

## Twelve more varieties of crops released

Twelve more crop varieties developed by KAU has been cleared for release. The clearance was accorded by the State committee on release of crop varieties and seeds headed by the Agricultural Production Commissioner which met on July 15. The list includes one variety each of Rice, Coconut, Snakegourd, Chilli, Ginger, Asoka, Fodder Cowpea & Rice bean and two varieties each of Tomato and Pepper.



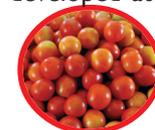
**Keramadhura**

The rice variety, Ezhome-3 developed at CoA, Padannakkad is meant for Kaippad tracts of northern Malabar. It is tolerant to salinity and lodging with an average yield of 4.3t/ha. *Keramadhura* is a green dwarf coconut variety preferred for tender nuts developed at RARS, Pilicode. *Panniyur 8* a pepper variety developed at PRS, Panniyur, is tolerant



**Vijay**

to drought and quick wilt disease while *Vijay*, a variety developed at CoH, Vellanikkara is high yielding and has large berries. *Manulakshmy*, developed by scientists at ARS, Mannuthy, has largest



**Manulakshmy**

fruit size among bacterial wilt resistant tomato. *HarithaSree* is a snakegourd variety for green fruit preferred areas, *Akshaya*, another Tomato variety, *Aswathy*, a variety of Ginger and *Aswini I*, a variety of Asoka were developed by scientists at College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara. *Vellayani Thejus*, a shade tolerant chilly variety with highly pungent round shaped fruits, *Aiswarya*, a variety of Fodder Cowpea with 18.5% protein content and Rice Bean variety *Surabhi* with protein content of 18.9% were developed at College of Agriculture, Vellayani.



**Vellayani Thejus**

These new varieties add to the 271 crop varieties released by KAU till 2011. Some more varieties are at different stages of development and farm trials

### Keramrutham to grace Kerala markets soon

Government of Kerala has accorded Administrative and Technical sanction for the project to set up three pilot projects on demonstration, training, production and distribution of Neera.

The 540 lakhs worth pilot project envisages three units at Pilicode, Vellanikkara and Vellayani. Dr. Jayaprakash Naik, Associate Director in charge of Coconut Mission will be the Principal Investigator of the project. Dr. P. R. Suresh, Dr. K. Aravindakshan and Dr. Babu Mathew will be the Co-Principal Investigators in the three regional centres.

The KAU Technology is the safest method for arresting the fermentation of coconut inflorescence sap. *Keramrutham*, the KAU brand Neera, is a superior and delicious health drink than tender coconut water. It contains 15-18% of total sugars, 1.3mg/100 ml of Vitamin C, 90.5ppm Potassium, 60 ppm of Calcium, 15ppm of Phosphorous, 45ppm of Iron and 9.5ppm of Sodium which is appreciably higher than tender coconut water. Thus *Keramrutham* can serve as a natural sports drink as well.

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### Workshop on Native varieties of aromatic rice

#### Minister moots branding and trading mechanism

Minister for Agriculture, K. P. Mohanan assured all support for the steps proposed to enhance production of traditional aromatic rice varieties and ensure optimum returns to the farmer. He was delivering the valedictory address in the workshop on cultivation and export of aromatic rice varieties of Kerala held at Directorate of Extension on 21 June. Minister said that the recommendations of



**Minister K. P. Mohanan addressing the workshop on native aromatic rice varieties**

the workshop will be implemented on a priority basis. 'Once we ensure sustained supply and branding the income will increase, more farmers will be attracted and a brand will evolve. Organic products are sought after everywhere and hence marketing is not an issue once branding is done' he said.

The workshop jointly organised by KAU and APEDA formulated a series of recommendations for reviving and sustaining the cultivation of traditional aromatic varieties, especially the famed

Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala of Wayanad. The need to assure the farmers of support at times of distress and minimum support price was highlighted. It was also resolved to institute a mechanism to ensure supply of quality seed and proper functioning of apex bodies.

