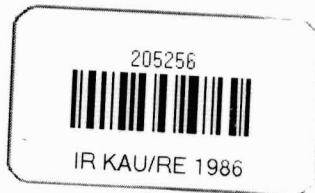


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ON THE RESEARCH CENTRES, STATIONS
&
FARMS IN THE
KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY - 1986.



Directorate of Research
Kerala Agricultural University
Vellanikkara - 680 654
Trichur, Kerala.

KAU

RESEARCH



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M & E Cell of the
Directorate of Research

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RESEARCH STATIONS/CENTRES IN THE
KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

1. CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

1.1. Centre for Advanced Studies

There are at present two centres functioning in the Faculty of Agriculture, the number of such centres in the Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences being three. The details of the centres are as follows:-

1.1.1. Centre for Advanced Studies on Humid Tropical/Tree Crops & Environmental Horticulture

This Centre was started in the Main Campus on 24.8.1984. **Tree** Crops have a predominant place in the Agricultural Scene of Kerala. Humid tropical conditions prevailing in the State and the cultivation of tree crops in homesteads make a unique situation different from other parts of the country. The constraints of production are very often due to lack of understanding of basic problems in tree culture.

The Centre for Advanced Studies on Humid Tropical Tree Crops and Environmental Horticulture propose to strengthen the research including Post-graduate research in the identified areas like tree physiology, tree nutrition, tree breeding, tree propagation and environmental consequences on production. The crop association and studies of symbiosis/synergism and antagonism will also be an area of research. The other aspects including photosynthetic studies, studies in tree architecture

(Contd....2)

and development tissue analysis are also proposed. The western ghats has an innumerable collection of several wild species related to cultivated tree crops. The programme of the Centre also envisages survey, collection and conservation of some of the major genetic resources. The environmental manipulation of species of interest will also be taken up in order to evolve plant culture under controlled conditions.

1.1.2: Centre for Excellence for Tropical Soils

This centre was started at the Vellayani Campus on 1.6.85 to carry out systematic studies on the different soil groups of the humid tropical regions of South India, with special reference to their formation, morphology, physiochemical properties and response to agro-chemicals and management practices, so as to enhance our knowledge of these soils.

Kerala with its proximity to the sea, humid tropical climate, diversity of vegetation and its undulating topography contains a mosaic of various soil types. The centre has been established to generate information mainly on the following aspects:- i) Basic information on the pedology of these humid tropical soils including clay mineralogy (ii) Assessment of the fertility status with special reference to the distribution of the micronutrients (iii) Soil Physical characteristics including soil water relationships (iv) Special problems of the submerged rice soils and methods of ^{their} amelioration (v) Soil

(Contd....3)

biology with emphasis on microbiology (vi) Agronomic aspects such as the lack of response to liming and phosphorus in certain areas (vii) Engineering aspects such as the possibility of better management by the provision of suitable drainage systems (viii) Study of the natural fauna including weeds and their management vis-a-vis the raising of agricultural crops (ix) The soil response to various agricultural chemicals including pesticides and weedicides (x) The degradation of the soils due to continuous growing of agricultural and plantation crops.

1.1.3: Centre for Advanced Studies in Poultry Science:

This was established at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy in November, 1985. The objective of the centre is to co-ordinate the Poultry Science education, research and extension education aspects and also to identify and implement research programmes that have practical application. The thrust areas in research identified are to generate basic husbandry and breeding information on ducks and quails.

1.1.4: Centre for Advanced Studies in Animal Genetics and Breeding.

This was established on 1.11.1985 at College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences. The centre aims at intensifying research in (a) Cytogenetics (b) Immunogenetics (c) population genetics (d) germplasm conservation (e) Mutation Studies and (f) genetic

(Contd....4)

engineering and embryo transfer. The centre offers consultancy service in breeding of cattle, goats and rabbits to the Governmental organisation and private individuals within and outside the State.

1.1.5: Centre for Excellence for Research in Animal Diseases

The Centre draws upon the resources of all the Departments of the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences as well as other faculties of the University. It is a clearing house for studies on the related aspects and would identify research and operational projects to be undertaken by itself or a concerned department and will seek funding sources for such projects.

