation of efficiency of oxygenation of pond water at ICAR-CIFA Centre, Bhubaneswar. It was operated 6 hrs regularly in the daytime in both directions along the length of the pond from the installation point of the aerator. The markings were done in every 10 ft inside the pond and a catwalk was erected for sampling purpose without disturbing the water column. From the preliminary data analysis, the increase of oxygen content in the water was found to be 25- 35% than the control. A single developed aerator is found sufficient for aeration of a 0.1 ha pond.



❖ Movable solar irrigation system for hilly region

The purpose of this work was to evaluate the performance of a solar-powered water pumping system under varying weather conditions in a hilly region at ICAR-VPKAS, Almora. For this, data on solar irradiation, panel temperature, and water discharge was recorded at 1-hour intervals during peak solar hours. In August, average solar irradiation was 439.93 W/m², panel temperature 39.46 °C, and discharge 1.49 L/s, with lower values attributed to monsoon cloud cover. In September, solar irradiation increased to 629.69 W/m², panel temperature to 45.27 °C, and discharge to 2.65 L/s, representing a 78% rise in water output compared to August due to clear skies. These results highlight the strong influence of solar irradiation on system performance and demonstrate its potential for water supply in hilly regions.



Publications

Research Articles

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- संदीप मान, कल्याणी गोरेपति, श्रीकृष्ण निशानी, अभिनव दुबे, रवि प्रकाश, राहुल दास, जीवन जोत सिंह (2025) प्याज के लिए कटाई उपरांत प्रबंधन के उपाय, भा.कृ.अ.प. केंद्रीय फसलोत्तर अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान लुधियाना।

ICAR-CIPHET Intellectual Property Rights

Patents

S. No.	Title	Application no.	Inventors	Date of filing	Patent No.
1.	Chemical-free process for producing dietary fibre enriched powder from <i>Pisum sativum</i> pod shells	202511062842	Manju Bala, Deepika Goswami, Surya Tushir, RK Vishwakarma, N Kotwaliwale	01.07. 2025	Filed
2.	On farm maize cob dryer	202511062572	Pankaj Kumar, Shagaf Kaukab Sumit Aggarwal, Swati Sethi, Ranjeet Singh, N Kotwaliwale	01.07.2025	Filed
3.	Solar powered universal insect trap	202511071594	Guru PN Sumit Urhe, Shekar Pandey SS Sekhon N Kotwaliwale	28.07. 2025	Filed
4	Popped Makhana Grading Machine	202511077426	RK Vishwakarma Mridula Devi Guru PN SN Jha Ranjeet Singh	14.08.2025	Filed

Copyright

S.No.	Title	Date of filing	Diary No	Date of registration	Registration No.	Authors
1.	Continuous plant for protein production	02.06.2025	CF-22179/20 25-CO	28.08.2025	CF-202506082	Surya Tushir Manju Bala, Sandeep Mann, DN Yadav N Kotwaliwale

Transfer of Technology

S. No.	Technology	Licensee/ Firm	Licensing fee (Lakh Rs)	Date of license
1.	Pearl millet based composite extrudates	M/s Mahima Healthy Foods, A2/154, 155, Ground Floor and First Floor, New Kondli, Delhi - 110096 through its Proprietor Mr. Himanshu Aggarwal	0.50	19.6.25
2.	Sorghum based extrudates			
3.	Mechanized system for popping and decortications of makhana seeds	M/s dshell (opc) private limited, c-1/254, Sector-51, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301	14.0	
4.	Ready to constitute makhana kheer mix (Patent no. 287541)		0.50	
5.	Process for preparation of fat free flavoured makhana (420645)		0.50	
6.	Solar Powered Universal Insect Trap (Day/Night)	M/s Parashar Agrotech Bio Pvt. Ltd., Varanasi, UP	1.0 + GST	28.07.25

Technology Demonstrations/ FLDs/OFTs

S. No.	Technologies	Demonstrated at	Date
1.	Method Demonstrations on making Green Mango products	Dhani Kamayia	05.08.2025
2.	PHET Technologies and Machine to Mr. Nabajyoti Acharya from Vagitus Biosciences	AICRP on PHET, AAU Jorhat	26.08.2025
3.	Demonstration cum training of Vivek Millet-cum-pearler	Ran Man, Someshwar, Almora	11.08.2025