A.K.Guptha, Director, Basumati Exporters' Development Foundation mooted a healthy, transparent and trust worthy bondage between the

key players for common gain and sustainable farming.

Dr.P.Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the workshop. Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research, Dr. Jose Mathew and Dr. A. M. Ranjith spoke. The Farmers from Wayanad, Officers of the agriculture department, representatives of millers and traders took part in the workshop. A Rice farming Calendar prepared by Communication Centre was also released by the Minister.

## RESEARCH BUZZ- News from Labs & Field

- Central Zone ZREAC, which met at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Pattambi on July 19 has recommended a new saline tolerant rice variety suitable for kole lands yielding more than 6 tons per ha, a new hybrid of salad cucumber for green house cultivation yielding more than 3kg per plant, two selections of small fruited ash gourd evolved out of materials collected from Himachal Pradesh and 5 high yielding hybrids for release. Carrot variety Pusa Nayanjyothi has been found suitable for Kerala conditions during October-December.

An integrated pest management schedule is proposed for rice. While a new combination fungicide has been recommended for the control of blast and sheath blight in rice Pre emergent weedicides containing Pretilachlor has been recommended for cow pea. Priming of bitter gourd and Chilly seeds has been found helpful for disease management.

Combination herbicides containing Bensulfuron methyl and pretilachlor have also been cleared for field testing. Two fungicides Propineb and Hexaconazole and a combination product of carbendazim and mancozeb will be field tested against brown spot in rice. The committee cautioned farmers about the large scale outbreak of mite attack observed in rice and banana during last year. Management strategies are being worked out for combating the threat.

- Two cucumber hybrids** viz. Hybrid-1 with a fruit length of 19.5 cm and light green colour and a yield of 10.04 kg/plant under open condition and 11.27kg/plant under rain shelter and Hybrid- 2 with fruit length of 12.45 cm, whitish green colour and a yield of 16.5 kg/plant under open condition and 19.54 kg/plant under rain shelter, have progressed to farm trial.



- The high yielding white fruited **FI hybrid of bittergourd** (MNBH-1 and MNBH-2) from ARS, Mannuthy was recommended for farm trial in the central Zone of Kerala. MN BH-1 (Mannuthy Bittergourd Hybrid - 1) is a white coloured FI hybrid with an average fruit weight of 275 gram. The average fruit girth is 18.3cm. The hybrid with a potential yield of 33 tons/ha. MN BH-2 is a green coloured FI hybrid having an average fruit weight of 275 gram. The average fruit length is 30 cm and the potential yield is 27 tons/ha.

- A model for **Multipurpose tree based black pepper production** system suitable for warm humid tropical



condition has been standardised at CoF, Vellanikkara. The technology involves planting of three month old tree seedlings *Acacia auriculiformis* and/or *Artocarpus heterophyllus* at spacing of 3m x 3m in pits

of size 30x30x30 cm during the onset of monsoon. Black Pepper (var. Karimunda) should be trailed on all support trees from the second year of tree planting. Annual lopping (60 %) of trees during May is recommended.

- One green and long fruited **chilli culture** CC 85 with purple patches yielding 334 g/ plant and resistant to leaf curl virus has progressed to Multilocational Trial and Farm trial.

- A **pre seeded sheet technology** with significant yield advantage and low cost transplanting and weeding operations has been developed as a substitute for conventional crop establishment methods. 2 seeds of paddy is manually fixed at 20x20 cm spacing using approximately

2 gm fresh cow dung and vermicompost as adhesives on 1x1 m<sup>2</sup> size organic sheet made from waste paper pulp, bio waste like coir pith, water hyacinth, dried coconut leaf etc.



- The strains of Milky mushroom, *Calocybe gambosa*** viz MMK and MMV and *Calocybe indica* (control) are found to be attractive in colour, keeping quality and market value and very low pest and disease incidence. *Calocybe gambosa* (strain



MMK) took more time (two to four days) for spawn run and primordial formation, out yielded *Calocybe indica*. The sporophores of *Calocybe gambosa* are more robust and larger than that of

*Calocybe indica*. The maximum yield was recorded by *C.gambosa* (112per cent Biological Efficiency) and 97percent in *C.indica*. The unpleasant odour of *C. indica* is not present in *C gambosa*.



