NIFTEM-K NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER

National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli - India
An Institute of National Importance under MoFPI, Government of India

From the Desk of Director

Innovations and a strong focus on R&D- Drivers of food industry in India



Innovations in the food sector has become more of a necessity than a future thought. The Institute along with the Nestle R&D centre launched a start-up grand challenge to financially and technically support the emerging potential start-ups in the food sector. Some of the start-ups came up with brilliant innovations, especially in the area of protein enriched beverages, protein hydrolysates and products enriched with nutraceuticals. Our student start-up team (co-founders of KINVA BIO), secured a place among the top five teams nationally in the Environmental Sustainability theme of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026. Their proposal of developing an AI-based platform for converting sugarcane bagasse into protein-rich mycoprotein in bioreactors, bringing together food technology, fermentation, artificial intelligence and sustainability was found to be quite promising. The Institute has been recognized among India's top 50 Green Universities in the National Green University Ranking (NGUR) 2026, securing an impressive National Rank of 17 along with a prestigious Gold Rating, demonstrating NIFTEM-K's resolve for environmental sustainability. The visit of high powered Institute Performance Review Committee was another highlight of this quarter as the Institute's performance for the period October 2021-24 was critically reviewed by the committee after the Institute attained the status of an Institute of National Importance (INI). Visits of CEO, FSSAI, senior leadership team from the Almond Board of California, Mondelez and Hi-Media Laboratories reinforces the Institute's commitment and resolve to work cohesively with its stakeholders.

The Institute celebrated the 80th independence day with the patriotic spirit and great fervor. The official function culminated with some splendid performances by our brilliant students including a theatre skit which elegantly captured the journey of India's freedom struggle. Institute also celebrated some of the days of National importance like Kargil Vijay Diwas during the quarter. As a fallout of my visit to the Massey University, New Zealand, a MoU was signed virtually between NIFTEM-K and Massey University for a strong collaboration in academics and research with larger focus on plant proteins, dairy and meat processing. It was quite a productive quarter wherein the Institute filed five new patent applications and the faculty was successful in getting grants for seven different projects either in the R&D or consultancy mode, amounting to about Rs 4.48 crores. Corporate Resource Cell (CRC), NIFTEM-K organized workshops for enhancing the technical knowledge and skills of our students. With support from CRC, the Institute achieved an unprecedented overall placement rate of 93.62%, with more than 170 students securing jobs and over 190 students securing internships, achieving an overall internship rate of 99.63% in reputed food companies like PepsiCo India, AB InBev, ITC Limited, Britannia Industries Limited, Farmley, Camlin Fine Sciences, Country Delight, etc. The Institute always takes pride in its student's achievements and in this quarter too, project proposal submitted by a team of undergraduate and PhD students for the Alternative Protein Project's Academic Research Challenge (ARC) was selected by the Good Food Institute (GFI) among the global finalists and the team has been awarded USD 1,000 to generate pilot data and further advance their research, marking a significant milestone in their scientific journey. Ashrith Kumar, B.Tech final year student secured admission to Wageningen University & Research (ranked #1 globally in the Agri-Food sector) for the Master's degree programme in food technology, along with selection to the prestigious European Master in Food Studies (EMFS) programme. I urge all our readers to go through this quarterly newsletter and seek their valuable comments/ feedback for improving the contents and presentation of our Newsletters. Happy reading till we come back again with some more new and exciting updates



Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi
Director (NIFTEM-K)

NEWS AND EVENTS

NIFTEM–Nestlé R&D Startup Challenge 2026

NIFTEM-K, in collaboration with Nestlé R&D India, launched the NIFTEM-K–Nestlé R&D Startup Challenge 2026 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the food sector. Applications were invited from 14 April to 5 May 2026 across three focus areas-Nutrition for Every Pocket, Protein for All, and Wellness, Functional and Indulgence Beverages. The Challenge received 460 applications, comprising 125 in Nutrition, 188 in Protein and 147 in Wellness Beverages sector focus area. Following evaluation by domain, academics, industry and Nestlé R&D experts, 30 startups were shortlisted for the final round. The final event was held at NIFTEM-K on 10th September 2026, with 20 startups from 13 States presenting their innovations before an eminent five-member jury. The event provided startups an opportunity to showcase their solutions, receive expert feedback and engage with leading stakeholders from academia and industry, further strengthening the food innovation ecosystem. The results of the startup challenge are being announced shortly.