The main objective of the Centre is to set up a multidisciplinary disease investigation surveillance system, capable of attending to the needs of the whole State. The investigation work does not stop with diagnosis alone but being diligently followed up to know the epidemiology including public health aspect if involved.

The Centre is to function autonomously within the Faculty with the budget operated by the Director, to help the field investigation and epidemiological survey which demand quick or snap decisions.

with a good start.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

1.2. NARP Regional Stations and Research Stations in the Faculty of Agriculture (Please see Appendix for Abstract)

1.2.1: NARP Southern Regional Centre, College of Agriculture, Vellayani

The Southern Regional Centre of the NARP came into

(Contd....5)

being on 30.11.81, and the Phase I, stage of the NARP was taken up from this date. The special station at Kottarakkara was started on 20.4.86. An area of 8.96 ha of land was acquired at Sadanandapuram for this purpose. The lead function of the southern region is to conduct research on Homestead farming system and also on cassava based farming system.

1.2.1.1: Coconut Research Station, Balaramapuram

This was started in 1965 by the Government of Kerala and taken over by the KAU in 1972. The location of the station is at Kattachalkuzhy about 3.2 km south of Balaramapuram on the Balaramapuram - Vizhinjam Road. The total area is 14.13 ha. Soil is deep red loam. The entire area is under coconut. Research on all aspects of coconut crop, particularly agronomic aspects are being conducted in this centre.

1.2.1.2: Cropping Systems Research Centre, Karamana

This station was started in 1955 as a Model Agronomic Centre, and was taken over by KAU in 1972. The station was renamed as Cropping Systems Research Station in 1983. The lead function of the station is to carry out studies on all aspects of a rice-based cropping system under the AICARP. The station is located 3 km from Trivandrum Central Railway Station at an altitude of 29 m above MSL. Soil is sandy loam. Total area of the farm is 7.29 ha.

(Contd....6)

1.2.2: NARP Region for problem areas
Regional Agricultural Research Station, Kumarakom

This was started in 1947 with the financial aid of the Indian Central Coconut Committee in an area of 23.26 ha leased out from Mr. Baker. This land was acquired by Govt. of Kerala in 1958 and was taken over by KAU in 1972. An area of 21.5 ha (State seed farm) was transferred to the station in 1980. The station was upgraded as Regional Agricultural Research Station in 1982.

The area is reclaimed from Vembanad lake. The farm is situated 17 km west of Kottayam on the Kottayam - Vechoor road, at an altitude of 0.6 m above MSL. The soil is alluvial clay. The total area of the farm is 45.11 ha, out of which 23.61 ha is reclaimed garden land and the remainder (21.50) is wet land. The wet land is put under rice-fish culture. The entire garden land is under coconut.

The lead function of the Station is to conduct research into coconut diseases and integrated crop livestock-fish farming. The verification function include rice in Kayal areas.

1.2.2: Rice Research Station, Kayamkulam

The station was started in 1939 under the Kerala University. This was taken over by the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala in 1957. The KAU took over the centre in 1972. Till 1962, the station functioned on leased lands. In February, 1963, 11.65 ha of land was acquired on the

(Contd....)

nor

northern side of the Kayamkulam - Punaloor Road. The station is situated 1 km east Kayamkulam town at 3.05m above MSL.

The total area of the farm is 13.85 ha out of which 11.65 ha are under wet lands. On wet lands, two crops of rice are taken. In the dry land, research on coconut based farming is carried out. The lead functions are to conduct research on rice and rice-based farming system for the Onattukkara region. Considerable work is being done in the station on sesame and pulses with reference to their improvement and management aspects.

1.2.2.2: Sugarcane Research Station, Thiruvalla

This was taken over from the Pampa River Factory on 20.12.75. Experiments were started under AICRP in January 1977. The Station is located at Kallungal (Nedumprom Panchayat) on the bank of the Manimala river, six km. south of Thiruvalla town. The gross area of the farm is 25.66 ha and the net area available for cultivation is 21.57 ha. The geographic location of the farm is 25.14 m above MSL with 9.6" latitude and 76.5 longitude. The soil is rich alluvial with a mean pH of 5.5. The KAU scheme for intensification of research on sugarcane was taken up in 1978-79 and this was wound up in 1985-86. The ICAR ad hoc project on Survey and appraisal of sugarcane diseases is under implementation in the centre June, 1983.

