IIPM
भारतीय बागान प्रबन्ध संस्थान बेंगलुरु
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANTATION MANAGEMENT BENGALURU
(An Autonomous Organization of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

IIPM - PULSE

VOLUME - 3 JUL-SEP 2026 ISSUE - 4



HIGHLIGHTS

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Commencement of 2026-28 Batch
21st Convocation of IIPM
Strengthening Alumni Engagement
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Corporate Talks and Guest Lectures
Industry Connect
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Faculty Achievements
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Upcoming Events

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MOMENTS AT IIPM
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International Conference on Agri-Tech& Plantation 5.0

IIPMB organised the International Conference on Agri-Tech & Plantation 5.0 on 3rd and 4th July 2026 on the theme "Innovations, Sustainability & Value Chain-Driven Business Strategies Shaping the Future of Agribusiness." Director Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam welcomed the delegates. Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Minister of State for MSME and Labour & Employment, was the Chief Guest, and Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Executive Vice President, ITC Ltd., gave the keynote. Heads of the Tea Board, Spices Board, National Turmeric Board, ICAR-CPCRI and ICAR-IIHR also attended. The Book of Abstracts was released, and a ceremonial tree plantation marked the Institute's commitment to sustainability.





A panel discussion at the conference on "Dialogues Across Industry, Academia and Policy for Sustainable Agribusiness Transformation" was chaired by Mr. M. V. Ashok, Former CGM, NABARD. Panellists from Much Better, GPS Institute of Agricultural Management, Skillgreen Global, Harrisons Malayalam Limited, the Spices Board and Kelachandra Coffee Ventures discussed innovation, digital transformation, resilient value chains and closer collaboration among industry, academia and policymakers.





Welcome, Batch 2026–28!

The Institute welcomed its PGDM Batch 2026–28 in Agribusiness and Plantation Management (ABPM), Food Processing and Business Management (FPBM) and Agri Export and Business Management (AEBM) on 31st July 2026. The Chief Guests were Shri N. V. Ramana, Senior Advisor (Agri-Business & Investment); Dr. Artabandhu Sahoo, Director, ICAR-NIANP; and Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission. Their addresses urged the new batch to begin their journey with learning, innovation and leadership.





Caps Up! Celebrating the 21st Convocation

IIPMB celebrated its 21st Convocation on 16 September 2026 for 343 graduates of PGDM-ABPM, FPBM and AEBM from the 2022–24 and 2023–25 batches. Shri G. V. K. Naidu, Managing Director, Sam Agri Group, was the Chief Guest and encouraged graduates to embrace challenges and explore entrepreneurship. Smt. P. Hemalatha, IAS, Chairperson, IIPM, stressed adaptability, integrity and purpose. A total of 27 awards were presented: 9 Gold Medals, 12 Silver Medals and 6 Best All-Rounder Awards.





Strengthening Alumni Engagement Through Interaction with Alumni Association.

The Indian Institute of Plantation Management Bengaluru (IIPMB) organised an interaction with the office bearers and members of its Alumni Association on 19 September 2026 at the IIPMB campus. The meeting was attended by the faculty coordinators, President of the Alumni Association, Treasurer, regional Vice-Presidents and other association members.

The meeting focused on strengthening alumni–institute engagement and developing a more vibrant and structured alumni network. Key areas of discussion included alumni engagement, student mentorship, industry connect, placement and internship opportunities, and alumni contributions towards institutional development. Emphasis was also laid on leveraging the professional expertise and industry networks of alumni to support students through career guidance, industry interactions and mentorship initiatives.





As part of the way forward, it was proposed to organise alumni meets across four different regions to enhance networking and encourage wider alumni participation. The members also deliberated on establishing clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the association, conducting regular meetings, expanding the alumni network and developing a comprehensive alumni database to facilitate effective communication and engagement.

The interaction marked an important step towards strengthening the relationship between IIPMB and its alumni. Through these collective efforts, the Institute aims to foster a connected and active alumni community that contributes to student development, industry linkages and the overall institutional growth of IIPMB.

