



10th Wayanad Community Seed Fest 2026

📅 28 February – 1 March 2026

📍 Athikkolli Seed Village, Vellamunda Panchayath, Mananthavady, Wayanad.



Wayanad
Community
Seed Fest
28 February – 1 March 2026

Agrobiodiversity forms the foundation of resilient farming systems, cultural identity, and community stewardship over seeds and natural resources. Indigenous crop varieties, evolved and conserved over generations, embody farmers' knowledge, ecological adaptation, and collective heritage. However, these living repositories of diversity face increasing pressures from homogenized agriculture, market-driven crop choices, erosion of traditional knowledge systems, and changing socio-ecological contexts.

The Wayanad Community Seed Fest (WCSF) is a unique grassroots initiative that envisions the continuity of on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation through community networks, seed exchange, and knowledge-sharing partnerships. Initiated in 2015, WCSF has grown into an annual platform that brings

together custodian farmers, tribal communities, researchers, policymakers, and the wider public to celebrate, protect, and promote indigenous seeds and farmers' rights.

The 10th Wayanad Community Seed Fest 2026 (WCSF 2026) is being held from **28 February to 1 March 2026 at Athikkolli Seed Village, Vellamunda Panchayath, Mananthavady, Wayanad**. This milestone edition marks a significant transition, with the Seed Fest being organized under enhanced community ownership and leadership, with active participation of the Wayanad District Tribal Development Action Council (WDTDAC) and rural and tribal farming communities. By hosting the Seed Fest in a community seed village, WCSF 2026 aims to celebrate diversity in its own landscape and strengthen community rights and responsibilities

over seeds, farming systems, and seed sovereignty.

Aligned with the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026), the theme of WCSF 2026 is **“Celebrating Women Farmers as Custodians of Agrobiodiversity”**, celebrating agrobiodiversity and recognising women in agriculture as conservators and agri-entrepreneurs.

Women farmers play a central role in the conservation, selection, storage, exchange, and transmission of traditional crop varieties and associated knowledge systems. They also play a crucial role in value addition of various farm produce, transforming raw harvests into market-ready products, strengthening household incomes, and enhancing local agri-value chains. In Wayanad, women—particularly elder women in tribal and farming households—have been key custodians of seeds, wild edibles, medicinal plants, and locally adapted crop varieties. Their contributions sustain agrobiodiversity, strengthen community resilience, and ensure the continuity of farming legacies across generations.

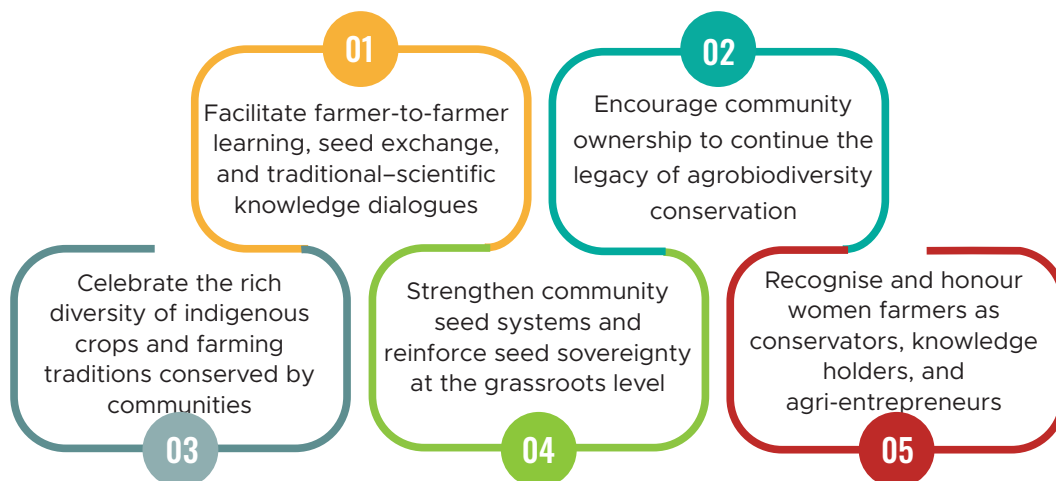
The technical sessions of WCSF 2026 will focus on

women’s role in agrobiodiversity conservation, women-led agrobiodiversity enterprises; reviving pepper cultivation in Wayanad and the practical challenges and future pathways for community seed systems, including policy perspectives related to farmers’ rights on seeds. Another special session on Agricultural Legacy of Wayanad will feature senior farmers sharing their experiences and traditional knowledge, celebrating Wayanad’s rich agricultural heritage through intergenerational dialogue.

A key highlight of the Seed Fest will be the signature Seed Exchange Programme, enabling the sharing and continuity of indigenous crop varieties for on-farm conservation. The Seed Fest will also feature exhibitions showcasing the rich agrobiodiversity of Wayanad and interactive sessions that make the programme educative and engaging for farmers, students, researchers, and the general public.

All are cordially invited to participate in the 10th Wayanad Community Seed Fest 2026 and join in celebrating women farmers, agrobiodiversity, and community-led seed stewardship.

WCSF 2026 seeks to:



Partners



Technical Partner



**WAYANAD
COMMUNITY
SEED FEST 2026**

**“CELEBRATING WOMEN
FARMERS AS CUSTODIANS OF
AGROBIODIVERSITY”**

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