

## **Training and Education Center, ICAR - IVRI, Pune successfully Participated in “Maha Pashudhan Expo 2026” held at Parli Vaijnath, Maharashtra from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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The Training and Education Centre (TEC), ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), Pune, actively participated in the prestigious “Maha Pashudhan Expo 2026”, held at Parli Vaijnath, Maharashtra, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The mega livestock exhibition was organized under the aegis of the Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, Government of Maharashtra, with the objective of promoting advanced livestock technologies, strengthening farmer–scientist linkages, and accelerating the growth of the animal husbandry sector in the state. The Expo brought together policymakers, scientists, veterinary professionals, entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and thousands of progressive farmers from across Maharashtra. The event served as a dynamic platform for showcasing innovations in livestock breeding, health management, value addition, and agribusiness development.



*(Dr. Amol Bhalerao while interacting with the members of Womens' SHG)*

On behalf of ICAR-IVRI, Pune, Dr. Amol Bhalerao, Scientist (Agricultural Extension), represented the institute and installed an exhibition stall highlighting the ICAR-IVRI technologies, innovations, and capacity-building initiatives of ICAR-IVRI. The stall attracted significant attention from visiting farmers, livestock entrepreneurs, veterinary officers, and students. Through informative displays, technical literature, and one-on-one interactions, the team disseminated information on IVRI-developed vaccines, diagnostics, livestock production technologies, and scientific management practices designed to enhance farm productivity and profitability.

A major highlight of IVRI's participation was the focused dissemination of information regarding the Osmanabadi Goat Development Project being implemented by TEC, ICAR-IVRI, Pune. Special emphasis was laid on explaining the outcomes and impact of the project among women entrepreneurs and members of various Self-Help Groups (SHGs) who visited the stall in large numbers. The discussions centered on scientific goat rearing, low-cost housing, mineral supplementation, health planning, and collective marketing approaches. Women participants showed keen interest in adopting Osmanabadi goat farming as a sustainable livelihood option, particularly under group-based models such as SHGs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).



*(Dr. Amol Bhalerao motivated school children to work for the betterment of agriculture sector)*

In addition to farmer interactions, special interactive sessions were conducted for students and school children visiting the Expo. These sessions aimed at motivating young minds to pursue careers in agricultural and veterinary sciences. Students were encouraged to view science not merely as an academic pursuit but as a powerful tool for transforming rural livelihoods, strengthening food security, and contributing to national development. The interactions created enthusiasm among the youth to consider professional pathways in research, extension, and livestock entrepreneurship.

During the Expo, IVRI representatives also actively engaged in farmer interaction sessions, emphasizing the importance of adopting Integrated Livelihood Farming Systems, particularly those integrating livestock with crop production. Farmers were sensitized about the role of livestock in enhancing farm income, improving soil health through organic manure recycling, reducing risk through diversification, and ensuring nutritional security. The concept of livestock-based integrated farming was presented as a viable pathway toward doubling farmers' income while maintaining ecological sustainability.



*(BvSc students while visiting the stall of TEC IVRI Pune in Maha Pashudhan Expo 2026)*

Through effective dissemination of technologies, interactive guidance, and youth motivation initiatives, the Training and Education Centre, ICAR-IVRI, Pune, once again demonstrated its proactive role in advancing the livestock sector and empowering farming communities.

