

## **ICAR-NAARM Organises a Skill Development Training on Commercial Horticulture Nursery Management at Dr. K.L.Rao KVK, Garikapadu, AP**

**13.03.2026**

A five-day Skill Development Training Programme on “Commercial Horticulture Nursery Management” was organized by ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), in collaboration with Dr. K.L. Rao Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Garikapadu, NTR district, Andhra Pradesh, from 09<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The programme was aimed to enhance the livelihoods of rural farmers and promote self-employment opportunities through the adoption of commercial horticulture nursery management practices.

A total of 30 Scheduled Caste farmers from Ramachandrunipeta, Cheruvukommupalem, Kannevedu, Ramachandrapuram, Gangavalli, Balusupadu and Chilakallu villages of NTR district participated in the training. The programme comprised both theoretical sessions and hands-on practical exercises, covering key aspects such as different methods of grafting, layering and budding. Participants actively engaged in all sessions and expressed keen interest in adopting different propagation methods in horticulture crops.

During the valedictory session, Dr. M. Ravi Kishore, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Garikapadu highlighted the objectives and importance of the training programme and emphasized that commercial horticulture nurseries offers a sustainable livelihood option with low investment and high economic returns. He also urged the participants to maintain regular interaction with KVK for technical guidance and continued support.

Dr. Kuldeep Shivjiram Choudhary, Senior Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, briefed the participants on the objectives and implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP). He motivated the trainees to adopt nursery practices as a viable means of income generation and nutritional security for their families.

Dr. P. Supriya, Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, emphasized the role of scientific skill development in establishment of commercial horticulture nurseries. She highlighted that the implementation of horticulture nurseries can substantially enhance the income and living standards of small and marginal farmers.

As part of the practical session component, the participants visited the orchard at Balusupadu village, where they practiced different methods of layering, grafting and cloning in guava. The exposure visit provided them with valuable insights into scientific management and entrepreneurship opportunities in horticulture nurseries.

To facilitate the initiation of horticultural nurseries at the village level, each participant was provided with 50 Acid lime saplings (6 months old), 2 kg of Cocopeat and a nursery kit during the valedictory function.

Earlier, Dr. K. Lakshmikala, SMS (Horticulture) and Course Coordinator, KVK Garikapadu, welcomed the participants and outlined the training objectives.