Empowering Youth. Strengthening Industry. Building the Future

NIFTEM-K, in collaboration with FICSI and PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd., has launched the Pre-Apprenticeship Skill Enhancement Program (P-ASEP) to enhance employability and create a skilled workforce for India's food processing sector. The programme will train 3000 to 5000 youth across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Tamil Nadu, combining 60 hours of classroom training with a six-month paid apprenticeship in leading food companies. Participants will receive valuable industry exposure, a monthly stipend, and dual certification under NAPS from NIFTEM and FICSI. The occasion also marked the signing of a tripartite agreement in the presence of Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K; Ms. Yashika Singh, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer & Head Sustainability, PepsiCo India; and Sh. Sunil Marwah, CEO, FICSI. Besides, NIFTEM-K faculty, Mr. Sandip Samaddar (Director & Head – Public Policy & Government Affairs), Ms. Antara Kapoor (Lead – Social Impact), and Mr. Gaurav Sharma (Lead – Central Government, Public Policy & Government Affairs), PepsiCo India, were also present during the meeting reaffirming a shared commitment to strengthening India's skilled workforce



NTIBIF Partners with TRIFED & MoTA for Tribal Food Development and GI Tagging Initiatives

NTIBIF, section 8 company working under the aegis of NIFTEM-K has joined hands with the TRIFED to promote innovation in tribal foods through product development, value addition and shelf-life enhancement, while preserving their traditional identity. In collaboration with MoTA, NTIBIF is also supporting initiatives for identification, documentation and facilitation of GI tagging of distinctive tribal food products. These endeavours aim to bridge traditional knowledge with modern food technology, enhance market opportunities and create sustainable livelihood avenues for tribal communities.

NIFTEM–K on the National Innovation Stage | KINVA BIO Among India's Top 5 in Environmental Sustainability

Team KINVA BIO, comprising of NIFTEM-K students Nitish Kumar, Gulshan Kumar and Priyanshu Raj, has secured a place among the TOP 5 TEAMS Nationally in the Environmental Sustainability theme of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026. Samsung describes the theme as focused on innovative technology-led solutions addressing challenges such as waste reduction, resource efficiency and environmental conservation. KINVA BIO is developing an AI-based platform for converting sugarcane bagasse into protein-rich mycoprotein using bioreactors, bringing together food technology, fermentation, artificial intelligence and sustainability. Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, congratulated the KINVA BIO team on this remarkable achievement and appreciated their innovative approach of bringing focus towards environmental sustainability.

A Proud Milestone in NIFTEM–K's Journey Towards Sustainability

NIFTEM-K has been recognized among India's Top 50 Green Universities in the National Green University Ranking (NGUR) 2026, securing an impressive National Rank of 17 along with a prestigious Gold Rating. This remarkable recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainability, climate action, environmental stewardship, and responsible higher education. At NIFTEM-K, we continuously integrate sustainable practices across education, research, innovation, campus operations, and community outreach, reinforcing our vision of building a greener and more resilient future.



KEY MEETINGS & VISITS

Institute Performance Review Committee

NIFTEM-K had the honour of convening the meeting of first Institute Performance Review Committee (IPRC) for a comprehensive review of the Institute's progress, achievements and journey towards excellence after the institute attained the status of Institute of National Importance (INI) through the Act of Parliament. The Committee was chaired by Dr Sunil Kumar Khare, Director, IISER Kolkata, and comprised of Dr Naveen Kumar Navani, Professor & Dean (Academic Affairs), IIT Roorkee; Prof. Sapna Arora Narula, Director, CCS NIAM, Jaipur; Shri Sanjay Khajuria, Former Director and Senior Vice President (Corporate Affairs and Sustainability), Nestlé India; Prof. P. Srinivasa Rao, Professor, IIT Kharagpur and Dr Komal Chauhan Dean (R&D) NIFTEM-K as member secretary.

Director, NIFTEM-K, delivered a detailed presentation on the Institute's key activities, achievements, development of centers and future roadmap. The Deans and Heads of Departments also presented their respective accomplishments and initiatives. The Committee appreciated and acknowledged the efforts and progress of NIFTEM-K during Oct 2021- Oct 2024.

Visit of Shri Rajit Punhani, CEO, FSSAI

Shri Rajit Punhani, IAS, CEO, FSSAI, inaugurated a 4-day training programme on "Product Formulation for Healthier Choices" organised by CII-FACE in association with FSSAI and NIFTEM, Kundli, from 30th June – 3rd July 2026. He emphasized the need for industry stakeholders to focus on reformulation strategies that promote better nutrition while maintaining taste, quality, and consumer acceptance. He also underlined the role of processed foods in enhancing farmer's income, strengthening the food economy, and creating value from agricultural resources. He highlighted the importance of developing food formulations with reduced levels of Fat, Sugar and Salt, encouraging the use of processed food and other nutritious ingredients to support the vision of a healthier and more sustainable food ecosystem.



Director NIFTEM-K honouring Dr Sunil Kumar Khare, Director, IISER Kolkata



Director NIFTEM-K honouring Shri Rajit Punhani, IAS, CEO, FSSAI

NIFTEM-K Welcomed the team from Almond Board of California

NIFTEM-K was pleased to welcome the delegation from the Almond Board of California (ABC) for a review meeting and visit to the institute's research and innovation facilities. The delegation comprised of Dr Varun Khanna, Senior Director (Science & Innovation), Dr Sudarshan Mazumdar and Mr. Jyotirmayi Vyas. The meeting with Dr Varun Khanna, and Director, NIFTEM-K, focused on strengthening the partnership and exploring opportunities to scale science-backed almond-based products in India. Discussions also emphasized the growing need for robust clinical research and evidence generation to support innovation, health benefits, and consumer confidence in the food sector. The collaboration continues to advance research on almond utilization and value addition, food safety and sustainable food processing technologies, knowledge exchange through joint research, workshops, academic collaborations and development of innovative, science-driven food solutions for improved public health.



