

Training and Education Centre, ICAR-IVRI, Pune organized *Kisan Goshti*, follow-up visits and input distribution programme under TSP project at Nashik district

The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR-IVRI, Pune, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Maharashtra, successfully organized a *Kisan Goshti* and input distribution programme on 24th April 2025 at village Bare of Taluka Surgana located in Nashik District. This event marked a significant step in promoting scientific goat farming practices among tribal farmers and empowering them through sustainable livestock-based livelihood opportunities. The programme was organized under a joint initiative by the Integrated Tribal Development Project, Kalwan; *Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Maharashtra Mendhi and Sheli Vikas Mahamandal, Pune*; Training and Education Centre, ICAR-IVRI, Pune; and the office of the LDO Surgana, Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Maharashtra. The highlight of the event was the distribution of 300 Osmanabadi goats by *Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Maharashtra Mendhi and Sheli Vikas Mahamandal, Pune* to selected beneficiaries from tribal communities as part of a broader effort to encourage scientific goat rearing practices in these underserved areas.



(Glimpse of Kisan goshti held at Village Bare, Tehasil Surgana of Nashik district)

The *Kisan Goshti* served as a platform for knowledge dissemination and farmer-scientist interaction, where tribal livestock farmers received practical and scientific guidance on improving productivity and profitability in goat farming. Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist from TEC, ICAR-IVRI, Pune, played a key role in the programme by delivering an insightful session on various aspects of scientific goat farming. He urged farmers to embrace science-based practices such as proper goat housing, balanced nutrition, health management, vaccination, deworming protocols, and market-oriented rearing techniques. He emphasized that adopting these methods would not only improve goat health and productivity but also transform goat rearing into a viable entrepreneurial activity capable of ensuring economic upliftment of tribal households. Dr Bhalerao highlighted the *Osmanabadi* breed as being well-suited for local climatic conditions and possessing good adaptability and market value. He encouraged the

beneficiaries to practice group marketing, form producer groups or cooperatives, and explore opportunities for value addition and branding to fetch better prices in the market.



(Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, TEC IVRI Pune interacting with farmers during Kisan Goshti)

Dr Santosh Shinde, Livestock Development Officer of Bare village, Surgana, acknowledged the significant impact of the interventions carried out by the Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR-IVRI, Pune in the tribal regions. Speaking at the *Kisan Goshti* held at Bare village, he emphasized that the success of previous initiatives by TEC IVRI Pune has become a catalyst for further development, encouraging multiple government and non-government agencies to come forward and support goat distribution efforts in the region. He particularly highlighted that the present goat distribution programme was inspired by the outstanding outcomes of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project implemented by TEC IVRI Pune in *Gawandh* and *Vinayaknagar* villages. The project's success in improving livelihood opportunities, income generation, and community engagement through scientific goat farming has created a replicable model now being extended to other tribal areas like Surgana tehsil of Nashik. Further, Dr Shinde lauded TEC IVRI's role in providing consistent technical support, capacity-building training, and field-level demonstrations that have not only boosted the confidence of the tribal farmers but also attracted institutional collaborations for livestock-based livelihood promotion. He expressed optimism that these efforts would strengthen the rural economy, create entrepreneurship opportunities, and bring about a sustainable transformation in the livestock sector among tribal communities.

Thirty four farmers actively participated in the *Kisan Goshti* and engaged in discussions about best practices in goat rearing, demonstrating a strong interest in improving their livelihoods through livestock-based interventions. To further support the farmers, vernacular literature on goat farming was distributed by TEC, ICAR-IVRI, Pune. These materials provided simple yet scientifically accurate information, helping farmers to implement the training content more effectively in their daily practices. The event successfully blended scientific outreach, tribal development, and practical input support, laying a strong foundation for the promotion of *Osmanabadi* goat farming in tribal belts of Maharashtra. The initiative reflects the commitment of ICAR-IVRI and its partner institutions to bridging knowledge gaps and creating sustainable livelihood models through livestock-based interventions in marginalized tribal communities.



(Glimpse of mineral mixture distribution programme at Vinayak Nagar Seed village)

Later, input distribution and monitoring programme at *Vinayaknagar* village in *Trimbakeshwar* taluka of Nashik district. Recognized as the “Seed Village” for *Osmanabadi* goats, *Vinayaknagar* has emerged as a model tribal village showcasing sustainable livestock practices initiated under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project. During the programme, mineral mixtures—essential for improving the nutritional balance and productivity of goats—were distributed to the beneficiaries. The initiative was aimed at supporting farmers in managing the harsh summer conditions and ensuring the health and well-being of the goats. A door-to-door follow-up visit was jointly conducted by Dr Amol Bhalerao and Dr Santosh Shinde, to personally assess the arrangements made by the farmers for protecting their livestock from extreme summer heat.

During their visits, both officers provided detailed and practical advisories to the farmers. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that goats receive clean, cool, and sufficient drinking water, which is vital during periods of high temperatures. Farmers were specifically advised to avoid grazing activities between 11:00 AM and 4:30 PM, as these hours present the highest risk of heat stress. Instead, they were encouraged to allow grazing during early mornings and late evenings. Additionally, the officers stressed the importance of providing balanced feed supplemented with mineral mixtures, closely monitoring goat health, and maintaining regular contact with local veterinary officers for timely intervention in case of illness. One of the key pieces of guidance was the need for proper housing ventilation—farmers were motivated to incorporate cross-ventilation features in their goat sheds to allow adequate air circulation, helping prevent heat-related ailments and stress in goats.

Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist of TEC, ICAR-IVRI, Pune coordinated the aforesaid events.



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हंसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

AgriSearch with a human touch