



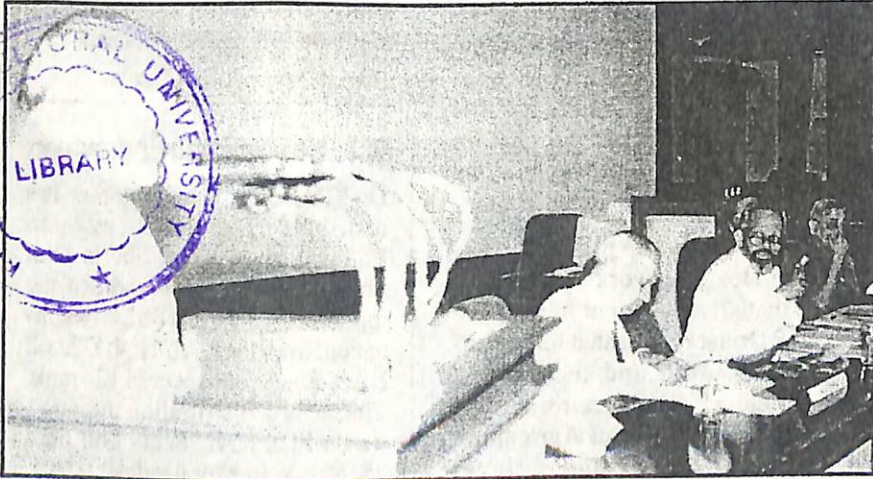
KAU NEWS

Vol II. No: 1

www.kau.edu

January - June 2001

Globalization not a panacea for all ills



Dr. R. S. Paroda, Director General, ICAR inaugurates the NAAS Workshop on Globalization of Agriculture : R & D in India at the KAU Central Auditorium, Vellanikkara, Thrissur

India is presently facing serious challenges on the import side especially, when international prices go very low, import becomes cheaper, causing abrupt fall in domestic prices, said the Director General, ICAR, Dr. R.S. Paroda. He was inaugurating the NAAS Workshop on "Globalization of Agriculture: R & D in India" at the KAU Central Auditorium, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.

"One of the reasons for lower international prices seems to be also the high level of subsidy to producers in the developed countries. In the new trade regime all member countries are under obligation to reduce their level of subsidies. There are reports of (page 2)

Prof. K.V. Peter takes over as Vice-Chancellor

Prof. K.V. Peter assumed office as the Vice-Chancellor of KAU on June, 20. Dr. R. Gopinathan, Pro-Vice Chancellor has been acting as the Vice-Chancellor since February 15, 2001.

Addressing the Senior Officers of the University the Vice-Chancellor said that KAU would give leadership to equip the farmers to meet the challenges of globalization. He pointed out that the farmers in Kerala were in dire state due to crash in price of agricultural produces, mainly coconut and rubber in the wake of globalization. Surplus production of milk and depletion of revenue from fisheries and forest sectors also pose serious problems to Kerala farmers. He affirmed that the University would try its best to protect the biodiversity of the state which is also under threat due to globalization.

"The KAU will give topmost priority to implement research schemes



in agriculture sector which would help the farmers to reduce cost of production and enhance productivity. Those projects which the university has already commenced with the above objectives will be intensified and co-ordinated", the Vice-Chancellor stated.

Though the KAU has released a number of high yielding varieties of different crops, these have not been reached the needy farmers. The Vice-Chancellor hoped that the Department

of Agriculture, Kerala, farming cooperative societies self help groups and other agencies can take up this role for the betterment of the farming community.

The Vice-Chancellor is of view that Government and the Society as a whole have to pay more attention for the growth of the agriculture sector. An agrarian economy as ours can prosper further only through promoting agriculture. We cannot solve unemployment by introducing mega industries with huge investment of capital. Only agriculture can provide job opportunities to the rural people.

The Vice-Chancellor admired the capacity of the scientists and staff of the university and the congenial working environment existing in KAU. He is hopeful that it would be able to co-ordinate and continue all the activities initiated by his predecessors to fulfill the mandates of the university.