Awareness programs

S. No.	Title	Venue	Duration	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Awareness program on soil health card and better crop productivity	Alamgarh	25.06.2025	33
2.	Integrated weed management in kharif crop	KVK-Fazilka	03.07.2025	31
3.	Awareness program on preventing soil salinity to prevent soil degradation	KVK-Fazilka	04.07.2025	32
4.	Awareness program on <i>Ek Ped Ma ke Naam</i>	Balwana	05.07.2025	27
5.	Awareness program on importance of kitchen gardening	Dhandi Qadim	11.07.2025	22
6.	Block level awareness program on crm	Nukeriya	14.07.2025	78
7.	School level awareness program on CRM	Baluwana	16.07.2025	97
8.	Village level awareness program on CRM	Burj Mohar	17.07.2025	48
9.	Village level awareness program on CRM	Mojgarh	18.07.2025	53
10.	Awareness program on package and practices of pulse crops	Rampur	28.07.2025	40
11.	Awareness program on CRM	DAV College, Abohar	10.08.2025	122
12.	District level awareness program on CRM	Kathgarh	12.08.2025	138
13.	Awareness program on FOM/ LFOM	Kathgarh	12.08.2025	138

Stakeholder/ officer/ farmer/ exposure visits

S. No.	Address of visitors	Number	Date
1.	Students from Rajasthan Agriculture University, Jodhpur, visited RS, Abohar	03	01.07.2025
2.	Members of Krishak Bharti Co-Operative Limited (A.O Bathinda) visited Abohar	42	04.07.2025
3.	Entrepreneurs from Abohar visited for technology demonstrations	02	14.07.2025
4.	Students visit, Sandip University, Madhubani,	200	10.08.2025

Human Resource Development and Capacity Building

Human Resource Development

S. No.	Training title	Venue	Number	Duration
1.	Student training for B.Sc (Hons.) Nutrition and Dietetics student from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab)	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	1	1-31 July 2025
2.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from College of Technology and Agriculture Engineering, Agriculture University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	7	1-31 July 2025
3.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University Hisar, (Haryana)	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	7	1-31 July 2025
4.	CRM Training	KVK Fazilka	25	21-25 July 2025
5.	Training Program on Micro irrigation, Fertigation and Weed Management in Orchard	KVK Fazilka	20	29-31 July 2025
6.	Beekeeping Training	Fazilka	37	21-23 July 2025
7.	Organized a SCSP Training program on 'Processing, storage and value-addition of food grains' under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan to Farmers	<i>Khanpur</i> Village of Ludhiana District	50	05-07 August, 2025
8.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalya, Coochbehar, West Bengal	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	10	01-30 August 2025
9.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from College of Technology and Engineering, MPUAT Udaipur, Rajasthan	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	03	01-30 August 2025
10.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from College of Technology Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut-250110 (Uttar Pradesh)	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	10	04-30 August 2025
11.	Training on Vermi-compost & Nursery	ICAR-CIPHET,	21	26-27 August

	raising in plastic trays for sustainable agriculture	RS, Abohar		2025
12.	SCSP training for Woman on Designing Tech. of Fabric through Stitching and Tailoring	KVK Fazilka	25	11 August -10 September 2025
13.	CRM Training	KVK Fazilka	25	18-22 August 2025
14.	Techniques for to produces high quality cotton and crop seed for sustainable farming	Shergarh	25	20-22 August 2025
15.	Scientific cultivation practice and Culter front line demonstration in oil seed crops	KVK- Fazilka	30	25-27 August 2025
16.	SCSP Sponsored Training on Bakary and Biscuit making	ICAR– CIPHET, RS Abohar	25	25-27 August2025
17.	SCSP Sponsored Training on Field Demonstration of Eco -Friendly Insect Pest Management in Fruits and Training on Value Addition	ICAR-CIPHET, RS Abohar	50	28-29 August 2025
18.	Value addition of Spices	ICAR-CIPHET	2	19-21 Aug 2025
19.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	10	01-30 September 2025
20.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) student from College of Animal Biotechnology, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary And Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana (Punjab)	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	01	01-30 September 2025
21.	Student training for B.Tech (Agril. Engg.) students from College of Agricultural Engineering, JNKVV, Jabalpur	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	3	01-30 September 2025
22.	Training to B. Tech (Agri. Engineering) students from different colleges at AS & EC division. Lab Demonstration on Non-Destructive Techniques.	AS & EC Division, ICAR-CIPHET	14	02-08 September 2025
23.	Dr. S Nishani and Dr. Abhinav Dubey Imparted the training to the farmers on Improved Onion Storage Structures	Nashik and Pune	180	09-10 September 2025

