



UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN REGIONAL COORDINATING INSTITUTE KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

‘Strengthening Community – Academic Partnerships: Tribal and Fisherfolk Outreach’

10 November 2025

National Institute of Fisheries Administration &
Management (NIFAM), Aluva

Celebrating UBA Foundation Day (Nov 11)

This workshop is being organized as part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Foundation Day celebrations, marking 11 years of UBA (2014-2025) – a decade-long journey of empowering rural India through the collective efforts of Higher Education Institutions.

Organized by
Regional Coordinating Institute (Central Kerala & Lakshadweep)
Kerala Agricultural University
In association with
Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF)

Message

Dr. Binoo P. Bonny

Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University &
Regional Coordinator, UBA–RCI (Central Kerala & Lakshadweep)

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, envisions building strong linkages between higher educational institutions and rural communities for achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Kerala Agricultural University, as the Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) for Central Kerala and Lakshadweep, continues to promote this vision through collaborative capacity-building programmes and participatory outreach.

The workshop on ‘Strengthening Community–Academic Partnerships: UBA Workshop on Tribal and Fisherfolk Outreach’ aims to bring together academic institutions, community organizations, and government agencies to deliberate on challenges faced by tribal and fisherfolk communities. It also seeks to identify actionable strategies through which academic engagement can contribute to livelihood improvement, social inclusion, and resilience of these communities.

I hope that the deliberations and knowledge exchanges during this workshop will inspire Participating Institutions under UBA to develop context-specific, impactful interventions for our coastal and tribal regions.

I extend my best wishes to all participants and partners for the successful conduct of this programme.

Background & Objectives

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, emphasizes building stronger partnerships between academic institutions and local communities to promote sustainable and inclusive development. In line with this vision, Kerala Agricultural University (RCI - Central Kerala) is organizing a one-day workshop on ‘Strengthening Community–Academic Partnerships: Tribal and Fisherfolk Outreach.’

Tribal and fisherfolk communities are integral to Kerala’s socio-economic fabric yet face numerous challenges in livelihood, education, and health. This workshop provides a platform for academic experts, community leaders, and development practitioners to deliberate on these issues and co-create strategies for effective intervention.

Objectives:

- To understand the socio-economic and cultural challenges faced by fisherfolk and tribal communities.
- To identify avenues for academic institutions to collaborate with community organizations.
- To share successful models and best practices in livelihood, health, and education.
- To strengthen linkages between UBA Participating Institutions and community-based organizations.

Programme Schedule

Inaugural Session

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM **Registration**
- 9:30 – 9:35 AM : **Welcome Address** – Dr. Giggin T, Co-cordinator, UBA- RCI KAU
- 9:35 – 9:40 AM : **Presidential Address** – Dr. Binoo P. Bonny, Director of Extension, KAU & Regional Coordinator (UBA–RCI, Central Kerala & Lakshadweep)
- 9:40 – 9:50 AM : **Inaugural Address** – Shri. Mahesh S., Executive Director, SAF & Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Kerala
- 9:50 – 9:55 AM : **Felicitation** – Shri. Anurenj P. Kumar, Programme Manager, ViswaSanthi Foundation
- 9:55 – 10:00 AM : **Vote of Thanks** – Smt. A.S. Priyanka, UBA Coordinator, SN College, Nattika

Technical Sessions

- 10:00 – 11:00 AM : **Understanding Challenges Faced by Fisherfolk in Kerala** – Shri. Ignatious Mandro. B, Managing Director, ADAK
- 11:00- 11:15 AM **Tea Break**
- 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM : **Understanding Issues in the Tribal Communities** – Shri. K.A. Ramu, Governing Body Member, Thampu (Centre for Tribal Education Development & Research)
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM : **WASH Challenges in Tribal & Fisherfolk Communities: Field Perspectives** – Shri. SajiSebastian, Executive Director, SEUF, Trivandrum
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM **Lunch Break**
- 2:00 – 3:00 PM : **Empowering Coastal Livelihoods: Initiatives of SAF** Shri. Mahesh S., Executive Director, SAF
- 3:00 - 3:40 PM : **Comprehensive Development of the Coastal Region: A Study with Special Reference to Vettom Gram Panchayath- Development documentary: “Thottappian Stories”**- Dr. Mallika M G, Associate Professor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University
- 3:40 – 4:00 PM : **Exploring Interventions by HEIs in Tribal & Fisherfolk Outreach** – Shri. Anurenj P. Kumar, Programme Manager, ViswaSanthi Foundation (VSF)
- 4:00 – 4:15 PM : **Valedictory & Certificate Distribution**
- 4.15 PM Onwards : **High Tea**