

TEC, ICAR-IVRI, Pune conducts MGMG farmer–scientist interactions and input distribution programmes in Nashik district under TSP initiatives

The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR–IVRI, Pune successfully conducted two Farmer–Scientist Interactions (FSIs) under “*Mera Gaon Mera Gourav*” initiative along with input distribution programmes under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project during 21–22 April 2026 in Nashik district of Maharashtra, with the objective of promoting balanced use of fertilizers for sustainable crop production and strengthening livelihood security through scientific livestock farming.

“*Mera Gaon Mera Gourav*” Farmer–Scientist Interaction and Input Distribution at Baripada–Kerobanagar, Satana (21st April 2026)

On 21st April 2026, the TEC team visited Baripada–Kerobanagar village of Salher Osmanabadi Goat Cluster, Taluka Satana, where a farmer–scientist interaction programme was organized under the “*Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMG)*” initiative, along with an input distribution programme for TSP beneficiaries. Around 10 TSP partner farmers and 23 additional farmers, including 5 farm women, actively participated in the programme.



(Glimpses of farmer-scientist interaction and input distribution programme held at Kerobanagar)

The interaction was conducted in alignment with the directives of ICAR Headquarters and national-level efforts aimed at promoting the balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers. The session was centred on the theme “*Balanced and Judicious Use of Chemical Fertilizers for Sustainable Crop Production*”, wherein farmers were sensitized about the importance of Recommended Dose of Fertilizers (RDF), soil test-based nutrient application, and minimizing excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers. Scientists elaborated practical approaches to optimize fertilizer use, reduce input costs, enhance crop productivity, and improve long-term soil health, while also emphasizing the environmental benefits of reduced chemical load on agricultural ecosystems.

Importantly, farmers were encouraged to integrate livestock with crop production systems, highlighting the role of goat manure (defecation) as a valuable resource for preparing high-quality compost and vermicompost. It was collectively discussed that, during the current financial year,

efforts will be made to organize specialized training programmes on vermicomposting, and in future interventions, quality inputs will be provided to enhance compost production at the farm level. The scientists also promoted organic and natural farming approaches, encouraging farmers to prepare inputs such as *Jeevamrut* using locally available farm resources. These practices were explained as cost-effective, eco-friendly, and beneficial for maintaining soil health, conserving beneficial microorganisms, and improving market value of agricultural produce.

In addition to crop-based advisories, the session also covered scientific goat farming practices, particularly focusing on feeding management, mineral supplementation, and heat stress mitigation during summer. As part of the support under the TSP programme, a comprehensive set of critical inputs was distributed to beneficiary farmers. These included anthelmintics for parasite control, Restobal supplements for reducing heat stress, disinfectant cleaners for maintaining hygiene in goat sheds, Tospil spray for protection against infections and repelling insects from wounds, mineral mixtures for improving health and productivity, tarpaulin sheets for constructing protective shelters, and essential utility items such as torch lights, umbrellas, and gumboots to support field operations under harsh weather conditions. Additionally, steel milk cans were provided to encourage farmers to adopt goat milk collection and explore small-scale dairy-based entrepreneurship. The interaction was highly participatory and constructive, with farmers actively sharing their experiences and challenges. The IVRI team provided timely, practical, and need-based advisories, making the session highly relevant to field conditions.

“Mera Gaon Mera Gourav” Farmer–Scientist Interaction and Input Distribution at Vinayaknagar, Trimbakeshwar (22nd April 2026)

On 22nd April 2026, the TEC team conducted a second farmer–scientist interaction programme at Vinayaknagar village of the Osmanabadi Goat Cluster, Taluka Trimbakeshwar, followed by a comprehensive input distribution activity under the TSP initiative. The programme witnessed the active participation of 28 beneficiary farmers, including women 18, reflecting strong interest in adopting scientific and sustainable farming practices. The interaction was organized in line with the guidelines of ICAR Headquarters and ongoing national efforts to promote the rational and efficient use of chemical fertilizers.



(Glimpses of Farmer Scientist Interaction held at Vinayaknagar)

The session focused on *“Integrated Nutrient Management for Sustainable Crop Production”*, wherein farmers were guided on soil testing, crop-specific nutrient requirements, and precise fertilizer application techniques. Scientists emphasized that judicious use of fertilizers not only enhances crop productivity but also preserves soil health and reduces environmental risks, particularly by avoiding excessive application of nitrogenous fertilizers.

A key highlight of the session was the emphasis on integrating livestock with agriculture, wherein farmers were encouraged to utilize goat manure as a valuable resource for preparing compost and vermicompost. The scientific team explained how effective recycling of farm waste through vermicomposting can significantly improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on external inputs. It was also decided that, during the current financial year, focused training programmes on vermicomposting will be organized, and future interventions will aim to provide quality inputs to enhance compost production at the farm level. The scientists further encouraged farmers to adopt natural and organic farming practices, including the preparation of bio-inputs such as *Jeevamrut* using locally available farm resources. These approaches were highlighted as economical, environmentally sustainable, and beneficial for maintaining soil biodiversity, while also improving the market value of agricultural produce. Farmers were sensitized about maintaining harmony within the agro-ecosystem by reducing chemical dependency and promoting sustainable practices.



(Glimpses of input distribution programme held at Vinayaknagar)

In addition to crop-related advisories, the programme also addressed livestock-based livelihood improvement, particularly focusing on scientific goat farming practices during summer. As part of the input distribution programme, a wide range of critical support materials was provided to farmers. These included anthelmintics tablets for parasite control, Restobal supplements for mitigating heat stress, disinfectant cleaners for maintaining hygiene in goat sheds, Tospil spray for wound care and insect repellence, mineral mixtures for improving animal health and productivity, tarpaulin sheets for constructing protective shelters, and utility items such as torch lights, umbrellas, and gumboots to support field operations under harsh weather conditions.

Additionally, steel milk cans were distributed to encourage goat milk collection and promote small-scale dairy-based entrepreneurship among farmers.

Dr Amol Bhalerao, Senior Scientist, TEC ICAR-IVRI Pune coordinated the events.