Director NIFTEM-K with Almond Board of California Team

Strengthening Industry–Academia collaboration for food safety & authentication

Dr Rajas V. Warke, Technical Director and Marketing Decision Maker, HiMedia Laboratories, visited NIFTEM and had a productive interaction with Director, NIFTEM-Kundli, and members of the NIFTEM-K research team. The discussions explored opportunities to advance technology transfer, commercialisation, joint research and industry-oriented innovation in the field of food safety and quality. The key areas of discussion included Technology readiness and commercial feasibility of NIFTEM-K innovations, Intellectual property licensing and technology-transfer frameworks, joint research grants and public–private partnership opportunities, rapid-testing kits, biosensors, molecular diagnostics and food-authentication technologies and knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives A key outcome of the meeting was the mutual agreement to work towards establishing a joint Centre of Excellence for Food Safety and Authenticity at NIFTEM-K.



Director NIFTEM-K felicitating Dr Rajas V. Warke, Technical Director and Marketing Decision Maker, HiMedia Laboratories

NIFTEM-K & Mondelez India collaboration: Driving Innovation in Food Science

A delegation from Mondelez India visited NIFTEM-K for a strategic partnership on fostering industry-academia collaboration in food innovation. Mr. Varinder Jaswal, Senior Director (R&D) India & South East Asia and Global Technical Center Lead; Mr. Jitin Garg, Head (Scientific & Regulatory Affairs); Mr. Abhishek Sahay, Head (Public & Government Affairs); and Ms. Shipra Sehgal, Scientific Affairs Lead, India were part of delegation. The meeting focused on collaborative research in next-generation confectionery, including sugar and fat reduction, clean-label formulations, natural colours, novel emulsifiers, cocoa alternatives, sustainable utilization of cocoa by-products, and innovative heat-resistant packaging solutions. The delegation also explored NIFTEM-K's state-of-the-art research facilities and interacted with faculty members to identify opportunities for joint research, technology development, and industry-driven innovation.



Team NIFTEM-K, with Team Modelez

Cultivating the Right Attitude for Holistic Growth

As part of the induction programme for newly admitted UG&PG students, NIFTEM-K organized a thought-provoking special lecture on "Changing Attitude", aimed at inspiring students to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning, personal growth, and professional excellence. The session was delivered by sister BK Shaifali from the Brahma Kumaris, Manesar Centre, who shared valuable insights on mental and spiritual well-being, positive thinking, self-awareness, meditation, emotional resilience, inner health, and value-based living. Through engaging discussions, students explored the importance of overcoming mental barriers, understanding the power of thoughts, cultivating a positive attitude, embracing continuous self-improvement, and balancing academic success with inner peace and purpose. The programme was graced by Sh. Akash Pandey, Organizing Secretary, Vigyan Bharati, as the Special Guest, whose presence further enriched the occasion.



CELEBRATIONS

Independence day

Celebrating Freedom Through Culture, Unity & Pride

The spirit of India came alive at NIFTEM-K as the Institute hosted a vibrant cultural programme as part of its 80th Independence Day celebrations on 15th August 2026. The programme brought together the NIFTEM-K community in a celebration of India's rich cultural spirit, patriotism, unity and togetherness. Through the cultural performances, the celebrations reflected the values that make our nation diverse yet united. The event added a vibrant and memorable dimension to the 80th Independence Day celebrations at NIFTEM-K, bringing everyone together to celebrate the spirit of freedom and national pride.





Remembering the Brave, Celebrating the Victory: Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026

NIFTEM-K proudly commemorated Kargil Vijay Diwas, honouring the extraordinary courage, unwavering determination, and supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers who safeguarded the nation's sovereignty during the Kargil War. Through patriotic addresses and remembrance, the institute reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing values of patriotism, service, leadership, and national responsibility among young minds. As we salute the indomitable spirit of our Armed Forces, we also renew our pledge to contribute towards building a stronger, self-reliant, and progressive India.



Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: NIFTEM-K's Step Towards a Greener Future

NIFTEM-K observed "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", event reaffirming its commitment to environmental responsibility and the importance of nurturing and preserving nature on 17th September 2026. The initiative brought the NIFTEM-K community together to promote sustainability, environmental stewardship and collective responsibility. Each sapling planted is a step towards a greener campus and a healthier future.



