

IARI Organizes 4-Day Agripreneurship Development Programme on Spirulina Cultivation and Value-Added Products

The ZTM & BPD Unit, in collaboration with the CCUBGA & Microbiology Division, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, successfully conducted a 4-day Agripreneurship Development Programme on “Cultivation & Processing of Spirulina Biomass Towards Developing Value-Added Products” from 28th to 31st January 2025. The training saw the participation of 34 individuals from across India, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.



The primary objective of this program was to educate entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, and students on the cultivation, processing, and value addition of *Spirulina platensis*, a highly nutritious microalga known for its health benefits. The training covered a broad spectrum of key topics to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge. It focused on technology development for large-scale Spirulina production, highlighting innovative cultivation techniques while ensuring high-quality standards. Additionally, participants received hands-on training in harvesting, drying, processing, and formulating Spirulina-based products, such as dietary supplements and functional foods.

The program also delved into business and market opportunities, discussing the rising global demand for Spirulina and its derivatives. Experts provided insights into business development strategies and market entry pathways while interactive sessions facilitated knowledge-sharing on the commercial potential of Spirulina cultivation.



A key highlight of the training was an interactive session with Dr. Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao, Director of IARI, held at the ZTM & BPD conference hall on 29th January 2025. Dr. Rao emphasized the significance of such programs in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. He encouraged participants to actively engage in these initiatives to enhance their expertise, strengthen their understanding of emerging agricultural trends and contribute to sustainable agricultural practices.

To enrich the learning experience further, a field visit to a Spirulina farm in Bahadurgarh was organized, allowing participants to gain practical exposure to real-world applications of the discussed techniques.