

The National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF) conducted an awareness programme on technology dissemination and innovation sensitization at Government High School Choonthipathri, Baramulla, with the participation of more than 90 students and staff members. The programme was designed to sensitize students to the concept of innovation and to underscore the importance of developing creative and practical solutions to address unmet societal needs.

During the session, students were introduced to a diverse range of engineering and herbal innovations developed by grassroots innovators from various parts of India. Many of these innovators have achieved remarkable success despite lacking formal education in science and technology, thereby demonstrating the power of experiential knowledge, creativity, and perseverance. A number of technologies, along with their real-world applications, were presented and explained in detail to encourage students to think critically and innovatively in addressing everyday challenges.

The innovations showcased included the Spade-cum-Hoe, a dual-purpose agricultural tool; an Electric Painting Brush designed to simplify painting operations; Pole Pro, an alternative to long ladders for use by electricians and farmers; a Multi-Purpose Axe incorporating eight functions within a single tool; a Gas Samovar; a Walnut Peeler and Cracker to facilitate post-harvest processing; and a Mini Load Carrier equipped with a multi-directional unloading mechanism. These examples provided practical insights into how simple yet effective innovations can significantly improve efficiency and ease of work.

In addition, students were introduced to improved plant varieties developed by grassroots innovators, including the HRMN-99 Apple Variety, Sona-40 Improved Onion Variety, Sandip Piyaz Improved Onion Variety, and HZKB-1 Improved Brinjal Variety. The session also included dissemination of information regarding the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme. Students were guided through the process of submitting nominations under the scheme, with an emphasis on fostering creativity and promoting a culture of innovation among school children.

Furthermore, the support mechanisms available through the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) were explained in detail. Participants were informed about how NIF supports students, farmers, traditional knowledge holders, and grassroots innovators by facilitating processes ranging from idea development and value addition to prototype development, business incubation, and the wider dissemination of innovations that address grassroots-level challenges.

The interactive session generated considerable interest among the students and served as a strong motivation for them to explore innovative thinking and contribute towards solving real-life problems through science, technology, and creativity. Several innovative ideas were also collected from the students during the programme. The participants actively shared their observations of local challenges and proposed creative and context-specific solutions, reflecting a high level of engagement and enthusiasm.