Ek Ped Maa ke Naam

International Microorganisms Day



International Microorganisms Day

International Microorganisms Day was celebrated at NIFTEM in association of Microbiologists Society of India (MBSI) on 17th September 2026. A poster competition was organized to celebrate the same with the theme 'The Invisible World, Visible Impact.' Microorganisms may be invisible to the naked eye, but their impact is everywhere, from fermented foods and probiotics to food safety, human health, biotechnology and sustainability. The competition gave students a creative platform to show this extraordinary world through science and art, guided by the tagline Explore, Create, Inspire. The competition was open to all students of NIFTEM-K. Enthusiastic participation came from B.Tech and M.Tech students, wherein 9 different teams of 30 students presented creative posters on the theme.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

NIFTEM-K signs MoU with Massey University, New Zealand

Marking a significant milestone in advancing international collaboration, NIFTEM-K signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Massey University, New Zealand, paving the way for enhanced cooperation in food sciences, research, innovation, higher education, and capacity building. The MoU was signed on 2nd July 2026 in the esteemed presence of Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Shri Devesh Deval, Joint Secretary, MoFPI and other officers from MoFPI & senior faculty from NIFTEM-K, underscoring the Ministry's continued commitment to strengthening NIFTEMs through strategic global partnerships.

The agreement was formally signed by Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, and Dr Tere McGonagle Daly, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students & Global Engagement), Massey University, New Zealand, marking the beginning of a dynamic partnership dedicated to advancing education, cutting-edge research, and innovation in the food sector. This partnership will foster collaborative research and innovation, joint applications for international research funding, faculty and staff exchange programmes, student mobility, study abroad programme, academic seminars, knowledge exchange, and other mutually beneficial collaborative activities.



MoU signing Ceremony at MoFPI, New Delhi in presence of Shri Avinash Joshi, Secreatry MoFI

INSTITUTE'S PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL EVENTS

National Conference on Future of Food, Engineered Today

Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, graced The Brilliant Point Conference – "Future of Food, Engineered Today" held on 11 September 2026, New Delhi, as the Chief Guest. NIFTEM-K was the Knowledge & Academic Partner for the conference, which brought together 200+ industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators and food-sector professionals to deliberate on the evolving landscape of food technology and the future of the food industry. As part of the conference, NIFTEM-K also contributed to the critical dialogue on consumer awareness and science-based communication by organising panel discussion on "Consumer Trust & Myth-Busting in Processed Foods."

NIFTEM–K at Bharat Nutraverse Expo 2026

The institute proudly participated in Bharat Nutraverse Expo 2026, held from 7–9 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, bringing together leading stakeholders from the food, nutrition and nutraceutical ecosystem. The Expo was inaugurated by Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary, MoFPI, marking the beginning of a significant platform for innovation, collaboration and knowledge exchange in the food and nutraceutical sector. At the MoFPI Pavilion, NIFTEM-K showcased its innovative food products and value-added technologies, including Instant Black Rice Kheer, Curcumin-Enriched Laddu, Honey Powder, Kaanji Powder, Ghee Powder. A key highlight of the event was the visit of Mrs. Suphajee Suthumpun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Thailand, to the NIFTEM-K stall, where Shri Devesh Deval, Joint Secretary, MoFPI, warmly welcomed her. The interaction further highlighted opportunities for technology exchange, knowledge sharing and international collaboration. Through its participation, NIFTEM-K continues to strengthen its commitment to research-driven innovation, food technology, value addition and entrepreneurship, contributing towards a more sustainable and globally connected food ecosystem.



Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, inaugurating the conference

NIFTEM-K at Bharat Nutraverse Expo 2026

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/ SEMINAR

During this quarter, faculty members participated in four academic conferences, workshops and international meetings, including an event supported by ANRF travel grant. Students achieved finalist positions and received a USD 1,000 award in an international alternative protein research challenge. Faculty members also contributed to 15 professional engagements, comprising expert and guest lectures, panel discussions, jury participation, industry roundtables, international conferences, research presentations, professional development programmes, faculty development programmes and workshops on food safety, food fortification, post-harvest management, sustainable food processing, machine learning, intellectual property and innovative teaching pedagogy. These engagements strengthened academic collaboration, industry interaction, professional development and knowledge exchange at national and international levels.

Click the link to access detailed information

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY NIFTEM-K

MS-Excel workshop for Business Decision Making

A two day workshop on Microsoft Excel for Business Decision Making was organized from 19–20 August 2026 for MBA and M.Tech (FPOM) students. Mr. Sumit Gulati and Mr. Kapil Mohan Garg, external experts provided hands-on training in advanced Excel functions, data analysis, PivotTables, What-If Analysis, data visualisation, Solver and introductory Macros. Through live demonstrations, practice exercises and business cases, the workshop strengthened participant's digital and analytical competencies and enhanced their ability to apply Excel for effective data-driven business decision-making.

Workshop on SLR & Bibliometric Analysis

A workshop on Systematic Literature Reviews (SLR) and Bibliometric Analysis using R-Software was organized on 6th August 2026. The session provided both conceptual understanding and hands-on practical exposure for conducting systematic literature reviews and bibliometric analysis using R- software. Thirty five Ph.D. scholars participated in the programme.