- Paclobutrazol application @5g a.i./tree** as soil drench during September was found beneficial for improving flowering, fruit set and yields in mango varieties Prior, Alphonso and Neelum. Ethrel@1 ml a.i./m<sup>3</sup> or pressurized ethylene + CO<sub>2</sub> was found to induce uniform and early ripening in mango fruit.
- An imaginative green shelter to scare birds damaging paddy nursery away have been developed by FPME Dept at KCAE &T, Tavanur as a part of research project **DIFM Package for Kerala**. Manually fabricated green shelter of lightweight



consisting of aluminum frame of size 3.66 x 1.00 x 0.20m and is covered by a shade net. Along the longitudinal length of the frame, arch shaped GI wires at a width of 0.75m are fixed by screws to support the shade net. One such shelter

covers a paddy nursery of 3.6 M<sup>2</sup>. It also protects the nursery from rainfall and allows the seedlings to grow in sufficient sunlight.

- Introgressed the *SalTol* gene** of pokkali for salt tolerance into Jyothy, the widely accepted variety through Marker Assisted Selection and the nucleus seed is ready for multiplication and field evaluation.
- Application of new pesticide molecules viz. **Flubendiamide + Buprofezin@24gai/ha** against BPH, stem borer and whorl maggot was found to be effective in rice and recommended for inclusion in POP

## Dr.K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair Memmorial Lecture Enhance aid for Agri research: C.P John

Research development in agriculture needs enhanced financial support as it is vital for advancement of economy, said C. P. John, state planning board member. He was delivering the eighth Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair Memorial Lecture at CoA, Vellayani on July 24.

Describing Dr. Shyamasundaran Nair as a visionary who planned agricultural development of the state through agroclimatic zonation and an ever relevant report on Rice Cultivation, C. P. John said that contributions of KAU in increasing productivity of major crops through persistent interventions cannot and should not be forgotten.

C. P. John outlined the premises on which the 2030 vision of agriculture development in the state will be based and the changes that are to happen in the Kerala farming, farmers, crops and infrastructure as skilled agripreneurs and value chain based farming with mechanization are set to evolve a new trend.

KAUVice-chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran presided over the function and highlighted the farsighted leadership Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair had imparted as the Vice-chancellor of KAU. Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agriculture); Dr. Arthur Jacob, Assoc. Director of Research; Dr. S. Mothilal Nehru, Assoc. Director of Extension, and Dr. P. S. Geethakutty, Head, Centre for Gender Studies spoke.



**C.P. John delivering the 8th Dr. K. N. Shyamasundaran Nair Endowment lecture**

## Centre for Excellence in Environmental Economics

KAU has instituted a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Economics (CEEE) to undertake active research in environmental protection through natural resource management.

The Centre, established with full financial support from Department of Environment and Climate change, Government of Kerala, aims generation, compilation and interpretation of data on key environmental attributes to support policy decisions in environment management.

KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran said that the new Centre will specifically focus on areas like organic farming, sustainable agriculture, conservation of land, water and forest resources. The centre will also organize training programme for LSGI members, Government Officials and academics. The outreach programmes include educational and action programmes in collaboration with prominent NGOs and institutions. Dr. P Indira Devi heads the new centre, attached to CoH, Vellanikkara.

## RPAC Meeting Held at Vellayani



**R. Heli releasing the brochure on New AIR serial Sukhino bhavanthu**

Rural Programme Advisory Committee (RPAC) meeting of the Farm and Home Programme of Thiruvananthapuram AIR was hosted by KAU at CoA, Vellayani on World Environment Day. The meeting, held as part of the module on Media Attachment under RAWAVE Programme, was inaugurated by Dr. Sverup John, Dean. AIR Station Director R. Vimalasenan Nair presided over the programme and Dr. R. Prakash, Head, Agricultural Extension administered World Environment Day Pledge.