State Govt. be consulted on WTO issues

The two day National Workshop on Globalization of Agriculture: R & D in India held on February 2-3 at Vellanikkara, Thrissur recommended that a mechanism should be created so that issues concerning WTO are discussed and differences are thrashed to arrive at a consensus. It was also stressed that no decision be taken without proper consultation and agreement with the State Governments.

The plenary session of the workshop was presided over by Dr. Y.K. Alagh, former Union Minister and Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Dr. Alagh summarised the recommendations of the workshop. The Chairpersons of the various Technical Committees, Dr. M.V. Rao and Dr. T. Jaha and Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair supplemented the summarisation made by Dr. Alagh.

The workshop recognised that decisions relating to WTO are being taken and negotiations are being done by the Central Government though the brunt of the problems is to be borne by the State Governments. It was also realized that there is acute shortage of information with respect to the various implications of WTO regulations. In

the absence of the adequate data State Governments are not in a position to take advantage of the various provisions that would safeguard the interests of the farmers and vulnerable groups among them. Therefore, it was recommended that a WTO cell be created in the State Governments and the Agricultural Universities so that relevant information are collected on a continuous basis.

The workshop further recognised that knowledge gap with respect to the opportunities and liabilities of entering to WTO is enormous. There must be co-operative effort between the state, the centre, various institutions, NGOs and a platform be created so that the issues identified can be thrashed out.

To make use of the provisions under Green Box, the workshop recommended that an adjustment fund of 2.5 billion US Dollars be created for investment for research and technology support, building infrastructure, marketing etc. so that the Indian Agriculture will be competitive and a level playing field is provided.

It was emphasised that subsidies should be continued to tide over the initial problems but to be revoked at a

subsequent time. The restraints on subsidy to farmers can be overcome by channelizing support through commodity boards as is being done in the developed countries.

The workshop stressed that the scientists should play an important role in the negotiations where science is involved. Issues such as specifications of phytosanitary measures, gender empowerment, sustainability etc. should be taken out of the trade and should be left to the decision of the scientists and professionals. ✖

Dr. N. Kaleeswaran Endowment

Dr. K.V. Peter, Vice-Chancellor has distributed Dr. N. Kaleeswaran Endowment to Kum. Sherin Leo, Shiny Joseph and Uma Padman, the top scorers in the last SSLC examination, from the KAU High School. Kum. Sherin has secured 12th rank. The award distribution function was held at KAU School on June 25. Shri K.R. Muraleedharan IAS, Registrar presided. Shri P.P. George, MLA and the Member, Executive Committee was the Chief Guest.

Globalization of Agriculture

(Continued from Page 1)

increase in support being provided by developed countries in their farm sector. This is contrary to the spirit of free trade and WTO. Some of the developed countries have been doing so by exploiting some provision of the Agreement on Agriculture relating to Green Box and Blue Box policies" Dr. Paroda explained.

The Director General said that India needs to fight against increased subsidy to farm sector by developed countries, which is against the spirit of WTO, along with other member countries. Majority of the WTO members are resenting such subsidies by the US, EC and other developed countries.

He cautioned that during the next round of WTO negotiations we should strive vigorously to remove irritants in WTO agreement to bring in level playing field for domestic producers in India.

Dr. Paroda pointed out that globalization is now an irreversible process and not a mere economic and financial phenomenon. It has wide political and cultural ramifications. In the final analysis it is expected to be one government, one law and one currency. In view of the unlimited opportunities associated with globalization, both developed and developing countries have to carry out several reforms creating right environment for globalization to move forward smoothly.

He cautioned that in a developing country like India, alleviation of poverty, provision of employment opportunities on massive scale and elimination of economic and social inequities cannot be achieved by a predominantly market oriented system.

Earlier in his presidential address Dr. V.L. Chopra, President, NAAS said "When India became a signatory to the GATT and subsequently a member of

WTO, many advantages were anticipated, particularly for Agricultural Sector. It was projected that the enlarged global market and removal of barriers to exports will give Indian Agriculture an opportunity to propel itself into a diversified and more remunerative enterprise. The experience so far has belied the hopes. The exports in real terms have actually declined and opening up of imports has depressed prices of domestically produced commodities".