Skill Development

S. No.	Name	Title of the programme	Venue	Duration
1.	S Kaukab Th. Sunit Ritu Kukde	Workshop on Hands-on Workshop for Agri-Scientist “Cultivating Intelligence: MATLAB for Agri-Innovation	ICAR-NISA, Ranchi, Jharkhand	3 days
2.	Leena Kumari Th. Sunita Ritu Kukde Navnath Kale A Dubey S Nishani	Online workshop on AI-enabled computer vision systems for advanced food quality evaluation	Organized by NIT Rourkela	5 days
3.	S Mohapatra	Tools and Techniques for Advanced Analytics in Social Science Research	ONLINE (IFPRI & IARI)	12 days
4.	S Mann A Dubey	Attended RESETI: Dialogues to reduce food loss and waste in India	WRI Project, New Delhi	2 days
5.	S Mann, R Prakash A Dubey	Brainstorming on “Animal Structures and Food Systems: A Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue	ICAR-CIRG, Mathura	2 days

Awards/Recognition

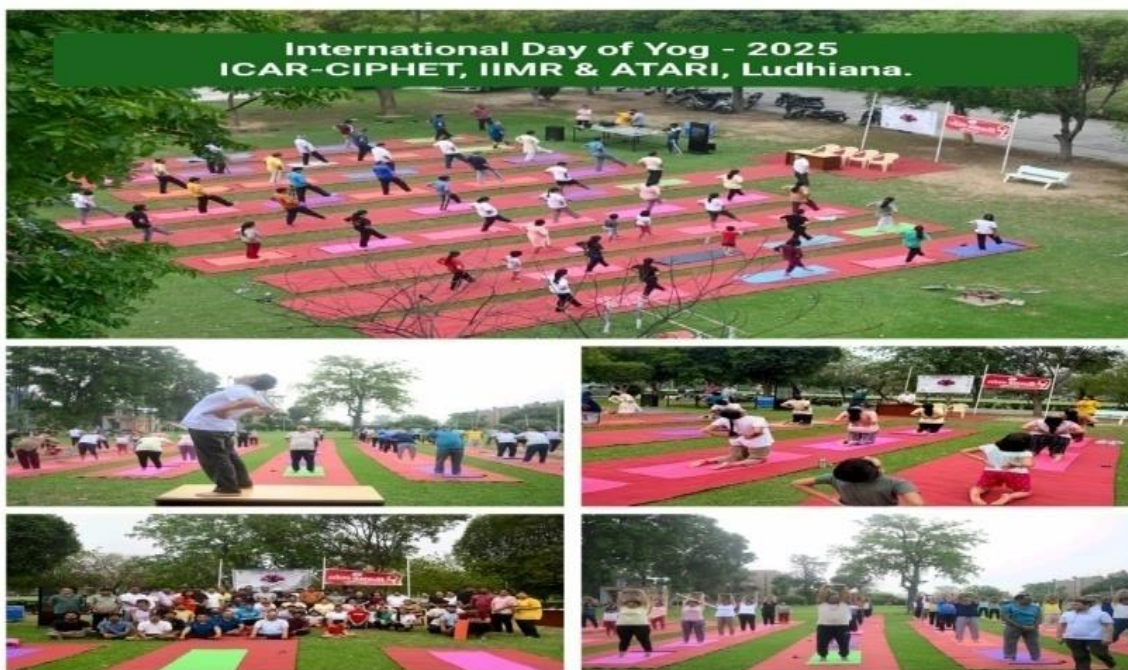
S. No	Name of the awardee	Name of award	Awarded from
1.	Manju Bala Deepika Goswami Mridula D R K Vishwakarma N Kotwaliwale	Technology award for ‘Process technology for extraction of hesperidin from immature dropped <i>kinnow</i> fruits’	ICAR
2.	RC Kasana	National Conference on Mushroom Biology and Products: Current Status and Future Trends	ICAR-DMR, Solan,
3.	Karnail Singh, Farmer associated with KVK Fazilka	Progressive and Visionary Farmer Award	District Administration, Fazilka
4.	Ravi Prakash	Best Early Career Researcher Poster Award –Special Mention; Sponsored by Future Food Journal, Elsevier.	Future Food Congress - 2025, Singapore
5.	Ravi Prakash	Received Travel Grant from ANRF, Govt. of India for a paper presentation and participating in “Future Foods Congress 2025, Singapore (16 -18 June, 2025)”	<i>Anusandhan</i> National Research Foundation, Govt. of India

Participation in conference/ seminar/ symposia/ workshop/ meetings, etc.

