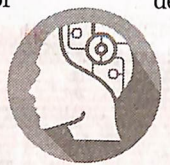
NITK holds roundtable on AI for sustainable agriculture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THE National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, in collaboration with the Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), organised a round table meeting on 'Artificial Intelligence for Smart and Sustainable Agriculture', as a pre-summit event under the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 at the NITK campus on Monday.

A release from NITK said the meeting brought together experts from ERNET India, ICAR-National Research Centre on Pomegranate, ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Regional Station, Vittal, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur, Casper AgriScience, Bengaluru, and IIIT Dharwad.



Prof. B. Ravi, Director of NITK, highlighted the institute's strong research infrastructure. He said that AI solutions must be rooted in real field-level challenges and deliver tangible benefits to farming communities, particularly in regions such as coastal Karnataka. He emphasised closer engagement between technology developers and domain institutions, including ICAR research centres, through joint problem identification and collaborative research. He also shared NITK's plans to set up a Research & Innovation Park focusing on sustainable agro-marine units.

Preeti Nath, Economic Advisor (MeitY) and Director General, ERNET India, underlined the significant contribution of agriculture to India's economy. She noted that the pre-summit round table aims to identify research gaps, India-specific constraints, and scalable AI-driven solutions. She also highlighted the importance of affordability, deployability, and interoperability in low-connectivity environments, reliable field validation, and measurable welfare outcomes for farmers.

The meeting featured presentations and discussions by agricultural scientists and experts on domain-specific problem statements that could be addressed using AI-based technologies.

The New Indian Express, Date: 11/02/26, p. 02