The weekly broadcast serial 'Sukhino Bhavanthu' was inaugurated by P. Gopinathan Nair, Chairman, Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. Dr. K. Pratapan Director, SHM – Kerala received the first copy of brochure on the serial from R. Heli, former Director of Agriculture. Fifty representatives of different development departments participated. Dr. V.B. Padmanabhan, Professor welcomed the members and Muraleedharan Thazhakara, Programme Executive, AIR proposed vote of thanks.

## Encourage Research on Jack Fruit: DDG

The national consultation meet on Jack organized by ICAR on June 1 at Banana Research station, Kannara was inaugurated by Dr. N. K. Krishnakumar, DDG ( Horticulture).

Pointing out that Jack, despite being a versatile crop, has not attracted research endeavors it deserves, he called for studies and research to identify types ideal for modern homes, spread awareness on nutritional and medicinal qualities of jackfruit and explore industrial use for the latex. Dr. Krishnakumar said that ICAR is eager to patronize fundamental, applied and strategic research on Jackfruit.

Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, KAU Director of Research, presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Chithiraiselvan, Director, IIHR, Bangalore delivered the key note address. Dr. M. C. Narayanankutty, Associate Director of Research (Central Zone) offered welcome and Dr. Prakash Patil, IIHR proposed vote of thanks.

Technical sessions were conducted on the Achievements, status and roadmap in Role of Jackfruit in health and nutrition, Jackfruit- an emerging food crop in international scenario, Genetic resources and production of Jackfruit and value addition and marketing. Success stories in jack cultivation, processing and marketing were also presented.



## Mass production of agricultural implements

### KAU signs MoU with KAMCO, Metal Industries

KAU Signed MoUs with Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation (KAMCO) and Metal Industries Kerala Ltd for the mass production of two agricultural implements ideal for rural farming.

The MoU signed By KAU Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew and KAMCO Managing Director N. K. Manoj envisages mass production of Bed former, an attachment to mini tractor, while the MoU signed by Metal Industries MD Muhammed Anoop Naha and KAU Registrar targets mass production of modified coconut climber. The devices were developed by Dr. P. R. Jayan, Assoc. Professor, Department of FPME, KCAE & T, Tavanur under DIFM package funded by State Planning Board.

KAUVice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran, who presided over the MoU signing ceremony, said that the University is inclined to strengthen industry linkage with PSUs like KAMCO, RAIDCO and Metal Industries. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research; Dr. Joy Mathew, Comptroller; KAMCO General Manager M. K. Sashikumar, Manager ( Tractor division) N. Rajeev; Metal Industries Chairman Marakkar Marayamangalam and Works Manager M. Sajith Participated.



## General Council : Priority assured for Academic postings, Students' welfare

KAU General Council meeting held at Government Guest House, Thycad on 27 July decided to initiate time bound steps to fill the back log

in reserved quota of appointments and solve scarcity of academic staff in colleges and research stations. The regulations for recruitment of teachers in the faculties of Forestry and Agricultural Engineering were approved by the council.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran informed the house that 32.50 crores out of the 100 crore special grant sanctioned by Central Government is earmarked for students welfare activities. The council was assured that delay in construction activities will be avoided and efficiency will be ensured.

Twenty one KAU scientists who won different awards and recognitions were honoured by the council. The Annual



**Vice-Chancellor, flanked by EC members & Registrar, Clarifies a point in GC Meet**

administration report for 2012-13 and working report for the first quarter of 2013 were approved.

The meeting chaired by the Vice-chancellor was attended by Executive Committee members Sony Sebastian, P.A. Salam, Baby Balambath, E. K. Prakash and Dr. Jose Joseph, General Council members Francis Kombara, K. Sunilkumar, Dr. Mary Regina, Dr. S. Devanesan, Dr. A. Anilkumar, Dr. Arthur Jacob, Dr. Jiju P Alex, V. S. Sathyaseelan, K. Gireendrababu, P. G. Baburaj, M. N. Mohanan, I. K. Raveendraraj, Avinash Reji Thomas and P.A. Ramanibai, Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew and other officers of the University.