1.2.2.3: Rice Research Station, Moncompu

This centre was started in 1940 to cater to the

(Contd....8)

needs of the Kuttanad region. The KAU took over the station in 1972. The location is on the northern side of the Alleppey-Changanacherry road 12 km from Changanacherry/Alleppey. Soil is alluvial clay. The total area is 8.664 ha of which 1.73 ha is under garden lands.

The punja and additional crops are raised in the wet lands during November-March and from May to August. The lead function is to conduct research on all aspects of rice cultivation in the Kayal and Karappadam lands of Kuttanad.

1.2.2.4: AICRP Centre on Agri. Drainage, Karumady

This is under operation from 1.12.1981 in farmers' fields in the Kavil Thekkumpurom Padasekharam at Karumady with a water shed area of 88.91 ha and with a paddy area of 75.238ha. The centre is located 10 km away from Ambalapuzha on the Ambalapuzha-Thakazhi road. The soil of the pada-sekharam is alluvial kari soil with high content of organic matter. The objective function of the centre is to conduct studies on Agricultural Drainage under actual farming situations.

1.2.2.5: Rice Research Station, Vyttila

This was started in 1958 on leased land. Land was acquired at Ponnurunny (Vyttila) in 1963. The total area of the farm is 8.91 ha of which 3.05 ha is put under fish culture. Pokkali rice experiments are conducted in an area of 2.01 ha. An area of 2.24 ha is set apart for seed multiplication. The dry land occupies 0.61 ha. The lead function is to conduct research on all

(Contd....9)

aspects of Pokkali rice and rice-fish farming systems.

1.2.3: NARP Northern Regional Centre,
Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode.

Research work on coconut commenced in Kerala with the establishment of four research stations (Nileswar, 1,2,3 and Kasaragod), in the Kasaragod taluk of the South Kanara district in 1916. Regular experimental work commenced in these stations from 1930. In 1972, when the Kerala Agricultural University came into existence, the Research Stations at Nileswar 1 and 2 were brought under the University. These stations were re-organised with the Headquarters at Pilicode in the year 1981 under the National Agricultural Research Project with the objective of solving the location specific farming problems in the northern zone of Kerala.

Altogether, the station has a land area of 56.90 ha of which 4.00 ha are wet lands and 52.90 ha are garden lands.

The important crops grown are coconut (44.9 ha), rice (63.30 ha in 2 seasons) cashew (1.0 ha), fodder (1.0 ha) and pulses (1.5 ha). The entire land area is effectively utilised for crop production.

1.2.3.1: Pepper Research Station, Panniyur.

The station was started in 1952-53 in Panniyur village Taliparamba taluk in Cannanore district. With the

(Contd....10)

acquisition of additional area in 1981, the total extent of the farm is 26.13 hectares.

The main crop is pepper, which at present occupies an area of about 13 ha.

The other subsidiary crops are rubber, coconut, arecanut, mango and other fruit plants. Annual crops such as banana, tapioca, vegetables etc., are also raised on small scale.

1.2.4: NARP Central Region
Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pattambi

Rice Research Station, Pattambi was established as Paddy Breeding Station in 1927, to evolve high yielding rice varieties suited to the different agroclimatic conditions of the State. In 1930, the station was converted as the Agricultural Research Station. In 1962 it became the Central Rice Research Station with Regional Centres at Mannuthy, Kayamkulam and Vyttila under the Government of Kerala. With the establishment of the Kerala Agricultural University, this Station was brought under its control as one of the major stations for research on rice and for post-graduate work. With the implementation of NARP, the station was re-organised as Regional Agricultural Research Station of the Central Zone. It undertakes intensive research on the crop improvement, production and protection technology aspects in rice. The station has the lead function for research in rice, pulses and oilseeds and Rice-based farming systems. The station

(Contd....11)

also functions as an advanced centre for studies on laterite soil management.