Agribusiness and Marketing of Agricultural Commodities



IIPMB conducted a three-day Short-Term Executive Programme on Agribusiness and Marketing of Agricultural Commodities from 21st to 23rd July 2026 at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, sponsored by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Assam. The programme trained 45 Agriculture Development Officers and Headquarters officials from Assam as master trainers to promote market-oriented farming. Topics included entrepreneurship, start-ups, crop planning, B2B/B2C branding, AI-based crop advisory and market intelligence, FPOs, and communication skills. Faculty included Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Dr. S. John Mano Raj (Programme Coordinator), Dr. Shilpa Kokatnur and Dr. Parvathi Jayaprakash. Sessions used lectures, case studies, presentations and discussions, with participants seeking more practical guidance on FPO formation and branding. Similar training was recommended for newly recruited ADOs.

Nurturing Entrepreneurial Leaders: AICTE–ATAL FDP



IIPMB hosted the AICTE–ATAL Advanced Faculty Development Programme (AFDP) on "Fostering Entrepreneurial Attitude and Skills Among New-Age Leaders" from 10th to 22nd August 2026, coordinated by Dr. Dinesh Jain and Dr. Archana Thulaseedharan. One of only 20 Advanced FDPs approved nationwide, the programme focused on Agri-Tech startups, incubation, innovation and emerging technologies.

Agri Value Chain, Climate-Resilient Agriculture Financing, and Marketing

Organised jointly with the Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Mangaluru, this three-day programme focused on agri-value chains, climate-resilient agriculture and financing and marketing approaches. The programme was held from 17th to 19th August 2026 at the Rubber Board Hall. Mr. Vikas Vashistha, DGM, SBI Bengaluru Circle, was the Chief Guest, and the Director delivered the Presidential Address. The programme was coordinated by Dr. K. C. Prakash and Dr. Lavanya B. T.

Banking on Green: Credit Meets Carbon



This BIRD–IIPMB programme was held from 20th to 22nd August 2026 and brought together 41 banking professionals from across India to study Green Credit, carbon markets, ESG, climate finance and sustainable finance. Mr. Saket Sah of RPSG Group, was the Chief Guest, Mr. Ajay Kumar Anand, Updapt CSR Pvt. Ltd., the Guest of Honour and

Dr. Surendra Babu of NABARD delivered the Presidential Address. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sudha S. and Dr. Venugopal B.

Tea Mastery, Batch 15: A Toast to Our Graduates



The Valedictory Ceremony of the 15th Batch of the Professional Certificate Programme on Tea Tasting & Marketing (TTM) was held on 29th July 2026, with Director Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam presenting the certificates. The 45-day programme covered tea tasting, quality assessment, blending, tea marketing and industry practices under the experienced faculty and industry experts, coordinated by Dr. K. Narendran, Associate Professor, IIPM.

Empowering FPOs for Global Success: A Comprehensive Training on Export Readiness





IIPMB, in collaboration with APEDA and ICAR-NIRCA, organised a one-day capacity-building programme on Empowering FPOs for Global Success: A Comprehensive Training on Export Readiness at three locations in Andhra Pradesh—Vijayawada (13th August 2026), Kurnool (3rd September 2026) and Visakhapatnam (25th September 2026). The programmes aimed to equip FPOs and FPCs with the knowledge, skills and strategies needed to access global markets and grow sustainably. More than 150 CEOs, board members, FPO representatives, exporters and other stakeholders from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana participated.

