

TEC ICAR-IVRI Pune organized two training programmes on “Integrated Livestock Farming for Livelihood improvement” and one Farmer–Scientist Interaction under Tribal Sub Plan during 22nd - 24th February 2026

The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Pune, successfully organized two training programmes and one farmer–scientist interaction during 22–24 February 2026 under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) initiative. These programmes were strategically designed to strengthen livestock-based livelihoods, particularly scientific goat farming, among tribal and marginal farming communities.

Farmer–Scientist Interaction at Baripada village of Satana

A focused farmer–scientist interaction programme was conducted on 22 February 2026 at Baripada village, Satana tehsil (Nashik district), a tribal-dominated region, where farmers have shown growing interest in goat-based enterprises. The interaction was attended by 74 tribal farmers, who actively participated in deliberations with Dr. Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, and Dr. Samir Kumar Das, Principal Scientist, TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune.



(Glimpse of Farmer–Scientist Interaction at Baripada village of Satana)

The discussion centered on the importance of goat farming as a climate-resilient livelihood option, particularly in the context of erratic rainfall patterns and shrinking landholdings. Experts explained how small ruminants can complement household income, enhance nutritional security, and provide regular cash flow. A significant portion of the dialogue focused on the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to improve collective marketing, bargaining power, and price realization. Farmers were sensitized about common reasons behind goat enterprise failures, such as lack of proper housing, inadequate feeding, irregular

vaccination, and absence of organized marketing, and were guided on preventive measures. TEC Pune's role in supporting farmers through structured training programmes, input distribution, regular monitoring visits, and need-based advisories was also elaborated. Discussions were held on entrepreneurship opportunities in both goat and poultry sectors, highlighting the scope for value addition and organized business development. Farmers expressed keen interest in undergoing certified training programmes from TEC Pune.

Training Programme at Salher, Taluka Satana, Nashik

On 23 February 2026, TEC-ICAR IVRI Pune, in collaboration with the local FPO *Aarambhkhore Goukendrit Fed*, organized a one-day collaborative training programme at Salher, Taluka Satana, Nashik district. This programme was a continuation of commitments made during the "*Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada*" (November 2025), wherein several *Kisan Goshtis* were organized in the region to promote integrated livestock farming. The training, titled "Integrated Livestock Farming for Livelihood Improvement", received an overwhelming response, with 435 participants including 76 women farmers. The event was hosted at a tribal residential facility and witnessed remarkable enthusiasm, reflecting the community's aspiration for scientific knowledge and structured livelihood interventions.



(Inauguration of the Training)

The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Samir Kumar Das, who delivered an in-depth lecture on goat based integrated farming with special reference to balanced feeding, nutritional management, preventive healthcare, timely vaccination, and scientific goat management. He emphasized that adopting scientific methods can significantly improve productivity and profitability in goat farming. A major emphasis of his session was on delivering practical and cost-effective solutions tailored specifically for rural and tribal livestock farmers. He strongly advocated for the construction of low-cost, raised-floor goat housing systems, explaining that such structures significantly improve hygiene, minimize disease outbreaks, and enhance overall productivity. He highlighted that housing is often underestimated in small-scale goat farming, yet it remains one of the most critical determinants of enterprise success. In addition, he underscored the importance of preparing home-based feed formulations to meet the nutritional requirements of goats. Recognizing that commercial feed is often financially burdensome for smallholders, he encouraged farmers to utilize locally available resources such as crop residues, kitchen by-products, and region-specific fodder crops to develop balanced rations at substantially lower costs. This approach not only reduces input expenditure but also ensures sustained nutritional adequacy for livestock.



(Dr SK Das delivering a lecture during the training)



(Glimpses of certificate distribution to the trainees after the training programme)

Dr. Amol Bhalerao guided participants on entrepreneurship development through goat farming, highlighting proper housing systems, scientific management practices, and adoption of modern technologies to enhance income generation. He shared practical insights on developing seed villages of *Osmanabadi* goats and stressed the importance of group-based marketing strategies. He further stressed the necessity of strictly adhering to scientific advisories provided by the TEC team and local Livestock Development Officers. Regular vaccination, systematic deworming, balanced feeding, and timely health monitoring were presented as indispensable components of successful goat farming. He cautioned that neglecting these foundational practices can lead to severe economic losses and enterprise failure. Concluding his address, he motivated tribal farmers to adopt scientific goat management practices, efficiently harness local resources, and collaborate through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to strengthen market access and profitability. His session provided not merely theoretical insights but a structured and actionable roadmap for transforming traditional goat rearing into a sustainable and economically viable enterprise.