Dr. Y.K. Alagh, Convenor of the Workshop, Shri V. Ramachandran, former Chief Secretary of Kerala and Shri P.K. Sivanandan, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Government of Kerala spoke on the occasion.

Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor, KAU welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Pradhan, Secretary, NAAS proposed vote of thanks. ✖

Foundation Stone laid for the College of Dairy Science & Tech., Kolahalamedu



Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture lays the foundation stone for the College of Dairy Science & Technology, Kolahalamedu, Idukki (Dt.)

Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture laid the foundation stone for the Academic and Hostel Blocks of the College of Dairy Science and Technology at Kolahalamedu, Idukki District on January 27.

A two storied Academic Block with a floor area of 4980 sq.m. will be

constructed for the College at an estimated cost of Rs. 245 lakhs.

It is also proposed to construct a Dairy Technology unit with a floor area of 2190 sq.m. at a cost of Rs. 85 lakhs.

Constructing ladies hostel with a floor area of 1850 sq.m. and mens hostel with an area of 1270 sq. m.will

be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 lakhs.

At a public function arranged at Kolahalamedu, Shri C. A. Kurien, Deputy Speaker presided. Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the gathering. Shri P.R. Govindan, D.P.P. i/c. presented the technical report of the civil works. Dr. V. Prasad, Special Officer, College of Dairy Science and Technology proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. John Thomas nominated as Chairman, KAIC

Dr. John Thomas, Dean, Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Tavanur has been nominated as Chairman, Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited. He is the senior most member of the Director Board of the KAIC Ltd.

Dr. Kiran Singh unveils NATP Laboratory

Dr. Kiran Singh, Dy. Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, has unveiled the laboratory for the NATP on Productivity and Enhancement of Ducks at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Poultry Science, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy on June 7, 2001. Dr. Kiran Singh has also released a video film on duck farming, which was developed for providing visual literacy to farmers.

Shri P. P. George, MLA, and Member, Executive Committee KAU presided over the function. Dr. K.V. Peter, Director of Research and Dr. A.I. Jose, Director of Extension offered felicitations. Dr. Leo Joseph proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. A. Jalaludeen, Director i/c. CAS on Poultry Science presented a report on the progress of the project which was commenced on September 22,



Dr. Kiran Singh, Deputy Director General, ICAR unveils the NATP Lab at Mannuthy in the presence of Shri P.P. George, M.L.A. and Member, Executive Committee, KAU

1999 at KAU under the CAS on the Poultry Science as a Lead Centre. There are two co-operating centres under the project, one at Tamilnadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences,

Chennai and the other at CARI, Port Blair. The project has been sanctioned by the ICAR initially for a period of three years with a financial outlay of Rs. 31.49 lakhs.

RETIREMENTS

Warm Farewell to Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair

Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor, K.A.U. laid down office on February 15. He assumed charge as the Vice-Chancellor on March 4, 1998. He was given a warm farewell by the K.A.U. Community at the Central Auditorium, Vellanikkara.

Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair started his career as an Extension Officer for Agriculture in the Thodupuzha Community Development Block in 1956 and worked at the grass roots till mid sixties. In the late sixties he joined the State Planning Board and worked in various capacities such as Deputy Director and Chief of Agriculture Division and was actively involved in policy formulation and programme development in the Agricultural Sector of the State.



For more than a decade he was in the rolls of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Dr. Nair also served as an Advisor in Agriculture

Planning in countries such as Tanzania, Ethiopia, Afganistan, Bhutan, Nepal and China.

Most recently he lead a team of seven international experts in developing a policy for environmental resource management for sustainable agriculture and rural development for Peoples Republic of Lao under FAO.

Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair was the Member Secretary of the Kerala State Agriculture Commission constituted by the Government of Kerala under the leadership of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. He was the Chairperson of the Expert Committee on Paddy Cultivation constituted by the Government of Kerala. Dr. Nair is a distinguished fellow in the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.