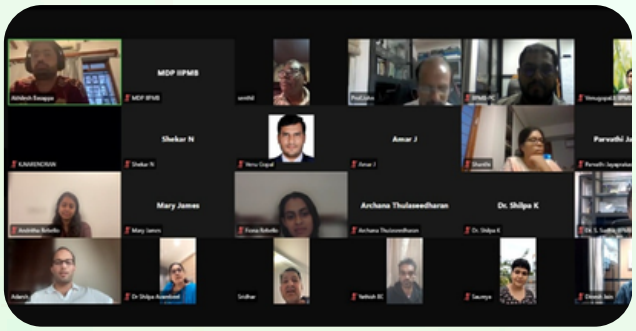
At Vijayawada, Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddam, CEO, Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society, was the Chief Guest, with Shri V. Asha Kiran and Shri P. Balaji Kumar as Guests of Honour; Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director, IIPMB, presided and highlighted IIPMB's





support through market linkages, financial linkages and capacity building. At Kurnool, the programme focused on strengthening FPO export readiness, market access and sustainable growth. At Visakhapatnam, Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan, Principal Scientist & Head, CMFRI Regional Centre, was the Chief Guest, with Ms. B. Syamala, Dr. Hema Baliwada, Mr. Samanth Kumar Reddy and Mr. Sukesh as Guests of Honour. Dr. D. Nabirasool, IIPMB Andhra Pradesh Centre In-charge, delivered the presidential address, reinforcing the importance of institutional support and export opportunities for FPOs.

ePCP-MFBP (2nd Batch)



IIPMB launched Batch 2 of its six-month blended Professional Certificate Programme (ePCP) in Managing Family Business in Plantation, running from August 2026 to January 2027. The programme focuses on helping plantation families sustain and strengthen their businesses in tea, coffee, rubber, spices, cocoa and other plantation sectors, particularly as younger generations show declining interest in the business. It is open to plantation owners, family members, investors, managers and aspiring young managers with an undergraduate degree. The programme covers 11 modules including family business, estate operations, sustainability, labour laws, finance, emerging markets, business analytics and AI, value addition, branding and leadership, along with a business model project. Learning combines four weekly online sessions with case studies, role plays, expert talks, a January 2027 campus immersion and plantation exposure visits. Participants develop a family-brand-based business model and receive the ePCP: Managing Family Business in Plantation certificate. Dr. S. John Mano Raj is the Programme Director.

CORPORATE TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

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Mr. Udayan
District Development Manager, NABARD
Topic: NABARD: Financing Rural India





Ms. Keerthy Pathur
Head of Marketing, Stonefield Flavours
Topic: Inside the Buyer's Mind: Why Consumers Buy

Ms. Zahida Mariyam
Corporate Trainer
Topic: Polish Your speech, Personality Development & Resume Writing





Ms. Chinnari Sri Raksha
Product Manager, PJ Margo (P) Ltd.
Topic: From Schemes to Sales: The Art & Science

Mr. G. K. Venugopal
Agrochemicals Expert Consultant & Former Sr. VP, PI Industries
Topic: Strategy in Action: Winning Moves for Business





Mr. Anup Mishra
AGM – Supply Chain Planning & Analytics, Metro Cash and Carry India & Reliance Retail
Topic: Smarter Choices with AI: Decision Intelligence

Prof. Phani Kumar Pullela
RV University
Topic: From Idea to Commercialisation: IP, Patenting & Startup Ecosystem





Mr. Rahul Pagar
Country General Manager, East-West Seed India
Topic: Seed Sector, Market Dynamics & Quality Seeds

Mr. Venkatakrishnan N. C.
Chief Commercial Officer, NKG India Coffee
Topic: Taking Agri to the World: Trade Law & Exports



