



NABARD

Rice Diversity Centre

Conserving Heritage and Cultivating Future



**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Regional Office, Karnataka (Bengaluru)**



FOREWORD



It gives me immense pleasure in presenting the success story of Rice diversity centre established at Kirugavalu, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya district. This document holds commitment of NABARD towards empowering farmers in seed conservation and climate resilience.

At NABARD, our mission to foster rural prosperity takes shape through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, and empowerment of farming communities.

This booklet presents the inspiring story of the Rice Diversity Centre in Mandya district, Karnataka, a shining example of community driven conservation of traditional agricultural heritage.

Recognizing the urgent need to protect indigenous crop diversity, we extended financial support to facilitate the creation of the Rice Museum, strengthen organic conservation practices, and promote community seed banks through establishment of seed banks in NABARD supported Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

We acknowledge the efforts of Shri Syed Ghani Khan, Conservator of the Paddy landraces and curator of Rice Museum, an initiative established with the grant support of NABARD under the Farm sector promotion fund in collaboration with Vikasana IRUD NGO.

Simultaneously, the noteworthy and effective dedication of the Smt. Harshitha B.V., District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Mandya and Bengaluru South, whose efforts have been pivotal in this initiative is recognized.

Dr. Surendra Babu
Chief General Manager
NABARD,
Regional office,
Karnataka (Bengaluru)



Traditional rice landraces are the backbone of biodiversity.

They are:

- Adapted to local climates.
- Resistant to pests and diseases.
- Culturally significant.

Modern farming threatens their survival. Conservation of heritage germplasm ensures food security and environmental resilience.