The station is located at 10°N latitude and 76°E longitude at an elevation of 25m MsL. The total area is 63.64 ha. The soil is laterite sandy loam and overlies unweathered soil. Ridges and slopes of low hills form the bulk of the modan lands. Palliyals are high level terraced lands with extremely porous soil. The soil in double cropped wet land is moderately fertile & deep.

1.2.4.1: Aromatic & Medicinal Plants Research Station, Odakkali.

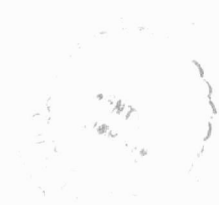
The station was started in 1951 as Lemongrass Breeding Station under the Department of Industries in the erstwhile Travancore -Cochin State and it was taken over by the Department of Agriculture as Lemongrass Research Station in 1954. This is the only station in India where intensive studies on Cymbopogon flexuosus are being carried out. The centre was taken over by KAU in 1972. The station is located 27km east of Alwaye on the side of the Alwaye-Idukki road at an elevation of 66m above MsL. Soil is laterite. The total area of the farm is 12.4 ha.

1.2.4.2: Agronomic Research Station, Chalakudy

The station was originally established by the Kerala State, Department of Agriculture in 1962 at Pariyaram near Chalakudy to carry out studies on water requirement and cropping patterns for the irrigated areas,

(Contd....12)

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in 2 ha of leased land. This scheme was wound up in 1970. Later on, the research station was re-established at the present site in 1972 in an area of 8.95 ha acquired by the Department of Agriculture under the scheme for conducting agronomic research in irrigated areas. The station along with the staff was taken over by the Kerala Agricultural University in 1973 for implementing the co-ordinated project for Research on water management sponsored by ICAR. The scheme has started functioning at the present centre from July 1975 onwards.

The NARP sub-project for water management studies in the central region of Kerala was started under the technical and administrative control of this centre from 1983-84 onwards.

The Research station is situated in the northern side of the Chalakudy-Sholayar road about 400 metres away from the Chalakudy town. The station is located at 10°20' North and 76°20' east and at an altitude of 3.25 m above MSL.

The total area of the farm is 8.95 ha comprising of 7.05 ha wet-land and 1.90 ha of upland. The area runs to a fine gradient to south west and wet lands are terraced into blocks and plots.

1.2.4.3: Banana Research Station, Kannara

Research on banana and pineapple in the State was

(Contd....13)

started in Kerala in 1958 at Mannuthy under a scheme financed partly by ICAR. Since the area available was not adequate, the present site at Kannara having an area of 19.7 ha was acquired in 1963 and the scheme was shifted from Mannuthy to Kannara. The station is located 3 km west of Kannara at Marakkal. The geographical location is at 10°05 'N latitude and 76°17" longitude at an elevation of 55.60M above MSL. The soil is laterite loam and alluvial in some pockets. In 1970, the All India Co-ordinated Fruit Improvement project was sanctioned and the research programme on banana and pineapple under the project was brought under the Banana Research Station, Kannara. In 1974, the venue, of Pineapple research was shifted to Vellanikkara, in an area of 7 ha.

The major objectives are to improve the varieties of banana and pineapple by introduction, selection and hybridisation, to standardise the management practices and to find out suitable control measures for pests and diseases of these crops.

1.2.4.4: Cashew Research Station, Madakkathara.

This centre was started on 18.2.1972 to carryout investigation under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on **Cashew & Spices**. The Multi State Cashew Research Project started functioning in the centre on 15.2.1982. The total area of the station is 18 ha of which about 7.0 ha is under experimental crop.

(Contd....14)

1.2.4.5: Agri. Research Station, Mannuthy & Instructional Farm, Vellanikkara.

This station was originally established during 1957 as the Rice Research Station, Mannuthy in the then Central Farm as a separate research unit to study the various problems confronting rice cultivation in the middle lateritic region of Trichur and Ernakulam districts. With the formation of the Kerala Agricultural University, the station was taken over from the Department of Agriculture in 1972. In the year 1976 this station was converted as the Research Station & Instructional Farm of the College of Horticulture.

