

TEC, ICAR-IVRI Pune Successfully Conducts Farmer–Scientist Interactions, FFS sessions and Goat Feed Distribution Programmes in Nandurbar and Nashik districts during 15th to 18th March 2026 under TSP

The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Pune carried out an intensive field outreach programme during 15th to 18th March 2026 in the tribal-dominated regions of Nandurbar district and adjoining areas of Nashik, wherein a series of farmer–scientist interactions, Farmer Field School activities, and feed/input distribution programmes were successfully organized under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). The initiative aimed at strengthening scientific goat farming for livelihood security and providing timely technical guidance and input support to tribal farmers.



(Distribution of goat feed at Vinayaknagar village of Nashik District)

TEC Pune initiated its field activities with a goat feed distribution programme on 15th March 2026 at Vinayak Nagar village, Nashik district. Under this programme, a total of 100 bags of good quality goat feed (25 kg each) were distributed among 16 TSP beneficiary farmers to support their livestock during the critical summer period. On the sidelines of the distribution programme, an interactive farmer–scientist interaction session was also organized titled “*Scientific Goat Farming for Livelihood Support*”, wherein detailed discussions were held on scientific feeding practices during summer, maintenance of feed quality, and strategies to manage heat stress in goats. Thereafter advisory was provided to 57 farmers on ensuring proper nutrition to maintain body weight and productivity, which directly influences better market prices. The interaction session also covered

precautions to be taken during transportation and marketing of goats in hot weather conditions, along with advisory on mineral supplementation and water management. The interaction was highly participatory and constructive, with farmers actively sharing their field-level experiences and challenges. The IVRI team provided timely, practical, and need-based advisories, making the programme both informative and relevant. The initiative was well appreciated by the beneficiaries, particularly in view of the increasing fodder scarcity and heat stress conditions during the summer season.



(Dr Amol Bhalerao discussing with the participants of Farmer -Scientist Interaction at Dhadgaon)

On 16th March 2026, the TEC team visited Dhadgaon block of Nandurbar district, an emerging *Osmanabadi* goat seed village cluster, where a Farmer Field School along with a farmer–scientist interaction programme on “*Scientific Goat Farming for Livelihood Support*” was conducted. Fifty six tribal farmers/beneficiaries including farm women, para-vets and CInI staff members actively participated in the programme, reflecting strong interest in adopting scientific livestock practices for livelihood enhancement. The interaction was highly constructive and participatory, with farmers openly sharing their field-level challenges such as management of goats during extreme summer conditions, feeding constraints due to fodder scarcity, need for improved housing structures, and disease prevention practices.

The team of ICAR-IVRI Pune provided on-the-spot scientific advisories, focusing on low-cost and climate-resilient housing with proper ventilation, balanced feeding practices, mineral supplementation, and preventive health care measures. Emphasis was also laid on systematic management during heat stress conditions, ensuring adequate water availability and minimizing productivity losses during peak summer. A unique highlight of the programme was the screening of a success story/documentary featuring progressive tribal goat farmers from a neighboring district who have successfully established profitable goat farming enterprises under similar agro-climatic conditions and socio-economic constraints. This farmer-to-farmer learning approach proved highly effective in boosting the confidence of the participants, as they could relate closely to the success of fellow tribal farmers. The session demonstrated how scientific practices, when adopted systematically, can transform goat farming into a sustainable and income-generating enterprise. The documentary screening was widely appreciated by the participants, who expressed motivation to replicate similar models in their own villages. A feed and input distribution activity was also undertaken alongside the interaction; wherein selected TSP beneficiaries were provided with essential inputs to support goat farming during the critical summer period. During the visit, meaningful engagement was held with stakeholders including Yahamogi Farmer Producer Company (FPC)- Mundalwad FPO, and field teams of CInI–Tata Trusts,

where it was observed that farmers are increasingly demanding timely input support and structured training programmes, particularly on scientific housing and seasonal management of goats. Farmers also strongly voiced their need for enhanced and timely supply of quality goat feed, particularly during critical periods such as the onset of summer and winter seasons, when fodder scarcity becomes a major challenge. They requested that such support interventions be scaled up in the future to ensure continuity in livestock productivity and income generation which generally gets affected in dry spells of summer.