### Dr. N. P Kumari Sushama Awards Distributed

Dr. N. P Kumari Sushama awards for Best Student, Best Teacher and Best Department in CoA, Vellayani were distributed on 20 July. Karshikolsavam

award for Best student in KAU was also presented on the occasion.

Dean (Agriculture), Dr. Sverup John distributed the awards in a function chaired by Dr. Arthur Jacob, Associate Director of Research and Member KAU GC. While M.S Beena, Dr. K. Umamaheswaran and Dr. V. L. Geethakumari received the awards for Best Student, Best Teacher and Best Department in CoA, Jinu Joy received the Karshikolsavam award. Anupama James, an alumnus of CoA was felicitated for her success in Civil Services exam and four students- Sobha, Jyothsna, Vineeth and Deepa were felicitated for their co-curricular performance

KAU GC member Dr. A. Anilkumar, Dr. M. S. Sheela, Dr. E. Komalamma, Dr. K. Hari Krishnan Nair, Dr. Gokulapalan and Dr. V. G. Jayalakshmi spoke.



## ICAR Peer Review Team Visits KAU

ICAR Peer review Team under the chairmanship of Prof. Gajendra Singh visited KAU Campuses during the last week of July.

The team comprising of Dr. K. M. Shankar (Dean-Fisheries, Karnanaka Veterinary and Fisheries University), Dr. D. M. Hegde (Ex-Project Director, DOR, Hyderabad), Dr. O. P. Toky (Ex-Dean and Controlling Officer, CCSHAU, Hisar) and Prof. S. S. Honnappagol (ADG, ICAR) was received at KAU HQ on 29 July by the Vice-Chancellor. The team interacted with officers of the



**Prof. Gajendra Singh, Chairman, PRT being received by Vice Chancellor**

## Ayushmathi Mission for Women's Welfare

The Centre for Gender Studies in Agriculture and Farm Entrepreneurship Development (CGSAFED) of KAU has initiated an innovative mission called **Ayushmathi** in collaboration with Women Subcommittee of the Ayurveda Medical Association of India to take up research on the health issues and nutritional security of women in agriculture.

The programme was inaugurated by KAU Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Rajendran on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara.

About 200 women staff, students and farm workers of KAU were benefited from the awareness classes and free medical checkup. Importance of adopting healthy food pattern in the various reproductive phases of women's life, food habit related diseases prevalent among women etc were deliberated as part of the classes led by Ayurvedic experts. Dr. Sheela Karalam (Oushadhi) and Dr. D. Sheela (Thycattusery Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College) piloted the programme.

The inaugural function was attended by Dr. Pathummal Beevi, Associate Director of Research; Dr. C. T. Abraham, Associate Dean, CoH; Dr. Mary Regina, member, KAU GC; Dr. K. M. Abdul Rehman, District President, AMAI and Dr. V. Indira Prof & Head, Department of Homescience.



**ICAR Peer review Team addressing KAU Officers at Vellanikkara**

University and members of Academic council as well as General Council.

The team paid visits to College of Agriculture, Padannakkad; Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, Tavanur; College of Agriculture, Vellayani; College of Forestry, College of Horticulture and College of Cooperation, Banking & Management, Academy for Climate Change Education and Research and Central Library at Vellanikkara. They also visited various labs and hostels and had a one to one with student representatives.

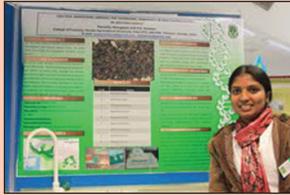
On August 1, PRT reassembled at KAU HQ and addressed a meeting of KAU Officers. A group of officers headed by Dr. E. V. Nybe, Director (Acad) coordinated the visit.

