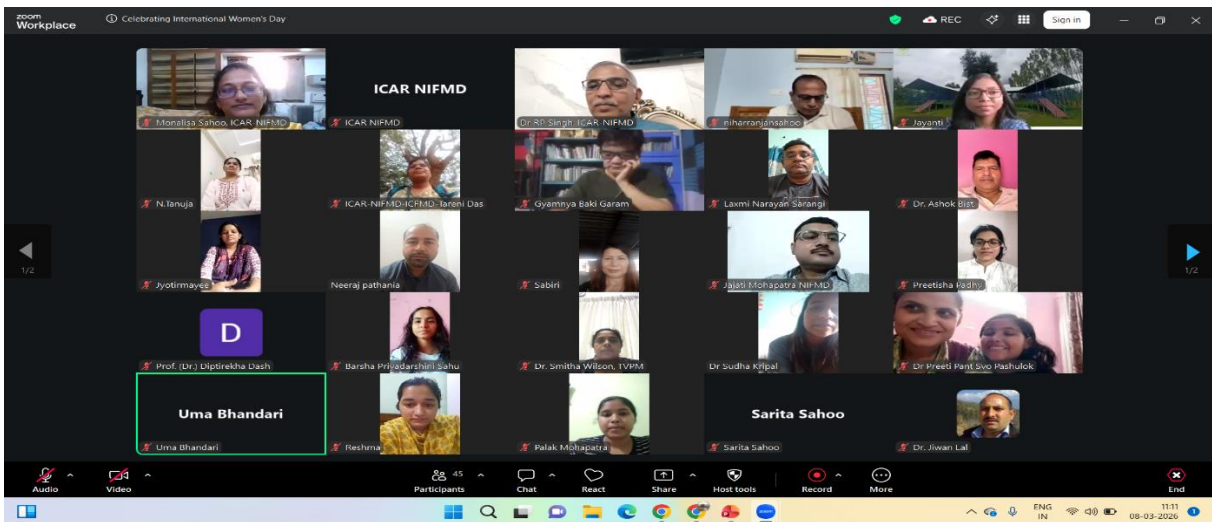


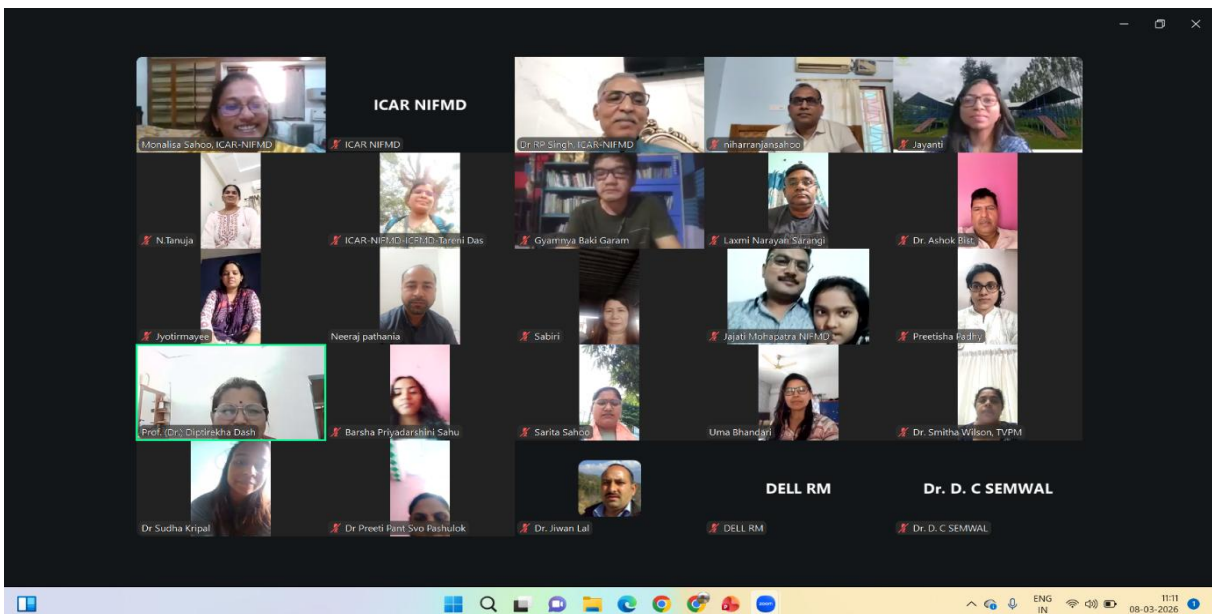


Celebration of International Women's Day, 2026

The Women Cell of ICAR-NIFMD commemorated International Women's Day 2026 on 08.03.2026 under the theme “UN Year for Women Farmers”. The celebrations aimed to recognize the significant contributions of women in agriculture and allied sectors while promoting gender awareness, empowerment, and capacity building among different stakeholders. On this occasion, 2 lecture series were organized on “Participation of Women in Animal Husbandry” and “Role of Ayurveda in augmenting the health of Women Farmers” by Jayanti Mahapatra (Renowned Women Entrepreneur, Founder of Manikstu Agro Pvt. Limited) and Dr. (Prof.) Diptirekha Das (Prof. & Head, SSN Ayurvedic College) respectively. The event witnessed more than 50 participation from professionals, scientists, and research scholars across the country in online mode.