S. No.	Name	Conference/ symposia/ workshop/ meetings, etc	Venue	Date
1.	Guru PN	Attended the meeting of FAD3 (Apiary sectional committee) and organizing secretary of the National Seminar on Apiculture	Organized by BIS New Delhi, at ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana	20.07.2025
2.	K Bembem	Official Language Department Golden Jubilee Celebration	Ministry of Home Affairs at Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre, New Delhi.	26.07.2025
3.	R C Kasana,	National Conference on Mushroom Biology and Products: Current Status and Future Trends	ICAR-DMR, Solan, HP	7.08.2025-8.08.2025
4.	Ravi Prakash	Pre-Bid Meeting for Grain Analyzer & Cleaning, Grading & Packaging Plant Tenders	Madhya Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bhopal	10.09.2025-11.09.2025
5.	Poonam R C Kasana	Biotech Interventions in Maize: Challenges and Opportunities	ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi	1.09.2025
6.	MK Samota	Statistical Computing and Analysis of Survey data in agricultural research: methods and techniques	ICAR-IASRI	9.09.2025-15.09.2025

Personalia

Name of the official	Date of joining/ transfer/ promotion/ retirement	Designation
Dr. Shubham Rohila	07.07.2025 (Joining)	Scientist
Dr. Sawant Sanket Ramnath	07.07.2025 (Joining)	Scientist
Dr. Mahangade Priyanka Sharad	07.07.2025 (Joining)	Scientist
Mr. Vishal Kumar	22.07.2024 (Promoted as STO)	Senior Technical Officer
Mr. Lakshay	05.08.2025 (Resigned)	Assistant

Important Events**❖ ICAR- CIPHET, Ludhiana celebrated International Day of Yoga-2025**

The ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana, celebrated the International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and participation on 21st June 2025. The event was organized to promote awareness about the importance of physical and mental well-being through yoga, aligning with this year's theme: "*Yoga for Self and Society.*" The celebration began early in the morning at the institute premises with a brief inaugural session. A guided yoga session was conducted by a certified yoga instructor Dr. Shiv kumar from Yog Bharathi Sansthan, Ludhiana. The session included a series of asanas, pranayama suitable for all age groups. Scientists of CIPHET, IIMR, ATARI Zone I, technical staff, and students actively participated in the session, making it a vibrant and rich experience. Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director of ICAR-CIPHET, addressed the gathering and emphasized the significance of incorporating yoga into daily life. He highlighted how yoga not only improves individual health but also contributes to productivity and harmony in the workplace. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Er. Ritu Kukde and the collective recitation of a yoga pledge, reaffirming ICAR-CIPHET's commitment to promoting wellness and sustainable lifestyles among its community. The celebration was a success in encouraging participants to adopt yoga as a regular part of their lives and reflected the institute's continued efforts to support initiatives of national importance.

❖ Inauguration of new Volleyball sports facilities at ICAR-CIPHET

Director, ICAR-CIPHET Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale Inaugurated new Volleyball facility at the ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana premises on 3rd July 2025. The newly inaugurated volleyball court at ICAR-CIPHET in Ludhiana was unveiled in a spirited ceremony marking the institution's ongoing commitment to holistic staff and student well-being. The state-of-the-art facility, complete layout and boundary fencing, offers a modern space for both casual play and organized tournaments. The event, emphasizes the role of sports in building teamwork and fostering a healthy workplace culture. With this addition, the institute reinforces its aim to balance rigorous research with recreational excellence.



❖ **Live telecast for the disbursement of the 22nd installment of *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi* (PM-kisan) scheme**



On 2nd August 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh marking the day as PM-Kisan Day. Through this initiative, a total of ₹20,500 crore was directly transferred to the bank accounts of nearly 9.7 crore farmers across the country under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. To expand the reach of this significant event, the government organized virtual broadcast functions at various institutions, including the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) in Ludhiana, Punjab. The function at ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana served as a vital link in ensuring transparency and inclusivity, enabling farmers in Punjab and neighboring regions to be part of the national scheme. This satellite function allowed farmers, officials, and stakeholders in the region to witness the live proceedings from Varanasi and take part in the nationwide celebration.

❖ **Independence day celebration**

Independence Day celebrated at ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana and Regional Station, Abohar. A Special tree plantation drive was also organized under "*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*" campaign.



❖ **Farmer-Scientist interaction meeting**

KVK Fazilka, ICAR-CIPHET, Abohar successfully organized a Farmer-Scientist Interaction meeting and webcasting of the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s address on the occasion of the release of the 20th instalment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi on 02nd August 2025 at 11:00 AM. A total of 257 farmers participated in the program. The event featured insightful interactions with agricultural scientists and enthusiastic participation by the farming community.



