

Dear Sir/Madam,

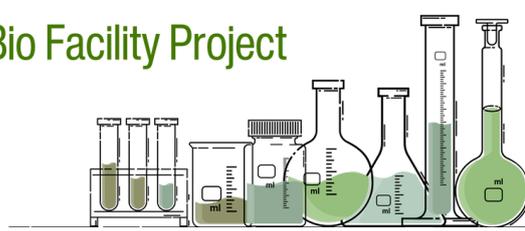
We are pleased to introduce the Trichoderma Bio Facility Project, a collaborative initiative between the Indo-French Foundation for Research and Heritage (IFFRH) and Samvedna Social Service Pvt. Ltd. This project aims to promote sustainable agriculture by establishing local, farmer-led production units for Trichoderma, a beneficial native fungus that acts as a natural biocontrol agent against soil and root-borne diseases.

We are reaching out in connection with the inception of the Project in the Pedong, Kalimpong region. This initiative is designed to support farmers who are transitioning toward safer, more climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture, by strengthening local access to reliable biological crop protection inputs and practical knowledge that reduces dependence on chemical fungicides.

Trichoderma is a naturally occurring beneficial fungus widely recognised in Indian extension systems for its role in managing several soil-borne and some foliar fungal diseases, while also supporting healthier root development and improved nutrient uptake. Unlike chemical interventions that can weaken soil biology over time, Trichoderma works within the soil ecosystem through natural antagonistic mechanisms against harmful fungi and helps maintain long-term soil productivity. This matters acutely in hill and peri-hill farming contexts where disease pressure, input costs, and soil stress are felt sharply by small and marginal cultivators.

The project seeks to anchor a local, farmer-linked production and learning ecosystem for quality Trichoderma, so that farmers can access dependable material at the right time, with locally relevant guidance on use. A key emphasis is on strengthening community confidence in bio-inputs through demonstration, farmer-to-farmer learning, and linkages with existing agricultural support systems. We see this as complementary to government priorities around safe food systems, soil health, and reducing avoidable input costs for farming households.

Evidence from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) practice strengthens the case for localised Trichoderma access. In West Bengal, a documented initiative of Ramkrishna Ashram Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Nimpith) reports that farmers facing serious tomato wilt saw infestation levels drop from around 80% to 20% after adopting Trichoderma, and disease incidence in crops affected by root rot/collar rot/wilt reduced from roughly 20–30% to 5–8%. The same experience also notes a sharp reduction in farmer cost and improved local availability once community-level production became feasible.



([Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana][1]) In another Indian KVK experience from Kerala, KVK Kannur assessed a management option for foot rot in black pepper using phytosanitation combined with *Trichoderma viride* enriched manure (5 kg/vine), describing it as low-cost, labour-efficient and eco-friendly; demand increased enough that the KVK began producing and supplying *Trichoderma* at scale, reporting supply of 27.98 tonnes to 3,544 farmers for use across about 1,418 hectares over the period mentioned in the report. ([Indian Council of Agricultural Research][2]) These field-anchored experiences illustrate why ensuring reliable, nearby supply and correct use-guidance can translate into tangible reduction in crop loss and input burden.

As we begin inception activities in the region, we request your support and guidance so that the project is aligned with local priorities and reaches the right communities. Your participation and institutional encouragement can help build trust among farmers, improve coordination with local extension functionaries and farmer collectives, and ensure that upcoming public engagements and farmer interactions are inclusive, orderly, and responsive to local realities.

We would be grateful for an opportunity to meet you, briefly present the project, and understand how we can best work in convergence with existing government efforts and community structures.



**Trichoderma after sporulation**