Dr. Sandeep Nerkar, Subject Matter Specialist (KVK Nashik-2), discussed the economic potential of goat farming in the region, focusing on the utilization of locally available fodder resources, cost-effective nutrition strategies, and efficient marketing models. Participants were provided with technical literature,

registration kits, and certificates of participation. The programme was widely regarded as a major success due to its large turnout and the collective resolve to develop Salher and adjoining villages as seed clusters for *Osmanabadi* goat farming.

Training Programme at Valsad, Gujarat

On 24 February 2026, TEC–ICAR IVRI Pune extended its outreach beyond Maharashtra by organizing a training programme at Shri Damodar *Gaushala*, Valsad (Gujarat), in collaboration with *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK), Valsad of Gujarat Agricultural University. This initiative marked TEC's commitment to working with dynamic KVKs actively promoting livestock-based livelihoods. The programme witnessed participation from 216 farmers, including 170 women trainees, indicating extraordinary engagement by women entrepreneurs in livestock development.



(Dr. Amol Bhalerao while delivering lecture)

Dr. Amol Bhalerao delivered a comprehensive lecture on scientific goat housing, best management practices, marketing strategies, and case-based success stories. He elaborated on factors influencing enterprise success and discussed prospects for establishing seed villages of *Osmanabadi* goats and poultry clusters in the region. During his address, he placed strong emphasis on practical interventions that are affordable, scalable, and suitable for tribal and smallholder farmers. He advised the adoption of low-cost, elevated goat housing systems, noting that proper shed design with raised flooring ensures better sanitation, reduces parasitic and infectious diseases, and directly contributes to improved growth and productivity. He remarked that inadequate housing is one of the most common yet overlooked causes of poor performance in goat enterprises. Complementing this, he highlighted the strategic importance of home-prepared feed to address nutritional gaps. Given the high cost of commercial feed, he encouraged farmers to formulate balanced diets using locally accessible materials such as agricultural by-products, household organic waste, and regionally cultivated fodder varieties. This model promotes self-reliance, reduces dependency on external inputs, and enhances economic sustainability.



(Dr. S K Das delivering lecture)



(Dr. B Patel, SMS Animal Husbandry, KVK Valsad delivering lecture)



(Glimpse of certificate distribution to the trainees during the training programme)

Dr. SK Das focused on dairy based integrated farming with special reference to advanced feeding strategies, balanced ration formulation, newborn calf management, timely vaccination, deworming protocols, and preventive health measures. His technical guidance emphasized the critical role of housing, nutrition and health management under climate change scenario in ensuring productivity and survival rates. He also reiterated that record keeping is fundamental in livestock farm management which is always neglected by the farmers. Farmers were urged to follow technical guidance from TEC experts and Livestock Development Officers regarding vaccination schedules, deworming protocols, preventive healthcare, and structured feeding practices. He emphasized that consistent implementation of these measures safeguards herd health and optimizes productivity, whereas neglect can lead to significant financial setbacks. In his concluding remarks, he called upon tribal farmers to do any kind of animal husbandry depending on demand of the products and animal husbandry practices should be market oriented rather than production oriented, adopt collective approaches through FPOs and FPCs, and emphasize on processing, value addition, and marketing of any livestock products for better realization of income from livestock farming as a structured agribusiness rather than a subsistence activity. The session effectively combined technical depth with motivational clarity, offering farmers a practical blueprint for achieving long-term livelihood security through scientific livestock management.



(Glimpse of visit to a Gaushala)

Dr. Balubhai Patel, SMS (Animal Husbandry), KVK Valsad, discussed the regional suitability of goat farming as a complementary livelihood enterprise. He highlighted opportunities in goat milk processing and advocated for the formation of Farmer Producer Companies to enhance value addition and organized marketing. The programme was widely appreciated for its strong participation by women and its emphasis on structured, scientifically guided livestock entrepreneurship.



(Group photo of trainees with the Training coordinators)