Dr. C.K.Thomas



Dr. C.K. Thomas, Director (Acad. & P.G. Studies) retired on superannuation on January 22, 2001. Dr. Thomas took Ph.D. from NDRI, Karnal and had undergone post-doctoral research with A.V. Humboldt Fellowship at Technical University, Burlin and CTVM, Edinburgh.

He was the Professor & Head, Department of Livestock Production Management, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy from 1979 and continued till his retirement holding the additional charge of the Director (Acad. & PG. Studies)

He is the author of three text books, out of which one in Hindi received the prestigious Dr. Rajendraprasad award of ICAR.

Dr. S. Sulochana

Dr. S. Sulochana Dean, Faculty of Vety. and Animal Sciences relinquished office on January 10.

Dr. Sulochana secured B.V.Sc. degree from the Kerala Veterinary College, Mannuthy in 1963. She took M.V.Sc. degree in Veterinary Microbiology from the Madras University in



1969. She was awarded the Common Wealth Fellowship to undergo the Doctorate Programme in the University of Guelph, Canada in Virology and received the Ph.D. degree in 1976.

During her service in the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, she had actively involved in the diagnosis and control of field outbreaks of diseases of livestock, poultry

and fishes and made significant contributions. She was responsible for developing a new vaccine strain for ranikhet diseases in poultry and a cell culture vaccine for duck plague from field strain of the virus in Kerala and recommended simultaneous vaccination for duck plague and duck pasteurellosis.

Dr. Sulochana published over 100 research papers in national and international journals. She was the recipient of many prestigious awards.

Dr. V.S. Balakrishnan

Dr. V.S. Balakrishnan, Professor (Research Co-ordination) and Director, Students' Welfare retired on May 4.



Dr. Balakrishnan received his M.V.Sc. Degree in Clinical Medicine

from Madras University and Ph.D. from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. He was a Member of Board of Studies in Veterinary Faculty of KAU and TNAU, besides being a member of Academic Council and General Council of KAU.

Dr. P.V. Prabhakaran



Dr. P.V. Prabhakaran, Associate Dean i/c. College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara retired on February 17. He was the Professor & Head of the Department of Statistics. Dr. Prabhakaran was the member of Academic Council, Board of Studies and Research Council of the University. He has published over 70 research papers in Statistics and related disciplines.

Dr. Sosamma Iype



Dr. Sosamma Iype, Director, Centre of Advanced Studies in Animal Genetics & Breeding, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy retired from service during March 2001. She had done yeoman service for the conservation of the Vechur cattle of Kerala. She was recognised for her dedicated work by conferring on her the *Ahalya Matha Jeeva Daya Mandal Trust Award*.

Sumangala S. Nambiar

Prof. Sumangala S.Nambiar, Assoc. Director i/c., Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pilicode retired from service on April 26, 2001. Prof. Sumangala served in the Department of Agriculture, Kerala and in the KAU for 38 years.

Subramonian Thirumumbu Centre for Research on Farming Culture Inaugurated



Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture lights the traditional lamp to inaugurate the Shri T. Subramonian Thirumumbu Centre for Research on Farming Culture at RARS, Pilicode in the presence of Dr. Sukumar Azhikode, noted Malayalam writer and orator.

The Centre for Research on Farming Culture, a new initiative of KAU, will be located at the ancestral home of the poet, laureate revolutionary and social reformer, Shri T. Subramonian Thirumumbu, which now stands enclosed within the Campus of the R.A.R.S., Pilicode. The Centre was formally inaugurated by Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture on January 19, 2001.

Inaugurating the Centre, the Minister said that the minds of farmers are the real sources of human culture. Thirumumbu had composed poems with the awareness of what had lied under the fathom of the minds of farmers. The Minister commented that the Research Centre in the name of the poet will perpetuate his memory for ever.

