

A five-day on-location training programme on “Climate Resilient Agriculture & Livelihood Opportunities” was organised from 24th to 28th November 2025 at ICAR–National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management (NIASM), Baramati, Pune (Maharashtra).

The programme was jointly conducted by **Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow** and **ICAR-NIASM**, with the objective of strengthening the capacities of NGOs, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and community-level stakeholders in climate-resilient agriculture, stress management technologies, and livelihood enhancement strategies.

The workshop was coordinated by Programme Directors **Dr. Snehal M. Bansod (DGM-FM)** and **Dr. Rajni Rajan (SMS-CC)**, in collaboration with NIASM scientists. The programme adopted a mixed pedagogy including lectures, interactive sessions, field visits, technical demonstrations, motivational talks, and group work. Participants were exposed to NIASM’s state-of-the-art research infrastructure and field models, providing them hands-on understanding of climate-resilient practices suitable for semi-arid regions of India. The training was particularly relevant in the context of increasing climatic risks, environmental degradation, and the urgent need for community-level adaptation.

The second day was devoted entirely to a **field visit to the NIASM research farm**, where participants observed live demonstrations of stress-resilient crop varieties, precision irrigation systems, climate-smart water harvesting structures, protected cultivation units, and livestock management practices. NIASM scientists explained ongoing experiments, data recording methods, and field-level technologies suitable for FPOs and SHGs. The visit enhanced practical understanding of climate-resilient interventions discussed on Day 1. Day 3 opened with presentations and reflections on the previous day’s field visit, coordinated by the Programme Directors. On Day 4 Participants visited the **Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the Dairy Unit of Agricultural Development Trust (ADT), Baramati**. This visit demonstrated practical models of fodder management, dairy husbandry, nutrient recycling, skill development initiatives, and community outreach programmes. The exposure helped participants understand integrated farming, livelihood diversification, and extension models successful in Maharashtra. The concluding day focused on people-centric planning and community resilience.

The 5-day programme successfully blended scientific knowledge, practical exposure, and participatory learning to address the complex challenges of climate change in rural India. Through the combined expertise of BIRD and ICAR-NIASM, participants gained actionable insights into **climate-resilient agriculture, stress management, and sustainable livelihoods**. The workshop has significantly contributed to building capacities of grassroots organisations, thereby strengthening climate adaptation efforts across communities. The programme concluded with **exit-level assessment, feedback, and valediction**, facilitated by faculty members of BIRD and NIASM.

Key Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of climate change science and India’s commitments under NDCs.
- Exposure to NIASM’s cutting-edge research and stress-resilient technologies.
- Strengthened capacity of NGOs and FPOs for climate-resilient planning and livelihood diversification.
- Practical insights gained through field visits to NIASM research farm, KVK, and ADT dairy unit.
- Improved understanding of PRA methods for village climate action plans.
- Development of action-oriented, community-focused strategies for resilience building.



Group Photograph with Director (NIASM), Programme Directors, Faculty Members, and Participants



Keynote speech on climate resilient agriculture for sustainable livelihood by Dr. K. Sammi Reddy (Director NIASM)



Visit to Climate Resilient Training centre, NIASM Farm Visit



Visit to NABARD Funded Chara Bank Project Unit



Discussion on cultivation of resilient cropping pattern on the field



Dragon Fruit cultivation and technology adoption by Farmers



Group activities by participants on making agriculture more resilient and sustainable for livelihood



Live demonstration of NABARDS fodder based resilient model at the farmer's field



Visit to the Baramati Farmers Producer Company Limited