

Five-Day ADP - “Start-Up Hydroponics: A Beginner’s Guide for Agripreneurs” Successfully Concludes

ZTM & BPD Unit, in collaboration with the Division of Plant Physiology at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, organized a five-day training programme titled “Start-Up Hydroponics: A Beginner’s Guide for Agripreneurs” from 16 to 20 February 2026. The programme aimed at equipping aspiring agripreneurs, students and professionals with foundational knowledge and practical skills in hydroponic cultivation.



Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI, graced the inaugural session held on 16 February 2026 as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the growing importance of soilless cultivation technologies in ensuring sustainable and resource-efficient agriculture, particularly for urban and peri-urban farming systems.

The training programme introduced participants to the principles and concepts of hydroponics, various hydroponic systems and their suitability for different crops. It also focused on developing hands-on skills for establishing and managing a basic hydroponic unit. Through demonstrations and interactive sessions, trainees gained practical exposure to hydroponic techniques. They learned the preparation of stock solutions of essential macro and micronutrients, along with the significance of maintaining optimal pH levels in nutrient solutions. Demonstrations on pH monitoring and maintenance were also conducted.



Participants were divided into groups and assigned practical tasks involving hydroponic cultivation of microgreens, fodder crops and ornamental plants. The programme also included a visit to a commercial hydroponics farm and the Nanaji Deshmukh Plant Phenomics Centre (NDPPC), where trainees observed the layout, operational aspects and management practices of a small industrial setup.



The training concluded with a valedictory session held on 20 February 2026. Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour and commended the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and active participation throughout the programme. He appreciated their keen interest in adopting innovative hydroponic technologies and encouraged them to apply the knowledge and practical skills gained during the training to promote sustainable agripreneurship.