Delivering the Thirumumbu memorial lecture, Dr. Sukumar Azhikode, a noted Malayalam writer and orator said that a genius like Shri Subramonian Thirumumbu will never be evolved in the present century even after prolonged penance. When modern poets and artists are presented with various awards and recognitions, what was given to Thirumumbu was dejection. During his life he got only sorrows and tears.

Shri Krishnan Nair, Chairman of the Kerala Rural Development Board

unveiled the portrait of Shri Thirumumbu. Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice Chancellor received the copies of the books authored by Thirumumbu from his widow for the library of the Centre.

The Centre will function as a focal point, which will document the existing knowledge systems and identify areas of work to promote research on the cultural traits which have influence in farming. It will function basically as a think tank for identifying themes of research and investigation and design projects to operationalise them.

FINANCE

KAU budget shows deficit of Rs. 18.56 crores

The KAU budget for the year 2001-2002 was presented by Shri C.N. Jayadevan, MLA and Member of Executive Committee in General Council Meeting held on March 23 at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani.

The budget anticipated an expenditure of Rs. 133.66 crores against the receipt of Rs. 115.10 crores, indicating a deficit of Rs. 18.56 crores. The budget proposals for the current financial year give priority to the coconut, rice and biotechnology sectors.

HONEY FEST 2001

Minister presents Madhumithra and Madhupala Awards



Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture, Dr. R.C. Misra, Project Co-ordinator, AICRP on Honey Bee Research and Training, ICAR and other dignitaries in the Honey Fest

The All India Co-ordinated Project on Honey Bee Research and Training Centre, Vellayani in collaboration with the ICAR and HortiCorp, Government of Kerala, organised a Technology Transfer Conference cum Honey Fest 2001 on March 14, 2001 at Kanakakunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Krishnan Kaniyamparambil, Minister for Agriculture. Shri B. Vijayakumar, M.L.A. presided over the function.

Eminent scientists and farmers from Kerala and other states participated in the seminar. An exhibition was also

arranged by leading bee keeping organisations in the state. Dr. R.C. Misra, Project Co-ordinator, AICRP on Honey Bee Research and Training, ICAR and other eminent scientists handled various classes on the different aspects of bee keeping.

Awards for the best bee keeper (*Madhu Mithra*) and bee keeping organisation (*Madhu Pala*) instituted by the AICRP on Honey Bee Research Centre, Vellayani were distributed by the Minister. The Minister also released a book in Malayalam on bee keeping authored by Dr. S. Devanesan and Dr. A. Abraham Jacob.

Seminar on Youth and Agriculture

A one day seminar on "Youth and Agriculture" was organised at the KVK Pattambi. Inaugurating the programme Shri K.V. Ramakrishnan, President, Palakkad District Panchayat recalled his vision of the Kendra as a farmer friendly organisation for the benefit of the farmers of Palakkad District. Memorating the glory of the Pattambi Rice Research Station, he cherished that the station will continue to serve the interest of the farmers of that region in the new Panchayat Raj system. About 180 youth members participated in the programme.

Zonal Research Workshop

The twenty third Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee of the Central Zone of Kerala was held on May 26, at RARS, Pattambi.

The results of experiments conducted on crop improvement, crop management and crop protection aspects of various crops which are to be proposed for farm trials in Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts were presented by the scientists concerned. Different sessions were chaired by Dr. A.I Jose, Director of Extension, Dr. K.V. Peter, Director of Research, Dr. M. Abdul Salam Assoc. Prof. and Shri V.V. Pushpangadan.

Workshop on Engendering the Field Training

The Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture of KAU in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai organised a workshop on Engendering the Field Training of the UG courses in KAU during March 8-10 at Peechi, Thrissur. The workshop was aimed to bring out gender sensitisation in the teaching and training efforts of the UG courses in KAU. A selected group of academics directly involved in the field training of the UG Students participated in the workshop.

