

ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

SWACHHATA HI SEVA PROGRAMME 2026

Day 8- Swachh Sujal Gaon, Waste to Art, Clean Street Food

Date: 24/09/2026

Institute Name: ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana

Summary of the Activity

On 24th September 2026, as part of the Swachhta Hi Seva campaign, under a theme of Organisation of Zero Waste Event, a targeted recycling initiative was undertaken at ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, with the primary objective of promoting the systematic segregation and collection of biodegradable waste, including fallen leaves, twigs, weeds, and other organic residues, for subsequent composting. The programme formed part of the Institute's broader commitment to sustainable waste management and environmental stewardship. The programme was organized by Dr. S.L. Krishnamurthy, Dr. M.S. Anantha, Dr. Raghavendra K.V., and Shri M. Ezra, with valuable contributions from Dr. Arun Kumar and Dr. Jagriti Rohit.

Organisation of Zero Waste Event

As part of the initiative, the office premises were thoroughly cleaned, and a structured awareness programme was conducted for the cleaning staff and other personnel. The programme focused on the scientific rationale and practical methodology for utilizing organic waste in the preparation of vermi-compost. Staff members were sensitized to the importance of source-level segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, a prerequisite for efficient composting.

The biodegradable waste generated on the premises was systematically collected and deposited into the Institute's vermi-compost pit. The deposited material was subsequently mixed thoroughly with a starter culture comprising earthworms and mature vermi-compost. This inoculation with earthworms (*Eisenia fetida*) and pre-decomposed organic matter serves to accelerate the vermicomposting process by establishing an active microbial and faunal population.

The initiative successfully demonstrated the practical application of the principles of "Recycle" and "Reduce" within the Institute's operational framework. It underscored the value of converting organic waste into a resource through scientific composting, thereby contributing to circular economy principles and sustainable environmental practices. The activity encouraged staff members to adopt simple, low-cost, and sustainable practices for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Slogans Used in the Programme

1. Waste to Wealth,
2. Waste today wealth tomorrow,
3. From waste to wonder
4. Start with waste, end with wealth

