

## **TEC Pune organized Training Programme on “Livelihood Improvement through Scientific Goat Farming” and Goat Distribution Programme under Tribal Sub Plan during 9-10 March 2026**

---

The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Pune, successfully conducted a tribal capacity-building training programme followed by a goat and other input distribution programme during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in Malegaon and Satana tehsil of Nashik district (Maharashtra) under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) initiative. These programmes were designed to strengthen livestock-based livelihoods, particularly scientific goat farming, among tribal and marginal farming communities.

### **Training Programme for Tribal Farmers at Satana (9 March 2026)**

On 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune organized a one-day training programme for tribal farmers in collaboration with *Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)*, Nashik-II, Malegaon and the local Farmer Producer Organization *Aarambhkhore Goukendrit Shetkari Utpadak Company*. The programme was aimed at enhancing farmers’ knowledge of scientific goat farming and livestock-based entrepreneurship to improve income and livelihood security in tribal areas. A total of 159 tribal farmers including 47 women farmers participated enthusiastically in the training programme. The sessions were delivered by four expert resource persons from the fields of livestock science and agricultural extension.



*(Group photo of trainees)*

Dr. Amol Bhalerao, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune, delivered a comprehensive session on the importance of adopting scientific goat farming practices as a sustainable livelihood strategy for tribal households. He explained that goat rearing, when managed through systematic and science-based approaches, can significantly enhance income stability for small and marginal farmers. Dr. Bhalerao emphasized that traditional goat farming practices must gradually evolve into entrepreneurship-driven livestock enterprises, where farmers focus on improved housing systems, scientific feeding schedules, preventive healthcare, and market-oriented production. He further highlighted the importance of group-based approaches such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to strengthen marketing potential and collective bargaining power. By adopting structured business planning, maintaining proper farm records, and exploring value-added marketing channels, farmers can convert goat rearing into a profitable enterprise. Through practical examples and success stories from previous interventions, he motivated the participants to view goat farming not merely as a supplementary activity but as a viable agribusiness opportunity capable of ensuring long-term livelihood security.



*(Dr Nerkar, SMS, KVK Nashik-II delivering lecture)*

Dr. Sandeep Nerkar, Subject Matter Specialist from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Nashik-II, provided region-specific insights into the economic and technical aspects of goat farming suitable for the semi-arid conditions of the Nashik region. He elaborated on the importance of utilizing locally available fodder resources, crop residues, and indigenous feed materials to reduce input costs while maintaining adequate nutritional balance for goats. Dr. Nerkar discussed practical feeding strategies, including the integration of seasonal fodder crops, tree fodder, and farm by-products, which can help farmers reduce dependence on expensive commercial feeds. He also explained the role of nutritional planning and proper feed management in improving growth rates, reproductive performance, and disease resistance among goats. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of efficient resource utilization and farm-level planning to make goat enterprises economically viable. His session provided farmers with practical guidance on how to integrate goat farming with existing agricultural activities to develop cost-effective and resilient livelihood systems.

The third session was delivered by Dr. Birari, Assoc. Professor, College of Agriculture, Kashti-Malegaon, who focused on the entrepreneurial potential of livestock-based enterprises, particularly goat farming in tribal and rural areas. In his address, he encouraged farmers to adopt a progressive mindset and explore goat farming as a structured business opportunity rather than a subsistence activity. Dr. Birari highlighted the importance of following the technical recommendations and management guidelines issued by State Agricultural Universities, State Veterinary Universities, and the Department of Animal Husbandry, as these institutions continuously develop region-specific scientific advisories for improving livestock productivity. He emphasized that proper nutritional management, scientific breeding practices, and disciplined farm management can significantly increase income from goat enterprises. In addition, he encouraged farmers to remain connected with extension agencies and training institutions to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skills. By adopting improved practices and maintaining strong institutional linkages, farmers can build economically viable and sustainable livestock enterprises that contribute to rural livelihood security and local economic development.



*(Dr Birari delivering lecture in the training)*



*(Glimpse of trainees while attending the training)*

The fourth session was delivered by Dr. Samir Kumar Das, Principal Scientist, TEC, ICAR-IVRI Pune, who informed at the onset mandates, achievements of TEC, IVRI in last one decade, activities of TSP and SCSP programme of the center etc. Afterwards he focused on potentiality of goat farming for self-employment and livelihood improvement of resource poor farmers, focusing on the scientific management of goat and health care. He explained the critical role of balanced feeding in maintaining growth, milk yield, animal health, improving productivity, and ensuring sustainable goat farming. Dr. Das emphasized that proper nutritional management, including the use of mineral mixtures and balanced rations, directly influences growth performance, reproductive efficiency, and immunity against diseases. He also highlighted the importance of preventive health measures, such as regular vaccination schedules, timely deworming, and periodic health monitoring to reduce mortality and improve overall herd performance. Drawing on his extensive experience in livestock research and extension, he provided farmers with practical recommendations on kid management,

particularly colostrum feeding, and seasonal health precautions. Dr. Das strongly stressed that scientific housing, feeding, breeding, systematic health care management, record keeping and market linking are the cornerstones of successful goat farming, and that farmers who consistently follow these practices can significantly enhance their productivity and income levels.