Programme on vegetable production for rural youth

Kriṣhi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ambalavayal has launched a practical oriented training programme on vegetable production for selected rural youth of Wayanad. The aim of the programme, is to impart intensive training in vegetable cultivation through the technique of "Learning by doing". The youths selected for this programme, after acquiring the desired level of knowledge are expected to act as "motivated farmers" and transfer these technologies to the farming community in their neighbourhood.

Seminar on Rinderpest Eradication

The KVK, Ambalavayal in association with the State Department of Animal Husbandry conducted a one day seminar on the "Eradication of Rinderpest Disease in Cattle" on March 30, 2001 at Ambalavayal. Dr. K.G. Suma, District Animal Husbandry Officer inaugurated the seminar. The various aspects of the disease and its management were discussed in the seminars. A video show was also arranged as a part of the seminar which was attended by participants mostly members of the Milk Cooperative Societies and Kudumbasree Project of Ambalavayal Grama Panchayat.

POULTRY SCIENTISTS - FARMERS' MEET

Call to reduce cost of poultry feeds



Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor, KAU inaugurates Poultry Scientists' Meet at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy

Emphasising the need of exploitation of newer feed ingredients for poultry, Dr.K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor, KAU called for the increase in production of grains used in poultry rations so as to reduce the cost of production of feeds. He was inaugurating the one day poultry scientists' meet on sustainable poultry production on January 5, 2001 at the College of Vety. and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy.

In the Scientists - Farmers interaction held on January 6, the Vice-Chancellor narrated the mode of operation of the Gujarat model of Co-operative Societies and advised the farmers to avoid intermediaries.

Dr. K.V. Peter, Director of Research, KAU, Dr. S. Sulochana, Dean. (Vety. & AS.), Dr. A.I. Jose, Director of Extension, Dr. A. Ramakrishnan, Director (Retd.), Centre of Advance Studies in Poultry Sciences (CASPS) and Dr. R.G. Dhawedkar, Secretary, World Poultry Science Association (India Branch) felicitated the function.

Dr. A. Jalaludeen, Director i/c., CASPS welcomed the gathering.

Participating in the scientific session, Dr. G. Sudevan, Director, Animal Husbandry, Government of Kerala mentioned that about 80% of people in Kerala are engaged in backyard poultry farming. He pointed out that some of the emerging diseases cause problems to the industry. Broiler farmers in Kerala are facing problems due to high chick and feed cost and fluctuation in market price. In order to improve the situation he suggested that the processing technology has to be developed so that value added products can be marketed in a better way.

Dr. V.R. Sadagopan, Principal Scientist (Retd), Project Directorate on Poultry, Dr. K. Viswanathan, Director CASPS, Namakkal, Dr.P.Ranga Reddy, Professor, Madras Veterinary College and Dr.A.K.K. Unni, Director (Retd.), CASPS, Mannuthy presented papers.

Coconut Products Parlour

In its attempt to popularise the diversified products of coconut and to make coconut farming more profitable, the KAU has opened a Coconut Product Parlour attached to the Agri. Technology Information Centre (ATIC) at Mannuthy. Dr.R.Gopinathan, Acting Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the parlour on Feb.20.

Different tender coconut products like snow-ball nut, cool tender nut water, carbonized tender coconut water, nut kernel meal, tender nut pudding etc. were made available for supply in the parlour. A lot of other attractive items made from sweet toddy and coconut will also be made available in due course.

AWARD/RECOGNITION

Dr. M. Abdul Salam

Dr. M.Abdul Salam, Assoc. Professor & Head, Cashew Research Station, Madakkathara has been awarded with the Krishi Vignan Award of the Government of Kerala, considering his contributions in the field of Agriculture.



He is responsible for release of two high yielding varieties of cashew (*Priyanka and Amrutha*).

K. P. Sreedharan



Shri K.P. Sreedharan, Asst. Comptroller, KAU received the Childrens Literature Award for his book *Kardu Paranja Katha*. The award was instituted by the Kairali Childrens Book Trust for the best book in Malayalam published during last year, which carries Rs. 10,000, citation and a plaque.

