

National Agricultural Innovation Fund
(Component II)
Agri Business Incubation Centre (ABIC)

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) organized by ABIC and SCSP

The Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) was organized from June 30 to July 1, 2025, at ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad, with 25 participants from diverse backgrounds, including scholars, startups, private companies, and farmers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Telangana in collaboration with IIOR-SCSP. Dr. R. D. Prasad, PI, NAIF & EDP course Director, extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR, chaired the programme, emphasized the significance of entrepreneurship in agriculture in his inaugural address. Dr. Gopal Lal, Joint Director and Acting Director, ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad, graced the EDP programme as the Chief Guest and shared his insights on the entrepreneurial ecosystem and highlighted the available opportunities to the budding entrepreneurs. The Guest of Honour, Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, CEO of a-IDEA at ICAR-NAARM, highlighted the entrepreneurial skills essential for initiating new enterprises and discussed strategies for enhancing these skills. The sessions covered various topics, including biopesticides, biofertilizers, soil health management, seed sector opportunities, oil processing, post-harvest technologies, and innovative biopolymer-based seed coating technologies, with insights shared by eminent scientists from ICAR-IIOR. Mr. Mohammed Shahrukh Qureshi, Investment Associate at AgHub, PJTAU, Hyderabad, delivered an expert talk on AgHub and shared his experience in providing handholding support to agri-startups. Mr. P. Mallesh, Chartered Accountant, guided participants on documentation and registration for agri-startups. Dr. Pooja S. Bhatt from a-IDEA, NAARM, shared the available funding opportunities and Sri Bhujanga Rao from NABCONS elaborated on financial support available through NABARD. Participants had a hands-on exposure session on biopesticide production technologies, soil testing methods and oil processing. The participants engaged in insightful discussions with the experts. The valedictory session, graced by Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT & Former DG, ICAR, as Chief Guest, interacted with the EDP participants. Dr. M. Suresh, PI, SCSP, concluded the event with a word of thanks. The programme successfully fostered collaboration, knowledge sharing, and empowerment, laying a strong foundation for agribusiness ventures and sustainable agricultural development.

Dr. R. D. Prasad and Dr. M. Suresh acted as Directors for the EDP programme.



Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR, interaction & Feedback session with the EDP participants



Dr. Gopal Lal, Joint Director & Acting Director, ICAR-NAARM, interactive session on importance of Entrepreneurship in Agriculture



Dr. R. D. Prasad, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, Emphasizes the Importance of Biopesticides and Biofertilizers during the Entrepreneurial Development Programme



EDP Participants' Visit to the Biopesticides Production Facility at ICAR-IIOR



Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT, Interacting with EDP Participants



Dr. Praduman Yadav Explaining Oil Extraction, Processing, and Blending Techniques



EDP Participants with Dr. Gopal Lal, Joint Director & Acting Director, ICAR-NAARM



EDP Participants with Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT along with IOR-ABIC team