The station is located at Mannuthy by the side of National Highway at a distance of 6 km east of Trichur at 10°22" N Latitude and 76°16" E longitude and at an altitude 1.5 m above MSL. The soil in the wet land is sandy loam and that of the garden land is laterite loam. The total area is 38.19 ha acres. It was renamed as Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy in 1983-84 and the Vellanikkara unit was retained as Instructional Farm, Vellanikkara. The Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy forms a sub-centre of the Central Region of the NARP and ^{also for the} Special Zone for problem areas covering the kole lands of Trichur. Apart from the projects undertaken under NARP, experiments under All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project; Ad hoc scheme on annual oil seeds and University projects are also being

(Contd.....15)

implemented at this station.

1.2.4.6: Cashew Research Station, Anakkayam

This station was started in 1963 under a scheme included in the third five year plan. The Research station is situated in Anakkayam village in Ernad taluk in Malappuram district, the location of the station being on the western side of the Malappuram - Manjeri Road, at a distance of about 8 km from Malappuram. The station occupies an area of 9.92 ha of which 8 ha area is under cashew and 0.5 ha is put under coconut gardens. Rest of the area is occupied by buildings, roads etc. The elevation of the location is 106.8 m above MSL. Soil is red laterite. The land is slopy and of uneven terrain. Soil is deep at some places and rocky in many places.

The objective of the station is to evolve materials, methods and means to increase the yield of cashew. This is achieved through breeding and selection to evolve promising varieties, recommending proper manurial schedules and cultural practices and measures to control pests and diseases. The evolution of suitable vegetative propagation methods and distribution of quality planting materials also form part of the activities of the station.

1.2.4.7: AICRP on Agroforestry, Livestock Research Station, Thiruvazhamkunnu.

This scheme was started during December, 1983
with the following

(Contd....16)

with the following objectives:

Collection, screening and selection of promising germplasm of indigenous and exotic spp. from similar ecological regions.

Breeding and genetic improvement of trees, crops and fodder spp. to develop compatible associations in consonance with the cultural practices of local population.

Developing techniques of cultural practices (in land preparation, propagation, spacing, thinning, pruning, pollarding etc.) and cropping and harvesting systems suitable for different systems of agroforestry (i.e. Agri-Horti-Silvipastoral combinations) acceptable to local populace. This will help in ascertaining inter-cropping without reduction in crop yields, as far as possible and evolving combinations of food and feed crops for nutrients production all the year round.

Developing sequential system of intercropping, so that the inter and under space on the land is utilised as long as possible by crops and later till rotation by shade bearing (sciophytic) fodder, shrubs and grasses with appropriate management practices.

Replacing shifting cultivation with stable cultivation by adopting appropriate management related to agroforestry based on its capability.

(Contd....17)

Evaluating the economics of different agroforestry systems and establishing its correlation with the aims and objectives of resource management viz., conservation, development and utilisation.

1.2.5: NARP Region for the High ranges.

Regional Agricultural Research Station, Ambalayayal

The research station was established in 1946 as part of Wynad Colonisation scheme to carry out research on various aspects of improvement of agriculture in Wynad to make available quality seeds and planting materials for distribution to the cultivators and to render scientific advice on improved agricultural technology.

In 1966, the station was upgraded as Central Horticultural Research Station to undertake intensive research on major horticultural crops especially fruits, spices, essential oils etc.

In 1972 it was taken over by Kerala Agricultural University. The station was brought under National Agricultural Research Project in November, 1983 and was upgraded to the status of a Regional Agricultural Research Station for High Range Region with lead function for research on citrus, mango and other fruits and paddy based farming systems and verification function for pepper, essential oils and medicinal plants.

The station is situated in Sultan's Battery Taluk of Wynad district at an elevation of 914 m above

(Contd....18)

MSL and has an area of 87.3 ha. The geographic location is at 11°37'N latitude and 76°12'E longitude. The soil is loam, rich in humus.

1.2.5.1: Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara

The Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara was started in the year 1956 with a view to undertake research programme on various agronomical, botanical, entomological and phytopathological problems of cardamom cultivation. The station is situated in the high ranges of Kerala in the Pampadumpara village, Udumbanchola taluk of the Idukki district, 35 km from Kumily in the Kumily - Munnar road. The All India Co-ordinated Spices and Cashewnut Improvement Project of ICAR was initiated in the station during 1972. The total area of the farm is 46.44 ha.