NSS Programme Officers Meet

A meeting of the National Service Scheme (NSS) programme officers of the constituent colleges under the KAU was held at the Directorate of Extension, Mannuthy on June 28. Shri K. R. Muraleedharan, I A S, Registrar addressed the participants. Shri K. Rajendran, Asst. Programme Advisor, Govt. of India and Shri K. K. George, State Liaison Officer spoke on the NSS programmes and activities: planning and monitoring. Programme Officers of the colleges presented the action plan of the respective units for the current year. Dr. A. I. Jose, Direction of Extension and NSS Programme Co-ordinator welcomed the officers and participants. Dr. R. Muraleedhara Prasad, Prof. i/c., Communication Centre proposed vote of thanks.

'Create human beings, not robots'

The objective of education should be to shape good citizens who are able to recognise virtues and vices. The young generation should be able to formulate their own views on the current affairs and development, said Rev. Father Gabriel, social reformer, educationist and Director, Amala Hospital and Research Institute. He was addressing the newly admitted students of the KAU of the academic year 2000-2001 on the Orientation Day at the



Rev. Father Gabriel blessing the students on the Orientation Day

Central Auditorium, Vellanikkara on January 12.

Delivering the introductory remarks, Dr.K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor opined that in an effort to improve our life styles there is a tremendous erosion in our value system. There is a search for identity and values. If the current emphasis on the technological advancement is allowed to continue unabated we will not be creating human beings but robots. Though science & technology is inevitable for advancement of the society it is not a sufficient condition to build a caring society.

Dr. R. Gopinathan, Pro-Vice Chancellor welcomed the gathering. Dr.V.S. Balakrishnan proposed vote of thanks.

KAU Pavilion bags first prize in Thrissur Pooram Exhibition

The KAU Pavilion has been adjudged as the best in the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition 2001. The pavilion was inaugurated by Dr.R.Gopinathan, Acting Vice-Chancellor on April 21. The pavilion was centred on the theme 'Agrobiotechnology for Employment Generation'.

The small scale agro production units under the ABARD brought a variety of products for exhibition and sale which included medicinal plants, vermicompost, tissue cultured banana

plants, ornamental fishes, banana fibre products, cashew grafts, cashew products etc.

A composition of ten medicinal plants useful for healthy household 'oushada pathu' was sold in the stall at Rs. 50 per kit. Diversified coconut products such as chilled tender coconut soda, coconut vinegar, coconut jaggery etc. were available for sale.

Biogas production attached to a small piggery unit rabbitary, poultry unit etc. provided idea for new ventures to farmers.

ABARD Trainees Receive Certificates

Dr. R. Gopinathan, Acting Vice-Chancellor presented certificates to the ABARD trainees who have successfully completed the six months training in KAU on June, 14 at a function held at Mannuthy.

The Agro-Biotechnology Agency for Rural Employment and Development (ABARD) envisages creation of

employment opportunities in rural sector by establishing Small Agricultural Industrial Units (SAIU) with the help of biotechnology. The scheme was implemented with the co-operation of the panchayath level institutions. Of the 150 trainees, 78 persons completed the training successfully.

STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

Vety. College wins in Kiranam 2001

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy bagged the overall championship in the Kerala Agricultural University Arts Festival - KIRANAM 2001. The College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara was placed in the second position.

Kum. S. Sreedevi, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy was adjudged as *Kalathilakam* and Shri Vinoj kumar, College of Fisheries, Panangad as *Kalaprathibha*. Shri Sooraj Kannan, KCAET, Tavanur was selected as *Sargaprathibha*. Shri Joseph Yesudas was the best actor and Kum. Dhanya Balagopal, the best actress.

NSS Volunteers contribute to Prime Minister's Relief Fund

The NSS Unit of the College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Mannuthy has organised blood group detection camps, vaccination camps and animal health camps in two cyclone affected villages of Orissa. They also contributed an amount of Rs.6000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to provide assistance to the victims of the cyclone.

OBITUARY



We express our heart felt condolences on the untimely demise of Shri C.L. Antony, Driver, College of Co-operation and Banking, Vellanikkara on May 25.