1350 + Rice diversity
blocks



Rice Museum



**Rice
Diversity
Centre**

Seed Banks

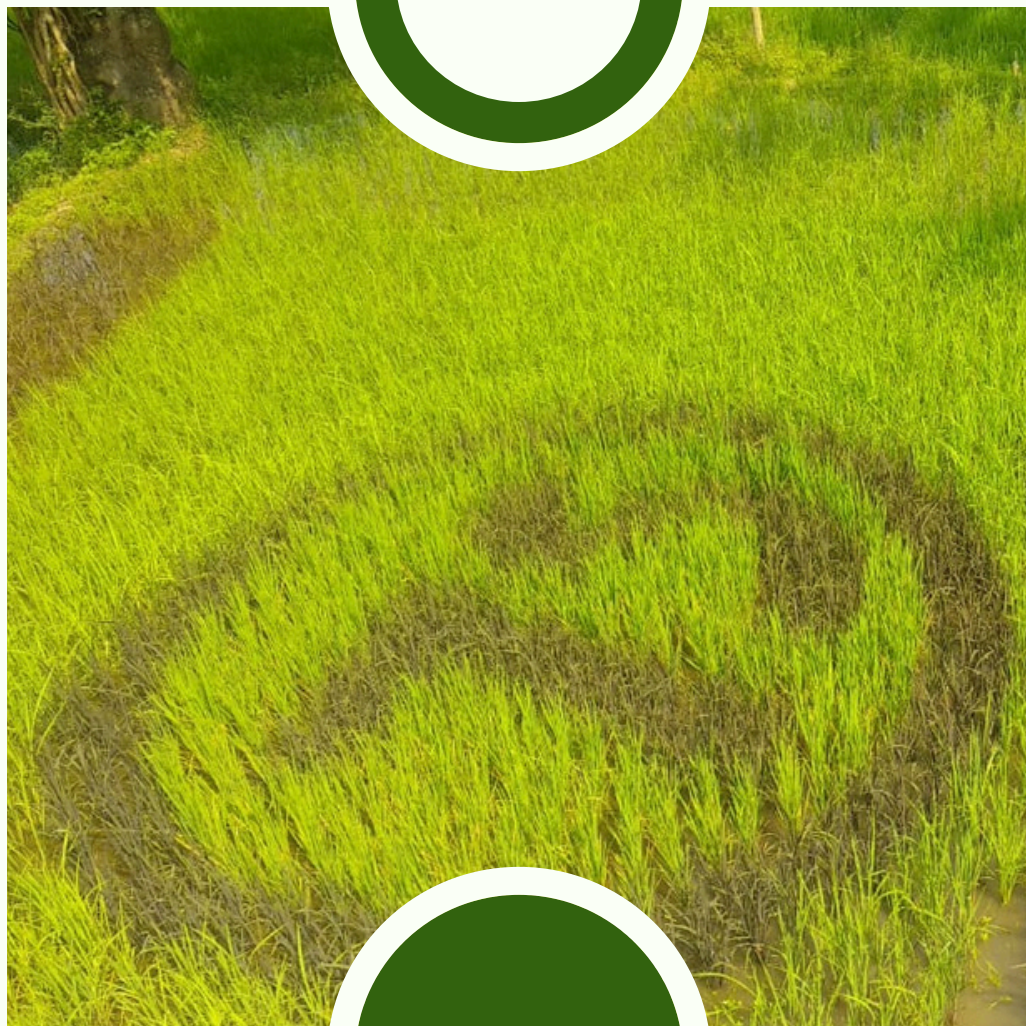


Training
and
Capacity Building



In order to promote conservation of heritage rice germplasm, in 2019 and 2023, NABARD sanctioned a grant of ₹4.68 lakh and ₹6.72 lakh, respectively, to establish Rice Diversity blocks, a Rice Museum, to train 450 farmers, to set up Seed Banks in NABARD supported FPOs and launch a dedicated website.

Rice Diversity Blocks



Over 1,350 paddy varieties are cultivated organically through the unique Japanese tradition of Tambo art.

The varieties include Rakthashali, Sanna Sidda, Rajamudi, Black Thai jasmine, Red Rice etc.

Additionally, the rice center conserves around 100 varieties of millet, 120 varieties of mangoes, 50 varieties of apples, and 30 varieties of vegetables, including tomatoes and lady fingers.



Rice Museum

A simple room housing rice germplasm was transformed into a professional rice museum with grant support from NABARD for its upgradation.



Seed Banks in FPOs

Athaguru Ragi FPO and Mandya Jaggery
FPO host Seed Banks in Kesturu and
Jeegundipatna.



**ಬೀಜ
ಭಂಡಾರ**

ಜೀಗುಂಡಿಪಟ್ಟಣ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
Jeegundipatna, Mandya Tq, Mandya Dist.

ಬೆಂಬಲ

SUPPORTED BY

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ (ನಬಾರ್ಡ್)
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NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD)
VIKASANA INSTITUTE FOR RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MANDYA
RICE DIVERSITY CENTRE KIRUGAVLU
MANDYA JAGGERY FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED

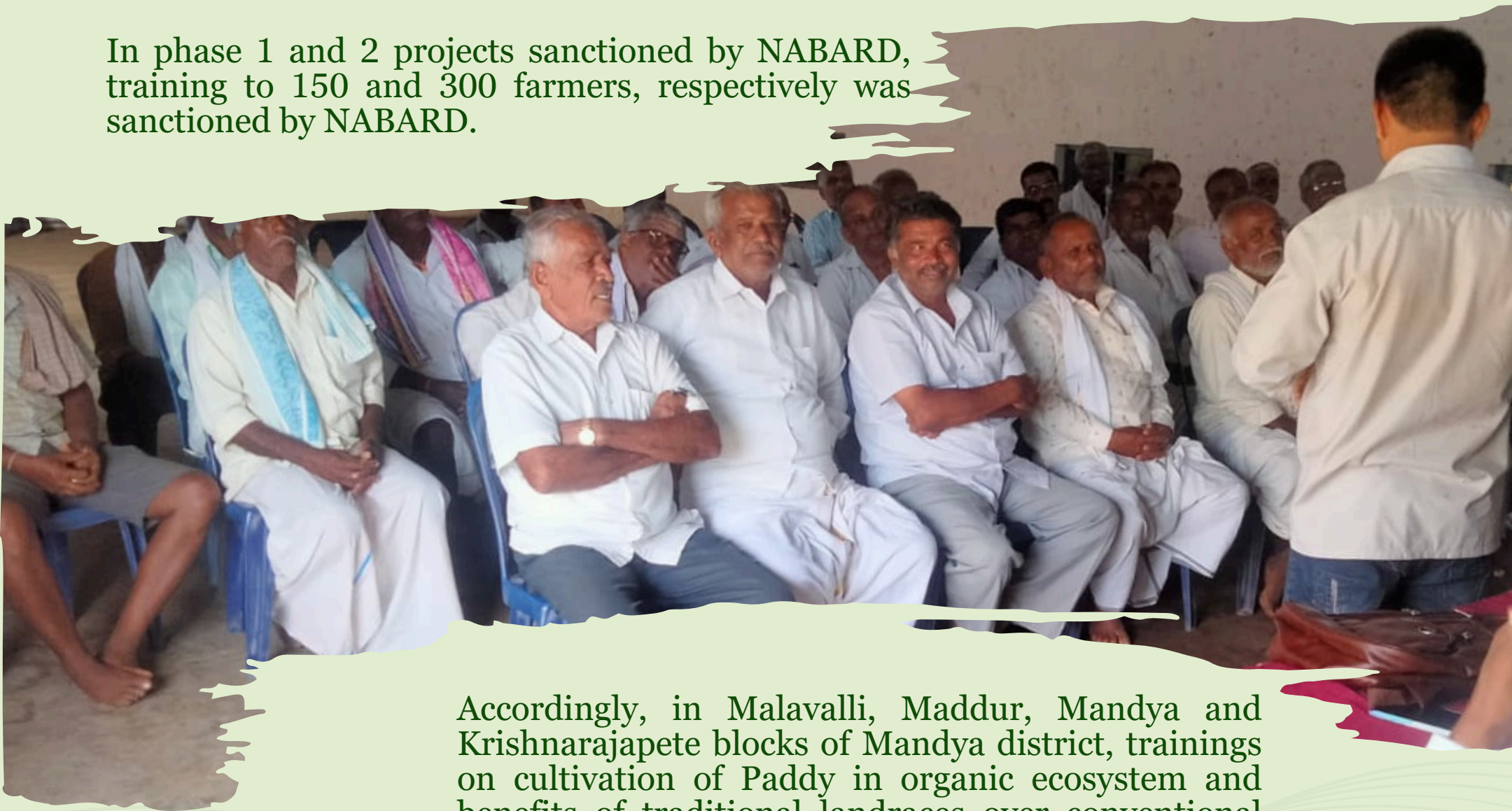
Services in Seed Banks

- Seeds conservation
- Seeds for sale
- Knowledge sharing on heritage landraces



Training and Capacity Building of Farmers

In phase 1 and 2 projects sanctioned by NABARD, training to 150 and 300 farmers, respectively was sanctioned by NABARD.



Accordingly, in Malavalli, Maddur, Mandya and Krishnarajapete blocks of Mandya district, trainings on cultivation of Paddy in organic ecosystem and benefits of traditional landraces over conventional rice varieties were disseminated.

Preserving Heritage, One Grain at a Time

From Vision to Reality

Harvesting Seeds of Success



A transformative training by the Conservator and Vikasana NGO empowered farmers to shift from conventional to traditional rice cultivation, focusing on indigenous varieties and organic farming methods. Through hands-on workshops and continuous field support, farmers learned to replace chemical inputs with natural alternatives, enhancing soil health and sustainability and realized 20% higher income from cultivation of heritage landraces.

About the Rice Museum Curator

Syed Ghani Khan

Shri Syed Ghani Khan, a farmer and self taught agricultural historian, has meticulously collected and conserved over 1350 varieties of traditional and heirloom rice, cultivating them using organic farming methods.

His achievements are recognized through several prestigious awards. He received the Krishi Pandit award from the Karnataka Government in 2008, the Krishi Jeeva Vaividya award in 2010, and the Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Award from the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in 2012.

Additionally, he was honored with the National Genome Seed Saver Recognition Award a year later by the Plant Protection Variety Forum, and the Rice Innovative Farmer Award for 2011-12 from the Directorate of Rice Research in Hyderabad.



Kirugavalu village, Malavalli taluk,
Mandya district, Karnataka, India