2. FACULTY OF VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCES

2.1.1.: Livestock Research Station, Thiruvazhamkunnu

The farm was originally established in 1950 by the Government of Madras. This was transferred to the Kerala Agricultural University in 1972. This was converted to Livestock Research station with effect from 14.8.1978.

The farm is located in the Mannarghat Taluk of Palghat District, 17 km north-west of Mannarghat town. This station is spread over an area of 163.3 ha of which 84.37 ha is under fodder crops.

(Contd....19)

The major objective of this station is to conduct research work on scientific breeding of livestock and its management and fodder production.

2.1.2: Cattle Breeding Farm, Thumburmuzhi

This farm originally started by the State Animal Husbandry Department was transferred to the Kerala Agricultural University in 1972. The farm has an area of 25.2 ha out of which 18 ha ~~are~~ under fodder cultivation. The main varieties of grasses grown are guinea, Improved guinea, napier, Hybrid napier and Para.

The main objectives of the farm are to rear weaned calves, artificially breed them and supply as pregnant heifers to the University Live-stock Farm, Mannuthy. The farm is also engaged in conducting basic and applied research on cross bred calves. The facilities such as artificial insemination, veterinary aid and supply of improved varieties of fodder grass slips were made available to the farmers in the surrounding areas.

2.1.3: University Livestock Farm, Mannuthy

This farm started in 1921 was transferred to the Kerala Agricultural University in 1972. The farm serves the needs of teaching, research and extension activities of the different departments of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. The facilities available in the farms are utilised for imparting practical training to the students

(Contd....20)

of the College as well as for the short term training programmes conducted by the departments of Animal Management, Animal Nutrition, Animal Genetics and Breeding, Animal Reproduction, Dairy science etc. The farm maintains a herd of cross-bred cattle of Jersey, Brown Swiss and Holstein. The total area available for fodder production is 69 ha.

2.1.4: University Poultry and Duck Farm, Mannuthy

The Poultry Farm, Mannuthy of the State Animal Husbandry Department was transferred to the Kerala Agricultural University in 1972. The major objectives of the farm are to provide hatching eggs, chicks and breeders for farmers and development departments, to provide the necessary facilities for teaching the students and to undertake research in various aspects of poultry production.

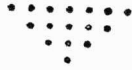
2.1.5: Pig Breeding Farm, Mannuthy

The Pig Breeding Farm, Mannuthy was started in 1965 with an area of 4.2 ha. The main objective of the farm are to conduct research in various aspects of swine production, to serve as a demonstration unit for farmers and an instructional unit for the students and to distribute good quality piglets to the farmers.

3. FACULTY OF FISHERIES

3.1.1: Instructional Farms, Puduvaipu - Panangad Complex

In addition to the fish ponds (0.43 ha) available at Panangad, an Instructional Farm of 101 ha has also been established at Puduvaipu. At Panangad 3.5 ha of private land has been taken on lease for prawn cultivation.



A P P E N D I X

(i)

List of Research Centres/Stations/Farms in the Kerala
Agricultural University as on 1.9.1986.

SHOWING AREA UNDER EACH STATION/FARM

I FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

| Sl. No. | Research stations | Total area (ha) | wet lands (ha) |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

a) NARP SOUTHERN REGION

| | | | |
|----|--|-------|---|
| 1. | Coconut Research Station, Balaramapuram | 14.13 | - |
| 2. | Cropping systems Research Station, Karamana | 7.29 | - |
| 3. | Special station, Kottarakkara | 8.69 | - |
| 4. | Instructional Farm, Vellayani | 95.35 | |

b) NARP SPECIAL REGION OF PROBLEM AREAS

| | | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|
| 5. | Regional Agri. Research Station, Kumarakom | 45.11 | 21.50 |
| 6. | Rice Research Station, Moncompu | 8.66 | 6.93 |
| 7. | Rice Research Station, Kayamkulam | 13.85 | 11.65 |
| 8. | Sugarcane Research Station, Thiruvalla | 25.66 | - |
| 9. | ATCRP on Agri. Drainage (on leased land) Karumady | * | - |
| 10. | Rice Research Station, Vyttila | 8.91 | 7.30 |

(Contd...ii)