(Dr Amol Bhalerao discussed proper feeding of goats with tribal farmers)

On the same day, a feed distribution programme titled “*Scientific Feeding of Goats for Improved Nutrition and Productivity*” was organized at Mundalwad village, wherein 190 bags of goat feed (25 kg each) were distributed among TSP beneficiaries belonging to the *Molagi and Dhadgaon* clusters. Along with distribution, farmers were guided on balanced ration, use of mineral mixtures, and preparation of low-cost homemade feed using locally available resources. The programme was highly appreciated, particularly in view of seasonal fodder scarcity and rising feed costs.



Later, on 17th March 2026, a second farmer–scientist interaction programme, titled “*Scientific Goat Farming for Livelihood Support*” was conducted in the Molagi cluster of Akkalkuwa tehsil, covering beneficiaries from both Molagi and Dhadgaon clusters, which are gradually emerging as seed villages for *Osmanabadi* goat

farming. The discussion was highly interactive and field-oriented, focusing on scientific feeding practices, housing improvements under rising temperatures, goat health management during summer, and prevention of production losses. During the session, detailed discussions were held on heat stress management and maintaining productivity under water-scarce conditions, which are common in the region. Farmers were guided on how to sustain core production levels even during extreme summer, with emphasis on providing nutritious and balanced feed along with adequate mineral supplementation. Practical strategies to protect animals from sudden heat waves during April–May, such as provision of shade, proper ventilation, timely watering, and avoiding grazing during peak heat hours, were explained in detail.

The IVRI team also emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of animals during heat stress conditions, urging farmers to remain vigilant and take immediate action to prevent productivity losses. Special attention was given to reproductive management, wherein farmers were advised to closely observe heat signs and ensure timely breeding by keeping females with breeding males to improve conception rates. In addition, comprehensive guidance was provided on the care and management of newly born kids, including colostrum feeding, hygiene, and protection from environmental stress, which are critical for reducing mortality and improving herd performance.

Another important aspect discussed during the interaction was the importance of providing clean and sufficient drinking water, especially during summer, to maintain animal health and productivity. Farmers were sensitized on water storage practices and maintaining water hygiene at the farm level. To further strengthen farmer confidence and promote peer learning, a documentary showcasing the success of progressive farmers from Vinayak Nagar village was screened for participants from the *Molagi* cluster. The documentary highlighted how farmers in similar socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions successfully adopted scientific goat farming as a viable business model, leading to improved income and livelihood security. This farmer-to-farmer learning approach was highly appreciated and served as a strong motivational tool for participants.

During the session, Dr. Amol Bhalerao once again emphasized the significance of proper nutrition in goat farming, explaining that balanced feeding is the foundation of productivity, reproduction, and profitability. The IVRI team provided timely, need-based, and practical advisories, addressing individual farmer queries and offering solutions tailored to local conditions. Overall, the programme significantly contributed to enhancing farmers' understanding of scientific livestock management, climate resilience, and sustainable goat farming practices in the tribal region. Around 23 farmers, including women participants, attended the session with keen interest and active involvement.

Further, on 18th March 2026, the TEC team conducted an additional feed distribution programme-cum farmer–scientist interaction titled “*Proper Nutrition for Healthy Goats*” at *Bundhate* village of Satana tehsil, Nashik district. Twenty seven farmer beneficiaries, including farm women, actively participated in the meeting. Under this programme, a total of 190 bags of good quality goat feed (25 kg each) were distributed among beneficiary farmers to support their livestock during the peak summer period. In addition, essential veterinary medicines were also provided, particularly to manage conditions such as dysentery and digestive disorders, which are commonly observed during seasonal stress.

The interaction session was constructive and focused on scientific feeding practices, water management, and heat stress mitigation to ensure better livestock productivity during extreme climatic conditions. Farmers were guided on maintaining balanced nutrition using mineral mixtures and locally prepared feed, ensuring adequate clean drinking water, and avoiding grazing during peak heat hours. Detailed discussions were also held on managing goats under sudden heat waves, improving housing conditions with proper ventilation, and minimizing production losses during summer.

The IVRI team emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of animals, especially during high-temperature periods, and advised farmers to adopt timely preventive measures to safeguard animal health.

Special attention was given to reproductive management and kid care, highlighting the need for proper feeding and protection of young animals to reduce mortality and improve herd performance. Farmers were encouraged to adopt scientific and systematic goat farming practices to enhance productivity and income. The programme was appreciated by the participants, as it combined timely input support with practical, need-based technical guidance, making it highly relevant to the challenges faced by farmers during the summer season.



(Glimpse of feed distribution among tribal farmers at Bundhate village of Satana tehsil of Nashik)