Unboxing Packaging at the Indian Institute of Packaging



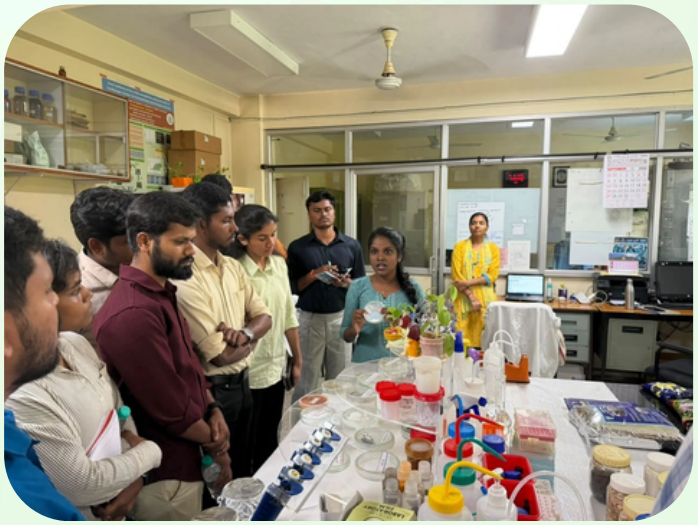
Final-year PGDM-FPBM students as part of the course, Packaging and Labelling for Food Business, visited the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bengaluru Centre on 5th September 2026.

Mr. Harish Kumar R K, Regional Officer, discussed e-commerce packaging, challenges for startups and small food businesses, innovations, and balancing cost, functionality, sustainability and market appeal. Dr. Maneka Goyal initiated and coordinated the visit.

NIANP Visit: Inside the Dairy Value Chain

As part of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, final-year students visited NIANP, Bengaluru, on 20th September 2026 to understand the dairy and livestock value chain, including cattle management and feed production. The visit provided exposure to research laboratories, nanotechnology-based minerals, farmer extension services, incubation initiatives and technology transfer to startups.





Dr. K. C. Prakash guided the students, offering valuable insights into research, innovation and sustainable livestock supply chains.

Industry Meets Campus: AIP Sessions

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Bridging Ideas and Impact



Mr. Anil Kranthi Boddula, Senior Manager – Agriculture & Rural Value Chains, Villgro Innovations Foundation, spoke about collaboration between academia, industry and policymakers in driving agribusiness innovation, strengthening value chains and promoting sustainable rural development.

Farm to Fork, Shelf to Cart

Mr. Hemanth Nagaraj, State Head – Fruits & Vegetables (Karnataka & Goa), Reliance Retail, covered the farm-to-fork supply chain, Indian retail formats, Lean principles, omnichannel retail and flexible supply chains.





Careers in Every Leaf

Mr. Manoj D. Archibald, General Manager and Certified Tea Sommelier, spoke on “Opportunities and Challenges in the Plantation Sector”. He described career paths from Assistant Manager to Tea Sommelier and Sustainability Officer and discussed labour shortages, climate change, human–animal conflict and precision agriculture, drawing on over 30 years of experience.

Governance in the Boardroom

Dr. Chengappa, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Bengaluru, spoke on the role of Independent Directors in corporate governance, including their duties, board processes, financial controls, related-party transactions and performance evaluation.







Industry Meets Campus: AIP Sessions

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Protecting What You Create

Adv. Jalvath A, Founder, Arhlal IPR Protection & Corporate Compliance, spoke on Intellectual Property and Legal Compliance in Agribusiness, covering the IP toolkit, trademarks, patents, Geographical Indications, copyrights and regulatory compliance.





Brewing a Brand

Ms. Gowda Sushmita Raju, Asst. Manager – Brand & Strategy, Bayar's Coffee, spoke on brand strategy and the evolving coffee industry, including consumer preferences, market positioning and product development.







Create, Connect, Career: BigHaat Meets Campus

Mr. Debjit Chanda, Mr. Aiyappa Somaiah, Ms. Muskan and Ms. Renuka Shivaputra of BigHaat India held an interaction on the Campus Creator Network. Students learned about BigHaat's services and career opportunities, and about content creation, digital marketing, branding and the creator economy.





FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

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Director's Engagements: Advancing Sustainable Agribusiness



Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director, IIPM Bengaluru, participated as Chief Guest/Guest of Honour at several academic and industry events, including International Mangrove Day 2026, MBA Graduation Day of ABBS, WEI Awards, E-Waste Summit, and World Coconut Day. He also joined in the UPASI – TRF Centenary Conference and attended the India Sustainability Summit 2026.

