

Successful Completion of 6-Day Training on “Smart Snacks with Millets: A Wholesome Revolution”

IARI-Pusa Krishi, ZTM & BPD Unit, in collaboration with the Division of Food Science and Postharvest Technology, successfully organized a six-day Agripreneurship Development Program titled **“Development of Smart Snacks with Millets: A Wholesome Revolution”** at ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi, from **15–19 June 2026**.



The program was inaugurated on 15 June 2026 in the esteemed presence of Dr. R.S. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI. The training programme was conceptualized and coordinated by Dr. Akriti Sharma (Course Coordinator) under the guidance of Dr. Dinesh Kumar and Dr. Shalini Gaur Rudra (Course Directors). The curriculum was designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the millet value chain, encompassing processing technologies, product development, economic feasibility, marketing strategies and scalable business models suitable for small-scale enterprises.

The programme attracted enthusiastic participation from 27 trainees representing 14 states across India, including students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and homemakers. Through a blend of expert lectures, hands-on practical sessions, demonstration and interactive discussions, participants gained valuable knowledge and skills in millet-based food processing and entrepreneurship development.

A key highlight of the training was the exposure visit to Ancient Golden Mills, Najafgarh, where participants observed millet processing operations and value-addition technologies. The trainees also interacted with successful entrepreneurs Mr. Ankur Singh, Ms. Palak Arora, and Ms. Himani Budhiraja, who shared their experiences and practical insights on establishing and managing millet-based enterprises. These interactions provided participants with real-world perspectives on the opportunities and challenges within the agri-food sector.



The valedictory session, held on 19 June 2026, was graced by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, who congratulated the participants on successfully completing the programme. In his address, he

emphasized the growing business potential of millets and encouraged aspiring agripreneurs to draw inspiration from successful startups while adopting innovative and sustainable approaches to enterprise development. He highlighted the significant role of millet-based products in enhancing nutritional security, generating rural employment, promoting value addition and strengthening agri-business ecosystems.



During the closing ceremony, dignitaries unveiled the programme training manual developed for the participants. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Akriti Sharma, who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, organizers, and participants for their active contribution to the programme's success.

The programme received highly positive feedback from the participants, who expressed confidence in applying the knowledge and skills acquired during the training to establish millet-based ventures and contribute to the expanding millet entrepreneurship ecosystem in India.