Workshop on Business Decision Making

Workshop on SLR & Bibliometric Analysis

Industry–Academia engagement: Classroom to Leadership

Department of Food Business Management & Entrepreneurship (FBM&ED), NIFTEM-K, in collaboration with AB InBev, Sonipat, organised a two-day Industry–Academia engagement on 15th–16th September 2026. The programme featured an expert session, "Classroom to Leadership – What Organisations Expect from Aspirants," delivered by Mr. Apoorv Chaturvedi, Associate Director, AB InBev, Sonipat Plant, and coordinated by Dr Vikas Kumar. An industrial visit for 77 BBA and MBA students was coordinated by Dr Vikas Kumar and Ms. Ranjana Devi, providing practical exposure to manufacturing and business operations and strengthening industry–academia collaboration.



Workshop on Advancing Food Safety through Molecular Diagnostics

A three-day Hands-On workshop on Advancing Food Safety through Molecular Diagnostics: Food-borne Pathogen Detection and Molecular Testing' was organized by Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences, NIFTEM from 27th -29th July 2026.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE

Advancing Food Innovation Through Strategic Industry Collaboration

NIFTEM-K continues to strengthen the bridge between academia and industry by fostering partnerships that translate cutting-edge research into impactful, real-world food innovations in collaboration with Zeon Lifesciences. The discussions explored promising domains including nutraceuticals, veterinary nutrition, probiotics, and functional food products, with a shared vision of accelerating science-driven innovation for improved public health. A key outcome of the visit was the mutual decision to move towards signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), laying the groundwork for long-term collaboration in joint R&D programme, technology transfer, and the development of innovative food solutions.



NIFTEM–K Contributes to National Dialogue on Food Safety & India's Spices Sector

NIFTEM-K proudly participated in the expert discussion on "Streamlining Indian Spice Market for Foods: Issues and way Forward" through Food Safety, Standards, and Innovation" held at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi. The main agenda of this discussion was food safety standards, Codex harmonization, quality assurance, post-harvest technologies, packaging innovations, contamination control, and capacity building for farmers and MSMEs. Dr Komal Chauhan, Dean (Research & Outreach) highlighted NIFTEM's contributions to spice research, post-harvest technologies, advanced packaging, and capacity-building initiatives that support safer, high-quality, and globally competitive food products.



Capacity Building and Training Initiatives in Bihar by NIFTEM–K Regional Centre, Hajipur & Capacity Building Centre (CBC), Patna, Bihar

The Capacity Building Centre (CBC), Patna, under the PMFME Scheme implemented by NIFTEM Kundli, and the NIFTEM Regional Centre, Hajipur, conducted a series of training-cum-awareness and hands-on bakery processing programmes across Bihar, collectively benefiting 1,596 participants from 1st July to 18th September, 2026. The programmes provided practical exposure to food processing and bakery technologies, including equipment operation, production processes, quality control, shelf-life enhancement, nutrition, FSSAI regulations, DPR/DRP preparation, cost estimation, and product innovation. The initiatives also encouraged participants to explore entrepreneurship and establishment of food processing enterprises under the PMFME Scheme. These training programmes were successfully organized with the support of the CBC-Patna and NIFTEM Regional Centre, Hajipur teams and coordinated by Dr Anand Kishore, Assistant Professor & Coordinator, CBC-Patna and NIFTEM Regional Centre, Hajipur.







Training Programmes on Food Technology Entrepreneurship Development and Operation of Food Processing Pilot Plant

Two training programmes on "Food Technology Entrepreneurship Development and Operation of Food Processing Pilot Plant" of one-month duration were conducted at NIFTEM-Kundli from 22nd June - 21st July 2026. A total of 32 participants attended these programmes. The training provided participants with practical and hands-on exposure to food processing operations, pilot plant equipment, processing techniques, and food safety and quality aspects, with a focus on developing technical skills and entrepreneurship capabilities in the food processing sector.

Technical Support to FPO from the Kargil region of Ladakh

LOGIC (Ladakh Organic and Green Initiative Consultancy), a FPO founded and led by Er. Ahmad Ali, in the Kargil region of Ladakh, approached NIFTEM for technical support in developing value-added products from locally grown apricots. Various product development trials were conducted for different products, including Apricot Pulp and Dried Apricot, to explore value addition and improve the utilization of apricot produce. The trials provided the FPO with practical exposure to processing techniques and potential value-added products.

One-week Hands-on Training Program on Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

A one-week training program was organized by the Department of Food Science & Technology and the Department of Food Engineering in collaboration with Enest Skilltech Pvt. Ltd. from 3-10 August 2026. The program focused on the processing, preservation, and value addition of fruits and vegetables, covering innovative technologies and regulatory aspects related to quality, packaging, storage, and food safety. The training was coordinated by Dr Vijay S. Sharanagat and Dr Tanya L. Swer which was attended by 15 participants.