## CoF Students partake in Cambridge Conference



Sreehari R and Parvathy Veugopal, post-graduate students in the of Department of Wildlife Sciences, College of Forestry were selected to participate and present

posters in the International Conference on **Student Conference on Conservation Science** at the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK during 19-21 March 2013. Mr. Sreehari's presentation was titled, *Time Activity Pattern of Civets in Southern Western Ghats, India*, while Ms. Parvathy Venugopal made the poster presentation titled *Can DNA Barcoding unravel the taxonomic ambiguity in insectivorous bats?*.



## Fellowships for CoH students



Remya J. S. and Hima V. M, PhD scholars in Plant Pathology, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, have been selected for



prestigious fellowships under Innovation in Scientific Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)- 2013, of DST, Govt. of India and Back to Lab programme of Women Scientists Cell instituted by KSCSTE

Remya secured the KAU first rank in the post graduate programme in Plant Pathology. INSPIRE fellowship is instituted to encourage PG First Rank holders in basic and applied sciences including Agriculture to pursue Doctoral degree. The Back to Lab programme is implemented for the purpose of giving assistance to qualified women researchers in Kerala or pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Technology

## Plant Genome Saviour award winners honoured



**P. C. Chacko MP inaugurates the function by honouring the farmers**

Sajeevan who got special recognition for promoting native leafy vegetables were honoured.

P. C. Chacko MP inaugurated the function which was chaired by M. P. Vincent MLA. KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran; Director of Extension Dr. P.V. Balachandran ; ICAR South Zone Project Director Dr. S. Prabhukumar; KVK Head Dr. Ranjan S Karippai and Dr. P. Prameela spoke. The award winners thanked KVK for arranging such a function and more specifically the KAU scientists who helped them reach this level.

Dr. C. R. Elsy was the moderator for interaction between award winners and selected farmers and Joy Mannur, Thirissur Press Club president was the moderator for media interaction arranged in connection with the function.

Kerala farmers who won Plant Genome Saviour national award were honoured by KAU at a function organized at Thirissur KVK on June 22.

The representatives of Akampadam-Chimpanchala padasekhara samithy which won the plant genome saviour community award, Siby kallingal and N. Vasavan who won the individual awards and

## New Facilities opened at Thiruvalla ARS

The new Office cum Lab building and sales Counter at ARS, Thiruvalla was inaugurated on May 23. Anto Antony MP inaugurated the Office building while the sales counter was inaugurated by Prof. Varghese George, Chairman, Plantation Corporation.

Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor delivered the Key note address in the function presided over by Saji Chacko, President, District Panchayat. I.K. Raveendraraj, KAU GC member; Eapen Kurien, President, Pulikkez Block Panchayat; T. Prasannakumari, President, Nedumpram Gramapanchayat;



K. C. Thomas, President, Kuttur Gramapanchayat and Babu Kallunkal Member, Gramapanchayat spoke. Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research welcomed the gathering and Dr. A. V. Mathew, Associate Director proposed vote of thanks.

## Workshop on Hi Tech Farming

Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-chancellor inaugurated a two day state level workshop on Hi Tech agriculture organized by KAU's Communication Centre at Mannuthy on 28 and 29 June. Dr. Rajendran said that the promotion of hi tech agriculture is pertinent in the light of severe set backs suffered by traditional farming in unprecedented climatic extremes. Vice-Chancellor also released a book on hi Tech farming.

Dr. P. V. Balachandran, Director of Extension, in his presidential address, highlighted the need to complement higher production of vegetables and fruits with storing,



**Vice-Chancellor inaugurates the Workshop on Hi Tech Farming**

processing and marketing strategies.

Dr. A. M. Ranjth, Professor & head, Communication Centre, Dr. Jim Thomas, Associate Director of Research and Dr. P. Suseela spoke.

## Rural Development Minister Inaugurates Village Stay Programme

**Mattoli-13**, the Village Stay Programme jointly organized by RAWE students of College of Agriculture, Vellayani and Kadakkarappally Grama Panchayath in Alappuzha district was inaugurated by Sri. K. C. Joseph, Minister for Rural Development. The nine days programme conducted from May 20 included PRA for local area planning and development, agri-clinics, vegetable cultivation in polybags, training in high-tech agriculture, training programmes for youth and women, agri-seminars, agri-exhibition, agri-competitions, soil testing and submission of a Development Plan for Kadakkarappally Grama Panchayath. Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes & Youth Affairs Jayalakshmi, and Minister for Fisheries K. Babu also participated in the programme. The valedictory session was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor in the presence of Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Director of Research and Dr. Sverup John, Dean (Agriculture).