The meeting was online chaired by Dr RP Singh (Director, ICAR-NIFMD) who welcomed the guest and briefed about institute CSR activities, mandate and vision. Dr Monalisa, in-charge, institute Women cell presented a brief bio-data of Dr J. Mahapatra and a note on the crucial role women in global food security, nutrition, and agriculture, while addressing gender inequality, limited resource access, and promoting empowerment.



J. Mahapatra (Founder, Founder of Manikstu Agro Pvt. Limited) in her thought provoking speech, shared her thoughts regarding the purpose of goat rearing by rural women farmers, goat rearing practices in Odisha, challenges faced by women in goat rearing and how her organization is helping to enhance the socioeconomic livelihood of women farmers amounting to Rs 10,000-28,000/- per month by adopting the technology driven health keeping practices. Special emphasis was laid on nutritional management, balanced feeding practices, and the adoption of improved goat husbandry techniques to enhance livestock productivity and household income of women farmers.

Jayanti M

- **Business Advisor | Mentor | Start Up Ecosystem Enabler | Transformation Architect | Serial Entrepreneur | Master Trainer** With over two decades of expertise spanning the distinguished corridors of global banking in HSBC & Dell, strategic consulting, and visionary entrepreneurship, she stands as a rare *architect of extraordinary impact*. **An MBA, MSc in Psychotherapy, and MSW**, highly regarded for her strategic acumen to drive transformative growth. **Certified in NLP, CODA, COPC frameworks** underscores her resplendent professional distinction.
- A Serial Entrepreneur founded and co-founded organizations across diverse sectors, (**Manikstu Agro Pvt. Ltd., Trainguru Educare Pvt. Ltd. & Weneurs Forum**), reflecting a deep commitment to impactful, purpose-driven ventures. Her wisdom are sought at the highest echelons of India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem like in Task Force I-Hub IIM- Sambalpur, Executive Board Member at NBV – Suzuki Initiative, Vice Chair Bharat FPO Confederation, Advisor & mentor APIIP (Govt. Of Arunachal Pradesh), ISAP, SPIU etc including many incubations in the Country. Her contributions have earned numerous state and national accolades, a few including a special mention by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India** in "Mann Ki Baat" ICC Women "Change Maker" award, OTV Citizen's Award, Entrepreneur of the year (Premeysa), Business Eminence Award, AM/NS Shakti Award, She does not merely navigate the corridors of business — she architects them into perpetual impact with her Luminary leadership.

Technology + proactive health keeping

- Para-Vet Network
- F 000 NRV0 0 MPT 0 NVCE
- g RV0 0 0 U NRV0 M0 0 0
- i RV0 0 0 MPT 0 0

How Manikstu Helps

we provide end to end support for Goat Farming

- Goat Training
- Feeding & Nutrition
- Healthcare
- Insurance
- Goat Loan, Sheep Bank
- Market Support
- Market Linkage
- Marketing
- Goat Products

Why Goat Rearing for Women?

- Women-Friendly**: Light practical work, manageable from home while allowing flexibility dates.
- Low Investment**: Starting can be low, capital easy to scale with minimal capital.
- Eco-Friendly**: Goats thrive on straws, crop residue, and marginal land.
- Multiple Products**: Meat, milk, fibre makes – diversified access from one animal.
- Quick Returns**: Goats mature fast, income within 6-12 months of investment.
- Community Fit**: Fits traditional knowledge, women already experienced in animal care.

Dr Diptirekha Dash highlighted the role of Ayurveda in supporting the health of women farmers by offering a holistic, accessible, and preventive approach to health management, particularly in rural areas where conventional medical infrastructure may be limited. She emphasized the need of women health in the present era, factors affecting women health, and women healthcare through Ayurveda. She emphasized that Women’s health and well-being is the national priority. Thus, proper guidelines, awareness, education to women regarding personal hygiene, malnutrition should be provided to rural and remote areas of the country.

**Prof.(Dr) Diptirekha Dash,MD(AYURVEDIC MEDICINE),
Ph.D HOD KB DEPTT (shishuroga bibhag)
SSN AYURVEDIC COLLEGE AND REASEARCH INSTITUTE, NURSINGHANATH,
PAIKMAL**

- Worked as Assistant professor and then associate professor at SVM Ayurvedic college and hospital, Ilkal, Bagalkot, Karnatak
- Worked as Associate professor at Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya PURI (2006 to 2012)
- Participated several seminars, webinars, CME programs, health camps ,and health awareness programs.
- She is having expertise on post fracture management with traditional medicine.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting grid with the following participants visible:

- Sumitra
- DELL RM
- Reshma
- Barsha Priyadar...
- ICAR NIFMD
- Dr. Smritha Wils...
- Shibani Das
- Jajati Mohapatr...
- Jajati Mohapatra NIFMD
- Dr J K Biswal
- Sapna
- Jayanti
- N.Tanuja
- debapriya
- palak mohapatra
- ICAR-NIFMD Dr...
- ICAR-NIFMD-IC...
- Dr Preeti Pant S...
- Sarita Sahoo
- Jyotirmayee

The meeting concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Dr Smrutirekha Mallick.