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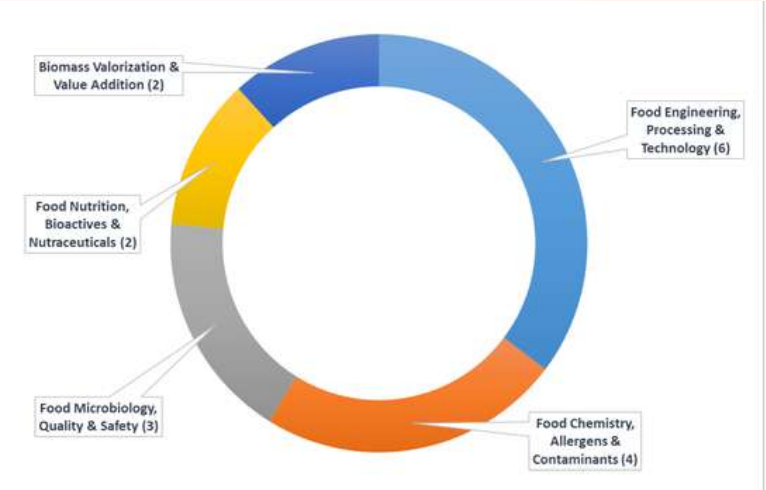
Patent Application Filed	Application Number
Portable Multi-Analyte Nanozyme-Based Paper Biosensor for Rapid, Field-Deployable Paneer Authentication in Complex Matrices	202511091699
Development of Nanoparticle-Amplified Lateral Flow Device for Enhanced Early Cattle Pregnancy Detection Device	202511091533
Semi-Quantitative Colorimetric Strip Sensor for Rapid On-Site Detection of Zinc Fortification in Drinking Water and Nutritionally Enriched Food Matrices	202611086549
Nanoparticle-enhanced Biosensor for Rapid Semi Quantitative Detection of Histamine in Seafood, Beverages, and Livestock feed	202611086549
Nano-enhanced Reagent Composition and Method for Detecting Vitamin A Fortification in Edible Oils	202611066727

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Technology for “Gluten Free Pasta" was transferred to NuriZen Food and Wellness (India) LLP, Punjab. Inventors for this technology are Dr Rakhi Singh, Dr Barjinder Pal Kaur, Er. Shreya and Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Faculty from NIFTEM published 17 research papers across journals associated with leading publishers, including Wiley, Springer Nature, Elsevier, Hindawi, ACS Publications and Taylor & Francis, reflecting dissemination of information through established international scientific publishing platforms.



Papers published in leading journals by faculty members of NIFTEM-K

The faculty also published five book chapters in books, published by leading publishers like Springer Nature, Elsevier, Wiley, Association of Dietetic Professionals, and CRC Press.

Click the link to access detailed information

RESEARCH PROJECTS & CONSULTANCY

NIFTEM-K has been granted seven externally funded projects during July-Sept 2026

Sl no.	Name of Faculty as lead PI of the project	Type of Project	Title of the project	Funding agency	Duration	Amount (Lakh)
	Dr Anupama Panghal	Externally funded research project	Integrated Sustainable Value Chain and Carbon Revenue Generation Model for Agro-Food Companies and FPOs in Haryana	Haryana State Higher Education Council, Govt. of Haryana	Three years	₹ 17.96
	Dr Vimal Pant	Externally funded Industry project	100 Tribal Foods Gl Tag Marathon	Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India	One year	₹ 385.00
	Dr S. Chakkaravarthi	Sponsored project	Exploring the reduction methods for bitterness in peanut protein hydrolysate	Danone India	Three years	₹ 16.50
	Dr Dinesh Kumar	Consultancy project	Validation of FOODSCREEN Immunoaffinity Column (IAC) for Total Aflatoxin	M/s Scignohub India Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal	Three months	₹ 3.25
	Dr Komal Chauhan	Consultancy project	PepsiCo Lay's Manufacturing Facility Visit for Technical Review	Pepsico	One month	₹ 3.96
	Dr Barjinder Pal Kaur (PI), Dr Rakhi Singh (Co-PI)	Consultancy project	Product Development, Process Standardization and Shelf-Life Validation of Frozen Millet Kheer and Millet Dahi Bowl for Commercial Production	GRKC Pvt. Ltd.	Nine months	₹ 8.07
	Dr S Thangalakshmi (PI), Co-PI: Dr Rakhi Singh, Dr Barjinder Pal Kaur & Dr Ashutosh Upadhyay	Consultancy project	Millet Based Protein Snack Formulation	Balaji Food Products	Seven Months	₹ 13.68

CRC ACTIVITIES AND CORPORATE RELATION

Action Lab Workshop

The Corporate Resource Cell (CRC) at NIFTEM-K facilitated a one-day Action Lab Workshop organized by ITC Foods, Bengaluru, on 23 September 2026 for the M.Tech (2026–28) batch students. The workshop provided students with valuable exposure to the latest technologies being adopted by the food industry and various business segments and market opportunities. The industry experts from ITC Foods shared their practical insights and experiences, helping students understand the application of food processing technologies in real-world industry settings. The session was followed by an engaging practical demonstration on fruits & vegetable processing, providing students with hands-on exposure to processing techniques and their industrial applications. The workshop served as an effective platform for industry–academia interaction, enabling students to connect their academic knowledge with practical industrial applications.