## Model Spice Nursery Inaugurated



**KAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Rajendran inaugurates seed processing lab attached to model Spice nursery at Vellanikkara**

A model spice nursery and seed processing lab at Vellanikkara was inaugurated by Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-chancellor on 14 June. The facilities funded by NHM through Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development is aimed at helping spice farmers with quality planting materials.

Dr. Homey Cherian, Director, DASD; Dr. E. V. Nybe, Director (Academic) and Dr. Mini Raj, Professor, Dept of Plantation Crops & spices spoke. Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew; Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew; University Officers, Staff and students participated.

## Honey bee Research: Vellayani Centre bags award

AICRP on Honey bees Research and Training Centre at College of Agriculture, Vellayani has been recognised as Best Research Centre for 2011-13 in the Biennial Workshop of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Honey bees and Pollinators held at GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand from June 17-18, 2013. Dr. S. Devanesan, Principal scientist and his team



**Dr. Devanesan and Team receiving the best centre award**

consisting of Dr. K. S. Prameela, Dr. V. S. Amrutha and K. K. Shailaja received the award.

The centre has standardized technologies for honey bee health management, quality honey production, honey processing, marketing, value addition of honey and different hive products. It has pioneered techniques for commercial Meliponiculture viz., hiving feral colonies, managing stingless bees in hives, division of colonies and management during different phases. ICAR has recognised Vellayani as the national nodal centre for stingless bee research.

## Lecture on Agricultural Policies & environment

Devinder Sharma, noted policy analyst and agricultural journalist, delivered a lecture on Agricultural Policies and the state of environment at KAU's College of Horticulture (CoH) on 29 June.

Sharma called for a restructuring of agricultural policies and



restructuring of research agenda to protect India's agricultural economy and ensure sustainable income for farming community.

Direct payment of assured remuneration to farmers is a must to sustain farming, he said.

The lecture was organized by the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Economics (CEEE) under CoH. DR. C. T. Abraham, Associate Dean, CoH; Dr. Jessy Thomas, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics; Dr. P. Indiradevi, Director, CEEE and Dr. A. Prema spoke.

## Massive Afforestation drive on World Environment Day 25000 saplings planted in KAU Campuses



**Dr. P.V. Krishnan Nair inaugurates KAU afforestation drive**

The massive afforestation programme initiated by KAU on World Environment Day was inaugurated by Dr. P.V. Krishnan Nair, Secretary, Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy. Dr. Krishnan Nair in his address pointed out that world's greatest authors were inspired by nature and had a penchant to flora and fauna of the Universe.

'Man cannot live without nature and as the most advanced living being it is the duty of mankind to nurture the nature. Sustenance of an eco-friendly environment is indispensable for a peaceful and healthy life and unless we love our environment we will not get a affordable climate' he said.

Dr. P. Rajendran, KAU Vice-Chancellor in his presidential address high lighted the relevance of the environment day theme-Think, eat and Save. He stressed the importance of growing right kind of trees in the right environment. He elaborated the arrangements made by the University to make all campuses green. Later the dignitaries kicked off the programme by planting Mahogany saplings along the periphery of KAU central stadium. Members of KAU GC, Registrar Dr. E. K. Mathew, Comptroller Dr. Joy Mathew, Director of Research Dr. T. R. Gopalakrishnan, Forestry Dean Dr. K. Sudhakar, Horticulture College Assoc. Dean Dr. C. T. Abraham, CCBM Assoc. Dean Dr. A. Sukaumaran and other officers of the University, Teachers, Students and labourers enthusiastically involved in the afforestation drive. The activities were coordinated by College of Forestry.



**Dr. P. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor planting a Sapling**