



Established in 2017, the School of Agriculture (ICAR Accredited), under the umbrella of GIET University, Gunupur, is dedicated to cater quality education, empirical research and value added extension activities in agriculture and allied sectors in Southern Odisha. Nestled in the scenic Eastern Ghats, the school offers modern facilities and a vibrant learning environment for future agro-professionals.



Blazing Stars: Team Suryarekha shines at Ujjain, MP

Team Suryarekha (S.S Mahanta, S. Nayak, D Maharana, Omm T Mohanty, A.R Mohanta) mentored by **Dr. Anmol Panda, Asst. Prof., Agril. Ext.** showcased incredible ingenuity by developing innovative astronomical instruments using sustainable low cost materials. Their scientific resourcefulness earned them the prestigious **“Most Innovative Team”** award and the All India 4th position along with ₹5000 as cash prize.

The Retro Food Revival: putting a trendy spin on time-tested tastes

An array of wholesome grandma recipes like **organic jaggery, age-old chutneys, pickles, millet laddoos** made from finest ingredients were featured at GIET Campus. This not only delighted the taste buds but also achieved its goal of spreading awareness about healthy choices against junk foods across the college community and nearby localities.



“When the world pauses, Agriculture keeps on moving”

A tapestry of culture

The campus resonated with the stirring notes of **“Bande Utkala Janani”** as SoAg celebrated **Utkal Divas** on April 1st, 2026.



Chants, clay pots and a campus full of JOY

Seeds of prosperity were sown at IF-1, School of Agriculture, GIETU, on 20.04.2026. Rooted in the soil, honouring **Akhi Muthi Anukula (Akshaya Tritiya-2026)**- the tradition of sowing the first seeds of hope, growth and abundance.



What the field leaves behind, wisdom turns into value...

The students of the ELP module “Commercial Sweetcorn Production” have set up a new benchmark on agricultural profitability along with environmental stewardship through eco-friendly innovations from sweetcorn waste such as **flavoured silk herbal tea**, **fruit bagging** in orchard management, **paper from corn husk**, **pot-trays** for raising saplings, after harvest, **corn stalks used as fodder**, that maximizes crop value while slashing the waste.



Farm Glimpses

Our University’s Instructional and Research farms are buzzing with activities as we wrap up seasonal harvests and prep our orchards. This month, we are highlighting four stand-out crops making major waves in our fields: **Ashwagandha**, nutrient dense **Sweet potatoes**, golden blooming **Sunhemp** and a wide varieties of **Mangoes**. With this, students are getting hands-on-training on on-farm activities along with advanced ecofriendly techniques to maximize unblemished yield.





Badakalakote, Odisha, India
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 Lat 19.015418° Long 83.999616°
 Monday, 20/04/2026 05:27 PM GMT +05:30



ICAR-NMNF Project : Natural Farming Initiative

Under the ICAR-National Mission of Natural Farming Project (NMNF), Dr. Katiki Srikar, Asst. Prof. (Agri. Ext.) and Co-PI (Co-Principal Investigator), successfully conducted natural farming awareness and capacity-building training programmes across four targeted villages:

Priority Areas:

- Agro-climatic resilience
- Soil health management
- **Puttasing (Rayagada)**
- **Basing-garja Rayagada)**
- **Badakolakote (Gajapati)**
- **Madaul (Gajapati)**

❑ Mushroom Spawn and Tissue Culture Production: A Promising Future

The Mushroom unit successfully produced

- **Tissue cultures:-**
 - Oyster mushroom
 - Paddy straw mushrooms
- **800 high-quality mushroom spawn packets**
- **Outcome:**
 - Valuable hands-on experience in spawn production and culture maintenance
 - Practical skills and entrepreneurial insights.



Vermicompost : An Organic supplement for Sandalwood



ELP vermicompost students led by **Dr. Rajeswari Das, Dr. K. Srikar, and Dr. Suman G. Sahu**, visited Mr. Ajit Kumar Kola's Orchard and Sandalwood farm in Gumuda which includes

- 10,000 White Sandalwood trees
- Mangoes, Apple Ber and Guava

SoAg experts advice:

- Precision irrigation with vermicompost
- Live model for students on conversion of wasteland into a commercially viable farm
- Integrated Nutrient Management.

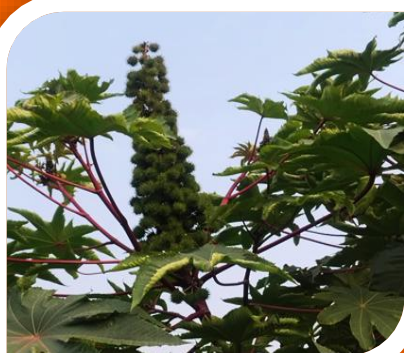
Research Corner

From Revenue generation to Household Oil: The Power of Perennial Castor

- Dr. Susanta Ku. Mohanty



Perennial Castor Seed
SoA, GIETU, Gunupur



- Castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) is one of the ancient and important non-edible oilseed crops.
- High oil content: 48-52 %
- Has multifarious household (hair oil, illuminant, laxative, lubricant, medicinal) and industrial usages.

As a border crop (without sacrificing extra cultivable land) at Instructional Farm-I of SoAg, GIET University, Gunupur : A local perennial castor variety planted during 2023-24 has the following potential in 2025-26 :

- More than 15 spikes/plant.
- At maturity: 150 capsules/spike.
- Three seeds per capsule.
- 100-seed weight : 33 g
- From a single spike: 150 g seeds
- Seed Yield : 2 kg /plant
- Additional income: Rs 120 to 140 per plant.
- **Drawback:** Semi-shattering habit.
- **Suggestion:** Should be harvested when the capsules just start drying.

Seminar Spotlight: Farmers preference on rice varietal traits and impact on production

Highlighting Rice as a crucial staple, driving India's economy, **Dr. S. Satish** delivered an insightful talk and shared key national benchmarks in production and productivity of Rice. He credited this growth to high yielding dwarf varieties and expanded irrigation.



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