The training programme was effectively coordinated by Dr. Amol Bhalerao, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), and Dr. Samir Kumar Das, Principal Scientist, TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune, who played a key role in designing the technical sessions and ensuring the smooth execution of the entire programme. The successful organization of the training was made possible through the active collaboration and support of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nashik–II, Malegaon team. Dr. Patil, Head and Senior Scientist of KVK, along with Dr. Sandeep Nerkar and Dr. Rupesh Khirkar, provided valuable logistical and technical support, particularly in mobilizing tribal farmers from the surrounding villages and motivating them to participate in the programme. Their strong field-level engagement and coordination with local farmer groups significantly contributed to the enthusiastic participation observed during the training.



*(Glimpse of certificate distribution to the trainees after the training programme)*

### **Goat and other Input Distribution Programme at Keroba Nagar, Baripada (10 March 2026)**

Following the training programme, TEC, ICAR-IVRI Pune organized a goat distribution and input support programme on 10 March 2026 at Keroba Nagar, Baripada village, Satana tehsil, Nashik district, in collaboration with the local *FPO Aarambhkhore Goukendrit Shetkari Utpadak Company*. At the outset of the distribution activity, an interactive farmer–scientist session was held on the sidelines of the programme to guide beneficiaries on the immediate care and management of goats after receiving them. 95 farmers attended the interactive meeting. During this interaction, farmers were advised to provide jaggery-mixed water and lush green fodder to the newly distributed goats and allow them adequate rest so as to minimize transportation

stress. Moreover farmers are requested to renovate goat shed as soon as possible to overcome environmental stress.



*(Glimpse of goat inspection by IVRI team and beneficiaries before input-distribution programme)*



*(Group photograph of beneficiaries with IVRI officials during input-distribution programme)*



*(Glimpse of tribal beneficiary families during input distribution programme)*

Experts further suggested that goats should not be taken for open grazing immediately, but rather allowed to remain at shed for the first one to two days to acclimatize with the new environment. Farmers were also

encouraged to contact the local Livestock Development Officer (LDO) soon after receiving the goats for routine deworming and vaccination to reduce morbidity and mortality of the animals.



*(Glimpse of beneficiary families with distributed goats)*

The beneficiaries were also sensitized about constructing scientific goat housing using locally available low cost materials. They were advised to construct/renovate goat shed with proper height and floor space provision for optimum growth and production, develop a raised platform locally known as “*Maach*”, approximately three feet above ground level, which could help maintain hygiene by allowing dung and urine to fall below the platform while keeping the animals dry and comfortable. The tarpaulin sheets distributed during the input programme were recommended for use in constructing protective sheds to safeguard goats from heavy rains, intense summer heat, and cold winter winds. In addition, the farmers were oriented to prepare cost-effective homemade feed using locally available ingredients, which, when supplemented with mineral mixture, can significantly improve animal health and productivity.

Another important advisory given to the farmers was to maintain isolation of the newly distributed goats for at least 30 days, ensuring that they do not mix with existing goats or other animals in the village herd during the adaptation period. This precaution was highlighted as a critical measure to prevent potential disease transmission and ensure smooth acclimatization of the animals. Documents of farmers were verified in details and photocopies of documents were received along with the duly filled up MOU form and survey form. Then the distribution of adult *Osmanabadi* goats (1 male + 4 female), feeder, drinker, tarpaulin sheet, mineral mixture was carried out, to 10 tribal beneficiary households as part of the livelihood support initiative.

In addition, as a follow-up to the programme and to ensure continuous learning and technical support for the beneficiaries, a WhatsApp group was created for the establishment of a new Farmer Field School (FFS) in Baripada village. The participating farmers were advised to remain active in the group so that regular communication, technical advisories, and field updates could be shared effectively. It was also informed that the formal inauguration of the Farmer Field School will be conducted shortly, marking the beginning of a structured participatory learning platform for the farmers. Under the Farmer Field School approach, farmers will engage in cross-sectional learning, farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, and participatory problem-solving through regular fortnightly meetings. The FFS model emphasizes experiential learning where farmers collectively observe, analyze, and adopt improved practices directly in the field. Through this initiative, beneficiaries will be able to systematically learn best management practices in goat farming, nutrition, housing, disease prevention, and marketing strategies while building leadership and decision-making skills within the community. The establishment of the Farmer Field School is expected to strengthen peer learning, promote local innovation, and create a sustainable platform for continuous capacity building and knowledge dissemination among tribal livestock farmers.

The programme was successfully implemented and coordinated by Dr. Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, and Dr. Samir Kumar Das, Principal Scientist, TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune, whose technical guidance and on-field support ensured the smooth conduct of the programme and effective dissemination of scientific livestock management practices among tribal farmers. The initiative is expected to strengthen sustainable goat-based livelihoods and contribute to improved income generation among beneficiary households in the tribal region of Nashik district.

