



Launch of Field Gene Bank of Banana and Farmers Awareness Programmes on PPVFR Act, 2001 at ICAR-NRCB, Trichy on 27th April 2026



The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority and ICAR–National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR–NRCB) jointly organized a *Biodiversity Fair-cum-Farmers’ Meet* in connection with the launch of the project on the establishment of a Banana Field Gene Bank (FGB) for banana varieties registered with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority (PPVFRA), New Delhi. A Field Gene Bank of Banana was inaugurated by Dr.



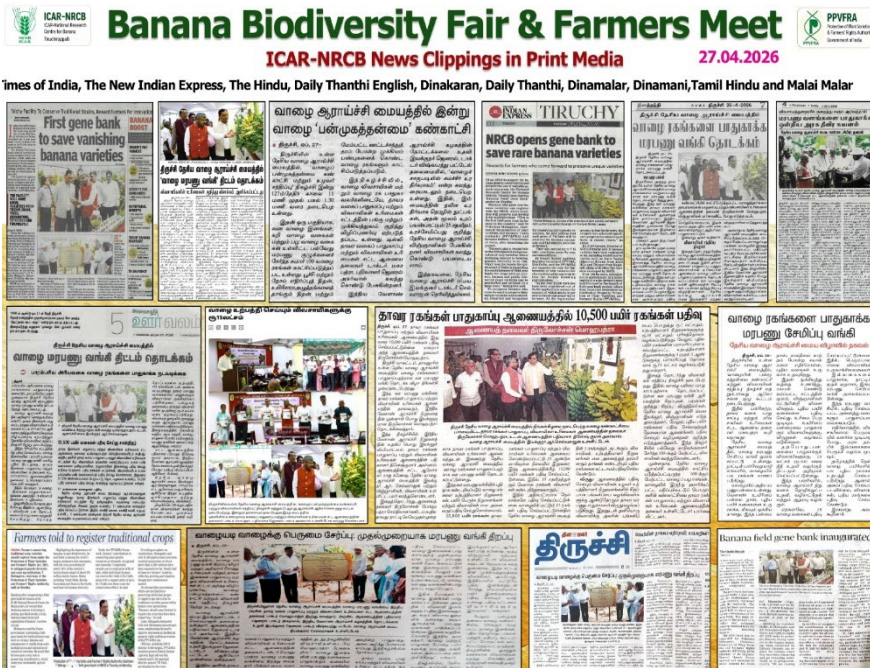
T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA on 27th April, 2026 at ICAR-NRC Banana, Trichy. On this occasion Dr. D.K. Agarwal RG, PPVFRA, Dr. V. B. Patil, ADG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. R. Selvrajan, Director, ICAR, NRCB, Trichy & RAC member of NRCB, Trichy, Sh. D.S.



Rajganesh, LA, PPVFRA and Dr. M.S. Saraswathi, PI, NRCB, along with other scientists of the institute were present. A total of twelve banana varieties registered with PPVFRA, namely Manoranjitham, Numaran, Semmatti, Chingan, Thottu Chingan, Kuthiraival Chingan, Neykadali, Chavaniyankal Poovan, Kaveri Sugantham, Kaveri

Haritha, Kaveri Kanchan, and Kaveri Vaaman were planted in the field gene bank with six replicates each.

This Field Gene Bank shall have all the Banana Varieties as and when get registered with PPVFRA until their period of protection gets over. Live plants will remain in the field in multiple numbers so that registered varieties are not lost. Whenever required, the suckers of any variety can be taken out and further multiplied. The Field Gene Bank shall remain protected. This is the first of the 14 FGBs being established by PPVFRA in the first phase.



This initiative marks a significant milestone in the conservation of banana genetic resources and is expected to pave the way for establishing similar gene banks in the future, thereby strengthening biodiversity conservation and protection of registered plant varieties in India. The ceremonial planting was initiated by the

Chairperson and joined by other dignitaries, officials, and banana farmers who participated in the event.

A Banana Biodiversity Exhibition was also organized on the occasion, showcasing nearly 100 banana varieties, including PPVFRA-registered varieties, GI-tagged varieties, and important landraces. The exhibition attracted considerable attention from farmers, the general public, press, and media personnel. Technologies and value-added products developed by ICAR-NRCB were also displayed during the event.



The Farmers' Interaction Meet witnessed the participation of around 120 attendees, including farmers, entrepreneurs, scientists, and members of the public. The programme primarily focused on creating awareness among farmers regarding the registration and protection of farmers' varieties under the PPVFR Act. The initiative also emphasized the importance of conserving banana genetic diversity and preventing the erosion of valuable genetic resources.

In his presidential address, Dr. T. Mohapatra highlighted the remarkable growth in horticultural production, which has increased by nearly four percent in recent years. He stressed the critical importance of

agro-biodiversity conservation for crop improvement and acknowledged the vital role played by farmers in the development and preservation of traditional crop varieties and landraces. He elaborated on the PPVFR Act, 2001, which recognizes and protects



farmers' varieties and their contributions toward conservation of plant genetic resources. He further noted that farmers conserving valuable germplasm are regularly recognized and rewarded by the Government of India.

Dr. Mohapatra stated that the Government of India is actively supporting the establishment of field gene banks encompassing horticultural crops such as tropical and temperate fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation crops, and tree species. He mentioned that PPVFRA has implemented a scheme for supporting Agrobiodiversity Conservation by farmers financially for 3-5 years. He encouraged farmers to take advantage of the scheme.

Dr. D. K. Agarwal highlighted that the PPVFR Act has been in operation for the past 25 years



and has facilitated the registration of both newly developed varieties and traditional farmers' varieties for future breeding and multiplication programmes. He informed that out of nearly 21,500 applications received so far, more than 10,500 varieties have been registered, of which around 50 percent belong to farmers' varieties. He

also shared successful examples of farmers' contributions to conservation efforts, including a notable case from Karnataka. He encouraged the farmers to register their varieties with PPVFRA.

Dr. V. B. Patel elaborated on the breeders' and farmers' rights protected under the PPVFR Act, especially in perennial horticultural crops where production has increased substantially over the years. Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar General and Mr. Raj Ganesh, Legal Advisor, PPVFRA, interacted with the farmers and explained the unique features of the Indian PPVFR system, which allows



registration of farmers' varieties alongside new varieties. Sh. Raj Ganesh made a presentation in local language and explained the provisions related to Farmers Rights in the PPVFR Act 2001. It was informed to the participants that registration is free of cost for farmers and guided them through the application procedures.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. M. S. Saraswathi, Principal Scientist of the Centre.