Glimpses of the event

Advanced Excel training

A three days Advanced Excel training from 12-14 September 2026 and 19-21 September 2026, respectively, was organized for M.Tech (FPEM & FSQM) and M.Tech (FPEM & FTM) 2026-28 batch students. The training helped nurture students having basic Excel knowledge in diverse fields such as Sales and Marketing, Quality Assurance, Supply Chain Management, Finance/General Billing, Operations, and Data Analysis. The training modules mainly focused on industry-relevant applications, including complex formulae, data analysis, automation, and data visualization tools. Key topics covered include XLOOKUP/VLOOKUP, INDEX-MATCH, Pivot Tables & Slicers, Power Query, What-If Analysis, and Basic Macros/VBA etc.

			
Dr Prashant Sharma demonstrated Data handling, data management, reporting, conditional formating etc. to the M.Tech students during the Advanced excel training on 12.09.2026	Dr Saurabh Sharma briefed Pivot tables, story telling with Data etc. to the M.Tech students during the Advanced excel training on 12.09.2026	Dr Nidhi Malik awared students about Dashboard preparation & Data management using Power BI to the students during the Advanced excel training	Dr Simran Gupta apprised about logical functions, lookup functions, Graphical analysis, Index etc. to the students during the Advanced excel training on 19

Placement information-2026

The Corporate Resource Cell (CRC) achieved an overall placement rate of 93.62%, with more than 170 students securing jobs in reputed companies. By September 2026, over 190 students had secured internships, achieving an overall internship rate of 99.63%. Leading recruiters included PepsiCo India, AB InBev, ITC Limited, Britannia Industries Limited, Farmley, Camlin Fine Sciences, Country Delight, Earth Crust (Let's Try), Flavorade India, Ambrosia Natural Products, Eureka Analyticals, Agility Foods, Arboreal Bio

Innovations and Absolute ECSO Global Pvt. Ltd. Companies offered pre-placement offers (PPOs) to 12 B.Tech. and 13 M.Tech. students. NAFED, India also offered placement to B.Tech FTM graduates.

The highest annual package for the B.Tech. programme was ₹10.50 LPA, offered by AB InBev, while the M.Tech programme recorded a highest package of ₹12.00 LPA from Graviss Foods. For the MBA programme, AWL Agri Business Limited offered the highest annual package of ₹16.50 LPA.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

During the quarter, NIFTEM-K organized 10 cultural, recreational, national commemorative and sports events to promote student engagement, cultural awareness, patriotism, teamwork and community bonding. The events included 80th Independence Day, Kargil Vijay Diwas, Postgraduate and Undergraduate ice-breaking sessions, a Botanical Treasure Hunt, Onam and Janmashtami celebrations, National Sports Day with a volleyball tournament, the inter-batch NIFTEM Sports Showdown featuring nine sports, Teachers' Day and a film screening. Collectively, these activities encouraged interaction among students across programmes, fostered creativity and sportsmanship, and strengthened a sense of belonging within the NIFTEM-K community.



PRIDE OF NIFTEM-K

Global Recognition for NIFTEM-K's Undergraduate & PhD Student Research Team

NIFTEM-K is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of its team of undergraduate (Mr. Arham Jain, Tvisha Pradhan) and PhD students (Ms. Rhythm Kalsi), whose project proposal for the Alternative Protein Project's Academic Research Challenge (ARC) was selected by the Good Food Institute (GFI) among the global finalists. As part of this prestigious recognition, the team has been awarded USD 1,000 to generate pilot data and further advance their research, marking a significant milestone in their scientific journey. The project was carried out under the guidance of Dr Neetu Kumra Taneja.

NIFTEM-K celebrated the outstanding achievement of its students

Heartiest congratulations to our student Ashrith Kumar for securing admission to Wageningen University & Research (ranked #1 globally in the Agri-Food sector) for the Master's degree programme in food technology, along with selection to the prestigious European Master in Food Studies (EMFS) programme. Selected among 22 students worldwide for the 28th EMFS cohort, this remarkable

reflects the student's dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence. Mr. Ashrith expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi (Director NIFTEM-K) and faculty members Dr Prarabdh Badgujar, Dr Anshul Dhawan, and Dr Sapna Arora, Dr Anupama Panghal, and Dr Heena Yadav for their invaluable guidance, mentorship, and constant encouragement throughout his journey at NIFTEM-K.





ENTREPRENEUR OF QUARTER

Gud Roots: From Farm to Your Plate
Building a New Generation of Clean-Label Food Brand



An alumnus of NIFTEM-K with a MBA in Food & Agri Business and Marketing, Jatin entered the food industry with a strong understanding of agriculture, food businesses, consumer behaviour, marketing and supply chains. Over the next 4–5 years, his professional journey took him through organisations such as BigBasket and new-age startups, along with roles as a Strategic Head and Business Development Consultant for various brands. Working closely with diverse food businesses gave Jatin first-hand insights into how brands are built, how consumers make choices, and the opportunities emerging within India's rapidly evolving food ecosystem. One gap stood out—the growing demand for clean, nutritious, convenient and trustworthy food among modern Indian consumers. This insight became the foundation of Gud Roots.