Serving on National and Sectoral Advisory Bodies

The Director continued contributions to national initiatives through the DBT Biotech-KISAN and Biotech-Based Societal Development Programme, High-Level Technical Committee on machinery certification, and the National Advisory Council for agricultural modernisation and sustainable agriculture.

Faculty Development in Focus



Dr. Parvathi Jayaprakash participated in the Nurturing Future Leadership Programme (NFLP) at the Indian Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), from 17th–21st August 2026, under the Ministry of Education's leadership development initiative.

Sharing Expertise for Sustainable Forests



Dr. Manmohan Yadav, Professor, IIPMB, served as a resource person for the IWST webinar on "Indian Forest Management Standard and Forest Certification" on 28th September 2026, covering forest certification, key criteria, challenges and opportunities, and sustainable forest management practices in India.

Conference Paper Presentations: Research with Real-World Relevance



Dr. Dinesh Jain presented research on sustainable rural mobility services for women agri-entrepreneurs at the T&PC Conference (13th August 2026) and contributed abstracts to the ATTC 2026 and the International Conference on Agri-Tech & Plantation 5.0.

He also delivered career guidance sessions at Kerala Agricultural University and a pan-India Agri SAARTHI webinar on Entrepreneurship and Career Prospects in Food & Agri Export Business Management.

CELEBRATIONS AT IIPMB

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Celebrating the 80th Independence Day at IIPMB



IIPMB celebrated the 80th Independence Day on 15th August 2026 with patriotic spirit. Director Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam hoisted the national flag, highlighted IIPMB's achievements and India's progress, and encouraged the community to contribute to nation-building. The celebration featured Bharatanatyam by Vinisha R, a violin performance by Vishnu Priya, and a devotional dance by Binsha J Biju, Guna Preethi and Prabisha, showcasing the cultural talent of IIPMB.

Onam: A Feast of Flowers and Festivity



The campus celebrated Onam with flower rangolis, students wearing traditional attire, cultural programmes and Sadhya on 26th August 2026. This Onam brings with it the fragrance of harvest, the warmth of togetherness, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. This festival inspires us to value nature, nurture relationship , and celebrate every achievement with the warmth of gratitude.

Ganesh Chaturthi: Blessings on Campus



IIPMB celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with devotion and enthusiasm, welcoming a Ganesha idol to campus on 14th September 2026. The celebrations included three aarathis each day, bringing students together in prayer and festive spirit. The festival concluded with the visarjan on 18th September, as students danced joyfully along the way before the idol was immersed, marking a memorable celebration of faith, unity and togetherness.

Hindi Diwas: One Language, Many Hearts .



IIPMB celebrated Rajbhasha Hindi Protsahan Pakhwada on 29th September 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Director, IIPMB, with Chief Guest Dr. P. S. R. Murthy highlighting the importance of Hindi, multilingualism and regional languages in education and communication.

Competitions & Activities: Students participated in rangoli, poster-making, Hindi speech, poetry & Hindi trivia quiz competitions, promoting creativity and appreciation of Hindi. The celebration concluded with prize distribution and a vote of thanks.





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Upcoming Events ...

- Sip, Savour, Blend: Tea Tasting MDP.
- Aahara Parva: World Food day celebration on 16 October 2026.
- Homecoming Season : Alumni Chapters in Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
- Industry-Academia Conclave
- Niravh- 2K26-27

EDITORIAL TEAM



Patron:
Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam
(Director, IIPMB)



Editor:
Dr. Maneka Goyal
(Assistant Professor, IIPMB)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES



Veni
ABPM 2025-27



Ashish
ABPM 2025-27



Chandraprakash
ABPM 2025-27



Yash
ABPM 2025-27



Harish
ABPM 2026-28



Jaswin
ABPM 2026-28



Sai Yogesh
ABPM 2026-28



Kavin Prasanth
ABPM 2026-28

CONTACT
Administration: +91-80-23211716 (EPABX)
newsletter@iipmb.edu.in
Indian Institute of Plantation Management
Bengaluru Jnana Bharathi Campus, P.O.
Malathalli, Bengaluru - 560 056.