Gud Roots, founded by NIFTEM-K alumnus Jatin, is building a new-generation Indian food brand focused on nutrition, convenience and clean-label products. NIFTEM-K has played an important role in his entrepreneurial journey through faculty mentorship, guidance and incubation support via NTIBIF, helping translate innovative ideas into a market-oriented business. Its key products include IQF-frozen blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, Alphonso mango, Hass avocado and edamame, along with protein-rich roasted edamame snacks. Gud Roots aims to make nutritious, high-quality food more accessible to consumers.

NIFTEM-K TECHNOLOTY OF THE QUARTER

GLUTEN-FREE PASTA

The gluten-free pasta formulation offers an alternative to the familiar pulse-cereal combination with an Italian twist in a convenient pasta format. The synergistic combination of cereals free from gluten, millets and pulses is designed to address nutritional and technological challenges in gluten free product development. The cereal-pulse combination aims to improve amino acid balance and protein quality, and provide high calcium content and dietary fibre that enhances its nutritional value. This formulation offers an alternative to conventional wheat-based pasta for individuals with celiac disease and those seeking gluten-free options. The formulation combines desirable nutritional, textural, cooking and sensory properties to support product quality and consumer acceptability. It also promotes value addition to indigenous raw materials and the development of convenient, appealing, and nutritionally balanced gluten-free foods.

Institute successfully transferred this technology to NuriZen Food and Wellness (India) LLP, Punjab. This collaboration marks a significant step towards the commercialization of research-driven food innovations, strengthening institute–industry linkages and expanding the range of gluten-free food products available to consumers.



PROMOTIONS/ NEW JOINING/SUPERANNUATION



Dr Murlidhar Meghwal
Designation: Professor

Area of Specialization: Herbs & Spices

His research interests encompass cryogenic grinding of herbs and spices, the stability and preservation of volatile and essential oils, and novel and emerging food processing technologies. His academic pursuits focus on advancing food processing science, improving product quality, preserving valuable bioactive and aromatic compounds, and developing innovative and sustainable food processing solutions.



Ms. Ranjana Devi
Designation: Assistant Professor (contractual)

Area of Specialization: Agribusiness and Financial Management

She specializes in ESG, sustainability, and food & agribusiness. Experienced in ESG disclosure, sustainability compliance, environmental performance assessment, and Food & Agri MSME research. Proficient in quantitative and qualitative analysis, with a strong focus on sustainable business practices and regulatory frameworks.



Ms. Nikita Jain
Designation: Assistant Professor (Contractual)

Area of Specialization: Finance and Marketing

She is having about two years of experience as an Assistant Professor at IITM Group of Institutions. She was involved in teaching, academic coordination, student mentoring and classroom management.



Dr Kiran Khandare
Designation: Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

Area of Specialization: Biochemistry

Dr Khandare joined as Postdoctoral Fellow in the project titled "Postbiotic-rich fermented flaxseed meal for enhancing lignan bioavailability and GLP-1–associated metabolic regulation in obesity and diabetes" in July 2026 under the mentorship of Dr S. Chakkaravarthi, Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences. He has completed his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the National Agri-Food and Biomanufacturing Institute, Mohali.



Dr Prem Kumar
Designation: Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

Area of Specialization: Nanomaterials and Functional Materials, Chemoresistive Gas Sensors, Optical and Colorimetric Sensors, Smart and Active Food Packaging.

Dr Kumar joined as Postdoctoral Fellow in the project titled "Development of rapid and cost-effective Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) based sensor for microplastic detection in water." In August 2026 under the mentorship of Dr Vijay N, Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences. He completed his PhD from Institute of Nano Science and Technology & Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali.

MISCELLANEOUS

Farewell to Shri Asit Gopal

NIFTEM-K bid a heartfelt farewell to Shri Asit Gopal, Special Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, in recognition of his distinguished service, unwavering commitment, and valuable contributions to the advancement of the food processing sector and institutional development. Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K acknowledged Shri Asit Gopal's visionary guidance, steadfast support, and continued encouragement towards strengthening NIFTEM-K's academic, research, innovation, and capacity-building initiatives. The occasion reflected not only a celebration of an accomplished career but also the deep respect and admiration earned through years of dedicated public service, leadership, and mentorship.



Honouring a Remarkable Journey: Farewell to Dr Narendra Hooda

NIFTEM-K bid a heartfelt farewell to Dr Narendra Hooda, Controller of Examinations, in recognition of his years of dedicated service, unwavering commitment, and invaluable contributions to strengthening the Institute's academic and examination systems. During his seven year tenure at NIFTEM-K, Dr Hooda played a pivotal role in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and excellence in academic administration. His professionalism, integrity, and student-centric approach have left a lasting impact on the Institute and inspired colleagues across departments. As Dr Hooda embarks on a new chapter in his professional journey as Controller of Examinations at Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, the NIFTEM-K family proudly celebrates his achievements and wishes him continued success in his new leadership role. Director and the entire NIFTEM-K family expresses its deepest gratitude to Dr Narendra Hooda for his dedicated service, inspiring leadership, and lasting contributions to the Institute. While his presence at NIFTEM-K will be greatly missed, his legacy of commitment, professionalism will be continued.



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